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January 30, 2011

Mayor Walkup and
Tucson City Council

Dear Mayor Walkup and Council Members:

The Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) is writing this letter to express our position on the proposed amendment to the City's parking code related to bicycle parking.

At its January 19, 2011 meeting, the BAC discussed the proposed amendments to the bicycle parking standards and voted to endorse the Association of Bike and Pedestrian Professionals (ABPP) standards for bicycle parking. The City of Tucson has made a significant investment in bicycle facilities. Just as a transit system needs sufficient and appropriately located stops to maximize ridership, the City's bicycle network requires a sufficient number of well-located bike parking spaces to maximize the City's investment in bicycle facilities. The region has achieved a "gold" designation as a Bicycle Friendly community, and is seeking Platinum. With comprehensive facilities, education, and encouragement programs for bicycling, we believe the percentage of the population that bicycles will continue to grow.

There are several key components to the BAC position:

1. Short-term bicycle parking must be provided within fifty feet of the main building entrance for these reasons:

- This distance is close enough to the main entrance to provide visibility, and the fifty foot radius provides many options for locating bicycle racks
- Security for bicyclists and bikes is increased
- Bicyclists offer purchasing power, and better bike parking brings more customers to area businesses
- Visible bike parking accommodates bicyclists and promotes bicycle use
- Flexibility is provided, for instance allowing the bike parking in a parking area

The short-term parking at Walgreen's, 3200 E. Speedway (shown below) provides 3 bike parking spaces and takes up only 8 x 8 square feet, or about half a parking space. The parking area is attractive, promotes activity, and provides a positive entry feature to the building.



2. The BAC supports the ABPP guidelines because they address other important goals of bicycle parking standards:

- Provide reasonable ratios for short-term bike parking at financial services, retail, and wholesaling/industrial uses (1:5,000 sf for retail; 2% maximum daily attendance for entertainment venues; 2 spaces for wholesaling or industrial uses)
- No caps for long-term parking, but rather flexibility for implementing the standards for long-term parking. We support these because experience has shown that long-term parking is often poorly located or maintained. We do suggest that long-term parking be in a visible location.

The BAC also supports the increased flexibility that the revised parking code amendment will provides for implementing vehicular parking standards.

In summary, bicycle parking is an amenity that adds value to retail, employment, and community destinations. We support this effort to update the current code, and hope that you consider including these bicycle-supportive strategies in the parking code update.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide further information or assistance.

Respectfully,

Karen Berchtold, Chair
Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee
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cc: Jim Glock, Director, Department of Transportation