

City of Cottonwood, Arizona  
City Council Agenda Communication



Meeting Date: October 20, 2009  
Subject: **Bicycle Plan**  
Department: Community Development  
From: George Gehlert, Director

**REQUESTED ACTION**

Staff is requesting Council adoption of the Cottonwood Bicycle Plan at this time. Should the Council decide to approve the plan, Staff recommends the following motion:

**“Motion to adopt the Cottonwood Bicycle Plan, subject to the following stipulations (if any):”**

**BACKGROUND**

Attached is the most recent draft, together with a tally of comments received during the 60-day public review period (April-May, 2009). These comments have been incorporated into the text, as indicated by the summary. As part of the review of the resulting final document, numerous other comments have since been received (see attached emails). These last comments have also been incorporated into the current text, as indicated by ~~strike-outs~~ and/or ***bold italic highlighting***.

Public Process

At Council’s direction, Staff has been working with a small committee of bicycle advocates to develop a bicycle plan and route map. During the months of April and May, Staff conducted a public review of the plan. During this period, the document was posted on the City’s website and advertised locally. Digital copies of the plan were also distributed to the personnel and agencies demonstrated on the attached list.

Scope

The concept for the system comes initially from the General Plan’s Open Space/Recreation and Circulation elements. Staff was directed to facilitate an on-road system that would attempt to address the needs of cyclists in Cottonwood without being prohibitively expensive. The resulting document also discusses some innovative concepts such as the narrowing of North Main Street to two lanes; the coordination of the system with transit facilities; and with potential linkages to trail opportunities interior and exterior to the City.

## Outline

The plan observes a nationally recognized philosophy common to bicycle planning throughout the country, known as the Four E's (education, engineering, encouragement, and enforcement), resulting in recommendations for the following:

- **Route Classification System:** The plan establishes three types of bicycles lanes, and makes recommendations regarding each for different types of roads.
- **Bicycle Routes / System Map:** Details all routes links and classifications of each link, existence of bicycle facilities, and what type of road that it is.
- **Suggests Minimal Capital Improvements:** Mostly signs, bike racks and paint striping.
- **Design Standards for Streets / Facilities:** These will need to be coordinated in association with public street projects and/or through the Design Review process.
- **Code Revisions:** Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance which highlight requirements for bicycle facilities; and for the Municipal Code regarding traffic regulations.
- **Education and Enforcement Training:** Rules of the road that need to be enforced to make it safer for bicyclists. Police and bicyclists alike may need to be trained.
- **Publicity:** Spreading knowledge of the system will encourage its use.
- **Safety Training:** It will be important to educate users, especially school age children, on the proper and safe use of this system.

## ISSUES

Attached is the grand summary of comments received as part of the 60-day review of the draft bicycle plan, most of which are minor in scope. Highlighted are a few comments that the Council may wish to discuss regarding:

1. **Outer Loop:** In addition to the interior, on-street system, the document suggests the potential for the development of an “outer loop” system, located predominately outside the City, overlapping areas within the jurisdiction of Yavapai County, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, State Land Department and the Town of Clarkdale. Although outside the scope of this project, the concept is included to highlight the opportunity and to encourage the City to work regionally toward those ends. Where the route crosses private properties within the City (via proposed “West Loop”), it is anticipated that private development would provide for its construction. However, the brunt of the project is unfunded.
2. **Other planning beyond City limits:** The plan also includes references to “possible” future routes as logical extensions of bicycle routes which cross unincorporated areas in order to connect with routes located within portions of the City which are otherwise isolated from the system.



## Agency Distribution List for 60-Day Review

The following were emailed a copy of the Bicycle Plan and a notice regarding the 60-day review:

### Outside Agencies

Andy Groseta	Cottonwood Ditch Assoc.
Barb Uren	Cottonwood Oakcreek SD
Chad Daines	Yavapai County Dev. Services
Chris Fetzer	NACOG
Curt Johnson	Coe & Van Loo
Deanna King	Cornville Community Assoc.
Deb Sydnham	AZ Department of Commerce
Dee Hines	Prescott National Forest
Dr. Bob Richards	Verde Valley Cyclists Coalition
Gordon Taylor	State Land Department
Jerry Doerksen	Verde Valley Fire District
John Bedell	Verde Santa Fe HOA
John Harper	ADOT
John Tavasci	Mingus Union High School
Judy Adams	Coconino National Forest
Lana Tolleson	Chamber of Commerce
Les Bovee	Dead Horse State Park
Lisa Pender	Old Town Association
Nancy Titus	Verde Valley Medical Center
President	Verde Village POA
Randy Blake	ADOT
Randy Victory	Verde Valley Cyclists Coalition
Sherry Bailey	Town of Clarkdale
Stan Sutherland	Cottonwood Ranch HOA
Tom Schumacher	Yavapai College

### Media Contacts

Ad King  
Verde Independent  
Cottonwood Journal EXTRA  
KAZM  
KKLD / KVRD / KYBC  
KZGL / KVNA

City Page  
Communique (Employee Newsletter)  
Community Development News  
Leisure Times  
Library Newsletter  
Chamber Newsletter  
Verde Village Voice

### City Staff and Departments

Casey Rooney	Economic Development Director
Charlie Scully	Community Development
Dan Lueder	Utilities / Development Services
Doug Bartosh	City Manager
Jodie Fanning	Cottonwood Police Department
John O'Neill	Cottonwood Library
Richard Faust	Parks & Rec
Rick Contreras	Cottonwood Fire Department
Shirley Scott	Cottonwood Area Transit
Steve Mangarpan	Public Works
Tim Costello	Public Works
Wes Ballew	Community Development

### City Council

Planning & Zoning Commission  
Parks & Rec Commission