

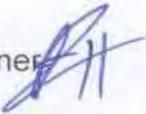
Bike Safety and Use



City of Las Cruces

Inter-Departmental Memorandum

To: City Councilors

From: Andy Hume, AICP, MPO Planner 

Subject: September 10, 2012 Work Session

Date: August 29, 2012

M-12-194

BACKGROUND

In 2009, a group of citizens and City staff began meeting as the Bicycle Friendly Community Task Force (BFC). Since that time, the City has moved forward with a "Share the Road" campaign and, in 2011, achieved Bronze status as a Bicycle Friendly Community from the League of American Bicyclists. The Bronze status is awarded through 2015.

CURRENT

At the September 10, 2012 City Council Work Session, I will provide an update on local bicycle activities. The update will include facility statistics, engineering improvements, and proposed bicycle law amendments.

FACILITY STATISTICS

Facility Type	Reported in 2011 BFC Application (miles)	Currently Identified in GIS (miles)	Percent Change
Bicycle lanes	47	29.4	-37
Shared-Use Lanes	18	13.8	-23
Signed Bicycle Routes	3	24.0	700
Bicycle Boulevards	0	0	0
TOTAL In-Road Bicycle Facilities	68	67.2	-1

Please note that some of the changes in the data above are due to recent field verification, improved tracking in GIS, and more accurate reporting. *Most of the reductions in bicycle lanes result from more accurate classifying the NMDOT multi-use shoulders as bicycle routes rather than bicycle lanes.*

ENGINEERING IMPROVEMENTS

City Public Works and Transportation staffs continue to work on implementing new bicycle facilities through resurfacing and rehabilitation projects. Ongoing or upcoming projects include resurfacing on El Paseo, Solano, and Del Rey. These roads will be upgraded to include at least shared-use lanes.

Roadrunner Parkway was submitted for a federal Transportation, Community, and System Preservation grant, but was not selected. Roadrunner remains a key 3.5 mile connection for all transportation modes. The road is identified as a Tier 1 bicycle route on the MPO's In-Road Bicycle Facility Priorities Plan. Implementing bicycle lanes on this route would connect bicycle facilities on Bataan Memorial with those on Lohman to many destinations, including two schools, single and multi-family residences, offices, and commercial and civic sites.

