



APPROVED

SUMMARIZED MINUTES

**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
PATHS & TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

**ONE CIVIC CENTER
AGAVE CONFERENCE ROOM
7447 E INDIAN SCHOOL RD.
SUITE 205
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251**

THURSDAY, April 3, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Paths & Trails Subcommittee was called to order at 5:16 p.m. A formal roll call confirmed the presence of subcommittee members as noted below.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Kerry Wilcoxon, Vice-Chair – Transportation Commission
Vacant, Commissioner – Parks and Recreation Commission
Sarah Hecht, Subcommittee Member
Bradley Adame, Subcommittee Member

ABSENT: Lee Kauftheil, Chair – Transportation Commission

STAFF: Nathan Domme, Transportation Planning Manager
Susan Conklu, Senior Transportation Planner
Greg Davies, Senior Transportation Planner
Manager Kyle Lofgren, Staff Coordinator

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public who wished to speak on public comment, and there were no written comments.

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER ADAME MOVED TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 6, 2025, PATHS AND TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER HECHT SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED THREE (3) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR WILCOXON AND SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS ADAME AND HECHT VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

2. TRAIL PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND UPCOMING TRAIL PROJECTS

Greg Davies, Senior Transportation Planner, presented and discussed the Trail Improvement Program and upcoming trail projects. The presentation began with a review of the development of the Neighborhood Trail Program, which evolved from horse trails to bikeways and pedestrian trails. Bicycles became a State-required component of the City's General Plan and is also incorporated into the Transportation Master Plan.

The development of the Ad Hoc Trails Task Force in 2009 started the prioritization and implementation program. The City has remained in the implementation phase for almost 20 years, continuing to build an extensive network with 163 active miles of trails. The Transportation Action Plan calls for another 132 miles of trails to be constructed over the next 50 years.

The Trail Improvement Program is solely funded by the 0.2 percent transportation sales tax that was approved by the voters in 1989 and has no sunset. Annually, \$200,000 is collected to construct or reconstruct a 1.5-mile high-quality trail. All capital improvement programs are reviewed annually to determine project prioritization.

Trail improvement projects are identified through various avenues including resident requests, staff, the 2024 Gap Analysis report, the 10-year Transportation Action Plan, the City's General Plan, the City's Capital Improvement Plan, and standalone capital projects. Currently, there are 11 projects along with the present costs identified to be completed in FY26 and FY27 that promote system connectivity and are evenly dispersed throughout Scottsdale.

Transportation staff will be working with neighborhoods, homeowners associations, and adjacent entities to coordinate trail projects, while continuing to expend yearly funding provided for the Trail Improvement Program. The goal is to spend the funds down in the Capital Improvement account. The trail system is not going away, and the equestrian component is reviving from a boarding and training perspective

Committee members were given an opportunity to ask questions. In response, Mr. Davies explained the Gap Analysis for paved paths and trails conducted in February 2024 depicted approximately 30 gaps or disconnection in the paths and trails. Desert Foothills, a large parcel in northern Scottsdale within the parameters of Jomax Road and Pinnacle Vista, would allow users to get to the preserve with the need to navigate one gap from 84th Street and Dynamite Road.

Currently, the City does not have data on equestrian trail usage and would only be able to obtain that data on-site with manual counts. The equestrian industry is moving toward training and boarding off the Mountain View Trail at 124th Street and Shea Boulevard. The trails are being constructed with ten-foot clearance and a palliative surface. Mr. Davies reiterated that the sole source of funding is the 0.2 sales tax, and neither federal funding nor alternative funds are sought for trails. The Trail Maintenance Program, implemented to rejuvenate trails, was discussed, and it was noted that the revised code indicates property owners are responsible for maintaining the trail. He shared the transportation department's willingness to collaborate and work with residents to bring the trails back to useful conditions.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER ADAME MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT PROCEED WITH THE TRAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR FY26 AND 27. SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER HECHT SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED THREE (3) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR WILCOXON AND SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS ADAME AND HECHT VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

3. LOCAL AREA INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS

Nathan Domme, Transportation Planning Manager, presented and discussed the Local Infrastructure Plans (LAIPs). LAIPs are a guide for implementing neighborhood-specific infrastructure in the northern area of Scottsdale. The residents have basic infrastructure with low density, rural environments, dirt roads, no concrete elements, no curb cutter, natural drainage, and minimal trail connectivity. The goal is to define space for roads, trails, and connectivity. Every parcel of land should have access by equestrian, bicycle, walking, and auto traffic.

