



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: 4/24/2025

**To: Flagstaff City Council, Coconino County Board of Supervisors,
Coconino County Planning and Zoning Commission, Flagstaff Planning
and Zoning Commission**

**From: Sara Dechter, Comprehensive and Neighborhood Planning
Manager**

Subject: Trails Mapping in the Regional Plan

For city general plans, the general location and extent of existing and proposed bicycle routes are required in the plan. Since the 2001 Flagstaff Regional Land Use and Transportation Plan and the Open Space and Greenways Plan in 1998, this requirement has been met by showing planned trails across all property ownership and jurisdictions. In 2022, the City also adopted the Active Transportation [Master Plan](#) to provide further detail on how future trails would be integrated with all transportation projects and reviews.

Well-planned trail alignments contribute to both the functionality and the experience of a trail. Many planned FUTS trails have been on the map in the Regional Plan since 2001. In many cases, planned trail alignments follow linear natural features like floodplain, washes, and hillsides, areas most likely to be left undeveloped for regulatory and practical reasons. Lines are located on the map in anticipation that they will be built in conjunction with future development of the parcel and are reasonably flexible when development is eventually proposed. There is a proposed disclaimer on the draft map to reflect this. Well-planned FUTS trails are considered an amenity and benefit to new neighborhoods and the wider community. The planned network of trails supports a connected, community-wide open space and trails system that helps define the experience of living in Flagstaff.

Some property owners who have large undeveloped property have been experiencing trespass and vandalism issues on their property and believe that showing planned trails across large lots is a contributing factor. Staff has prepared a potential means of meeting the need for identifying general locations of trails that may address this concern. Instead of dashed lines that were shown, staff could, with direction at this retreat, change the symbols on private and State-owned properties over 400 acres to short lines with arrows.

In the larger Region, [the Flagstaff Regional Trails Strategy](#) that was prepared by the Flagstaff Trails Initiative in 2020. This strategy includes trails for both transportation and recreational purposes, including trails that connect Ft. Valley, Doney Park, Mountaineer and Kachina Village and Bellemont to the City.

Discussion questions

Staff is looking for feedback from the group gathered on the following:

- Should the planned trails symbology be changed from dashed lines to arrows that give less specificity on exact locations but retain intention?
- Are there any trail concepts that are missing or areas of future trail planning that should be identified?

State statute excerpts

ARS 9-461.05.C.2. The plan shall include the following elements:...circulation element consisting of the general location and extent of existing and proposed... bicycle routes and any other modes of transportation as may be appropriate, all correlated with the land use element of the plan.

ARS 9-461.05.E.2. The general plan shall include for cities with a population of fifty thousand persons or more and may include for cities with a population of less than fifty thousand persons the following elements or any part or phase of the following elements:.... A recreation element showing a comprehensive system of areas and public sites for recreation, including the following and, if practicable, their locations and proposed development:...(g) Bicycle routes....(h) Other recreation areas.

ARS 11-804.A The comprehensive plan may include studies and recommendations relative to the location, character and extent of ..., bicycle facilities, ..., open space..., parkways, hiking and riding trails.....