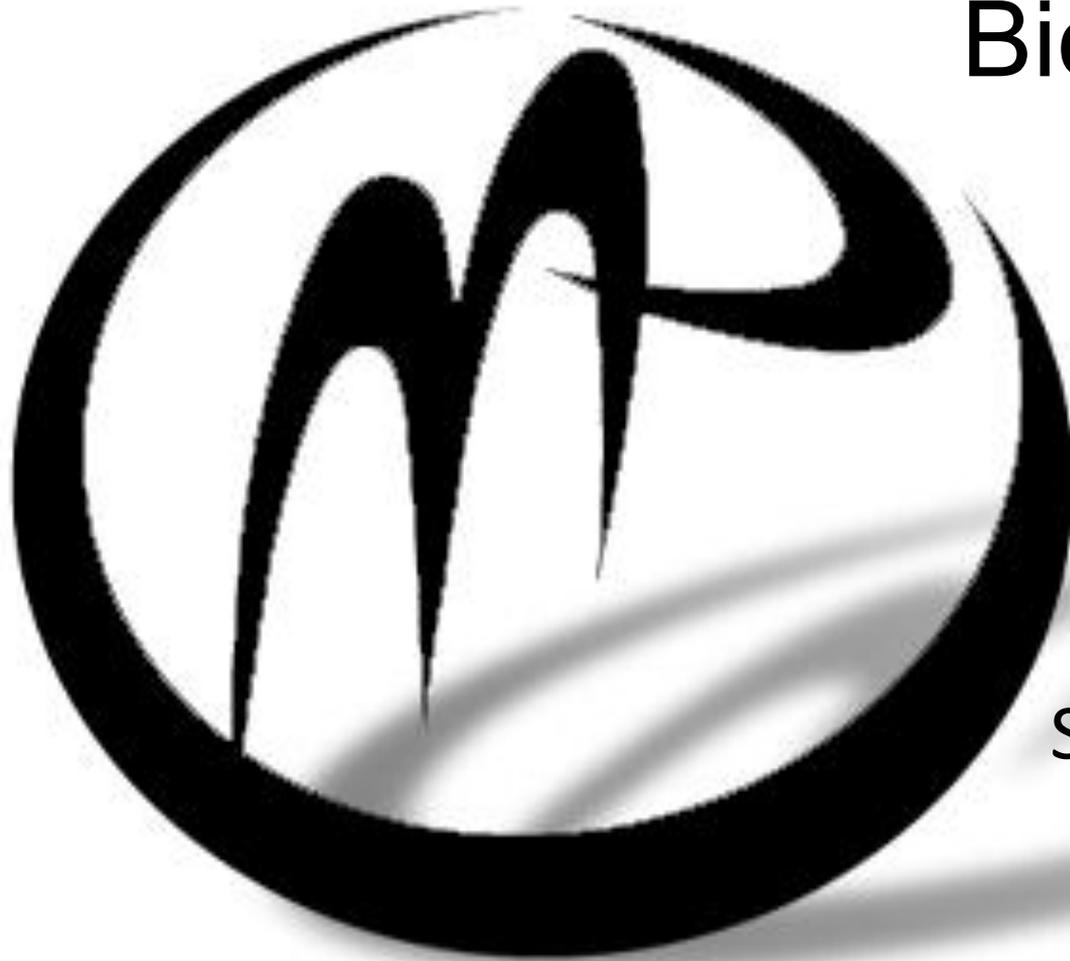
PROPOSED BICYCLE LAW AMENDMENTS

One of the tasks that the BFC has undertaken is a review of the City of Las Cruces bicycle laws. The Enforcement work group, consisting of Officer Wallace Downs, George Pearson, and Mark Courtney, gathered bicycle laws from several Gold and Platinum level cities and states and compared them to those of Las Cruces. After a thorough review of the existing laws and development of recommendations, the proposed laws were refined with the assistance of Deputy Chief Chris Miller and Attorney Harry "Pete" Connelly from the City of Las Cruces.

Here are highlights of the attached draft of recommendations:

- Overall: Simpler, clearer language
- New definitions, including "electrical-assisted bicycle," "pedicab," and "vulnerable user of a public way"
- Include bicycle lane and multi-use path in list of prohibited parking places
- New section outlining passing distances and threats to vulnerable users
- Clarification of sidewalk riding
- Removal of bicycle registration requirements
- New language regarding impaired bicyclists
- Updated hand signal laws
- New language matching New Mexico's helmet laws

Cc: Brian Denmark, Assistant City Manager/COO *BJ*
David Weir, Community Development Department Director *DW*
Tom Murphy, MPO Officer *TM*



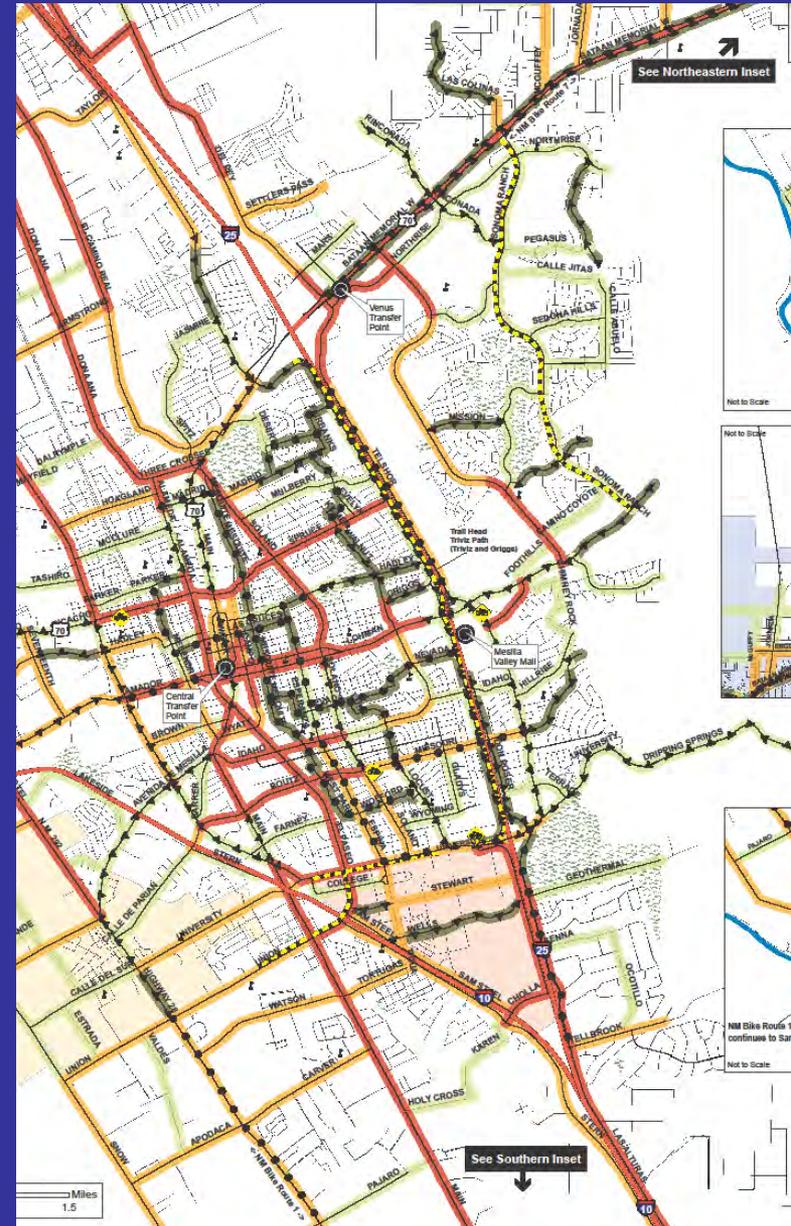
Bicycle Friendly Community Task Force Update

September 10, 2012

Las Cruces Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Ongoing Projects and Tasks