Mr. Domme noted there are a series of development and redevelopment requests submitted for single-family parcels in the northern area. Planned services is a guide used by staff when reviewing development proposals, land divisions, and single-home construction to determine right-of-way space and/or trail system easements. The intent is to maintain the rural equestrian character in the northern neighborhoods as encouraged by property owners while providing and maintaining connectivity.

The list of current LAIPs was reviewed, and Mr. Domme noted they are the key tool in requesting the abandonment of General Land Office (GLO) easements that were sectioned off in the early 1900's to maintain access points. These requests can generate negotiations depending on location, because the City may need to maintain a portion of the GLO to meet the 20- to 25-foot right-of-way requirements for roads and trails. The key component to the LAIP is access, ensuring that all parcels have a feasible connection to a right-of-way. Land rights are obtained to allow a present and future comprehensive and connected trail network.

LAIPs adhere to plans and values, and they compliment the expected outcomes for maintaining the network and connections in the Transportation Action Plan. Although LAIPs have been utilized for 15 to 20 years, are important, and proven to be a useful resource, they have not been adopted by the Council or a commission. The department feels it is a good time to perform a formal update that includes obtaining community input, including development of a request process for variances or alterations to a LAIP like the Neighborhood Speed Management Program. Obtaining signatures of residents to alter a LAIP would generate a formal review process by City staff.

The City will bring a consultant on board to assist in conducting public outreach on LAIPs and work toward establishing a formal request process. Once the LAIPs are updated and the request process is in place, presentations will be made to the Transportation Commission and the Paths and Trails Subcommittee for approval.

Subcommittee members were given an opportunity to ask questions. In response, Mr. Domme explained the dust palliative program is used on the dirt roads within the northern area of Scottsdale. There is federal funding in place to pave several roads this spring in this area. Currently, it seems the residents would prefer dust palliative treatment with dirt trails on the side for equestrian travel. Residents within LAIPs typically want different things, and the City wants to provide the lifestyle they want.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER ADAME MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT CONTINUE DEVELOPING THE LOCAL AREA INFRASTRUCTURE LOCATIONS. SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER HECHT SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED THREE (3) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR WILCOXON AND SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS ADAME AND HECHT VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

4. PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS UPDATE

Greg Davies, Senior Transportation Planner, provided an overview and discussed the following projects:

- Los Gatos Trail was a resident request completed three weeks ago that provides access from Pima Path.

- Jomax Trail provides a connection from Pima Road to Pinnacle Peak Park, part of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. This trail was established in 2005 and is being brought back.
- Reata Wash Single Track Trail enhancement, that connects Westworld through the Reata Wash.
- Alameda Road and Scottsdale Road had two small trails built within the right-of-way, which was a request from a resident in the Bocara subdivision.
- Asher Hills Trail is a very high-use trail in the Pinnacle Peak, Ranchos Neighborhood that was realigned in preparation for pavement of the roadway.
- Pinnacle Peak Trail is a high-use trail that goes from Hayden Road to 78th Street and was rehabbed in response to a resident's request.
- Desert Foothills Neighborhood Trails System is currently under construction with an anticipated completion date at the end of April 2025.

Susan Conklu, Senior Transportation Planner, noted the City of Scottsdale is celebrating the 13th year of being a gold-level bicycle-friendly community by the League of American Bicyclists. Events in April for Bike Month were reviewed, including Cycle the Arts and Bike to Work Day.

Subcommittee members were given an opportunity to ask questions. In response, Ms. Conklu explained how and where the events are advertised and promoted, including the City's webpage, social media, and Valley Metro.

5. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved by Subcommittee Member Adame and seconded by Subcommittee Member Hecht, the meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

AYES: Vice-Chair Wilcoxon and Subcommittee Members Adame and Hecht. NAYS: None

SUBMITTED BY:
eScribers, LLC

***NOTE: These are summary action meeting minutes only. A complete copy of the audio/video recording is available at <http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/boards/Transp.asp>**