- Education/
Encouragement
 - Updates to Bike Suitability Map
- Engineering
 - Updating roadway design standards
 - Opportunities for new bicycle facilities
- Enforcement
 - Updating CLC bicycle laws



Bicycle Facility Update

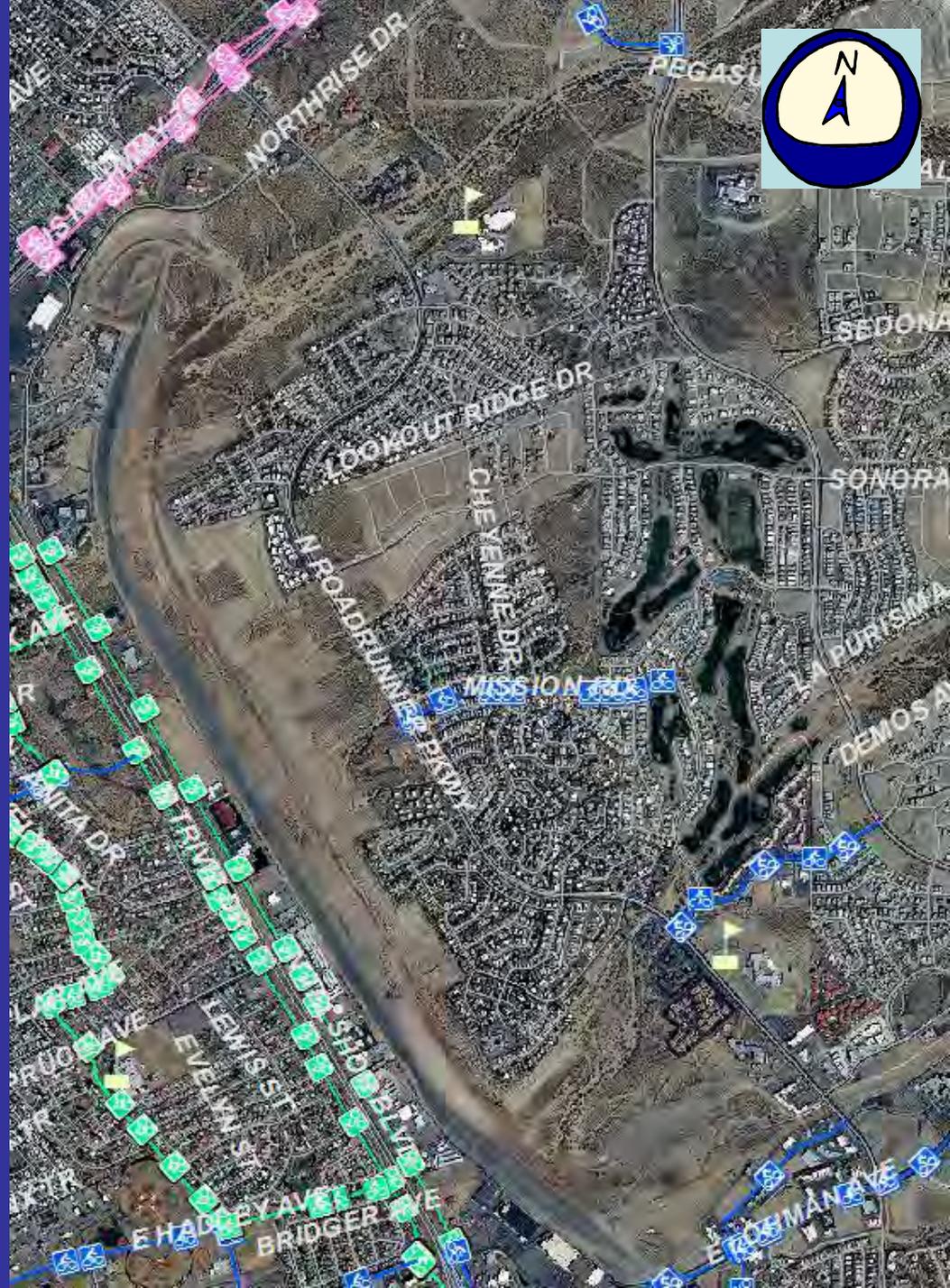
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Needed bicycle facility upgrades

- El Paseo (Main to Boutz) – funded, resurfacing
- Solano (Cactus to Main) – funded, resurfacing
- Del Rey (Bataan Memorial to Mars) – funded, resurfacing
- Roadrunner Pkwy (Bataan Memorial to Lohman) – unfunded

Roadrunner Pkwy

- 3.5 miles; \$1.75M
- Road resurfacing, sidewalk/ADA upgrades, restriping with bike lanes
- Connect bike lanes at Lohman, Mission, Sonoma Springs, Bataan Memorial
- Reduce bike-auto conflicts
- Buffer for pedestrians
- Serves Veterans Park, Desert Hills ES, Camino Real MS, commercial and office nodes



Proposed CLC Bicycle Laws

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Thank You

- Questions
- Comments



Special Thanks to
CLC BFC Task Force Participants



Creating Partnerships between
Departments and with the Public

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