

Minutes Bike/Pedestrian Task Force

July 17, 2003

Attendance: Vicki Rowe-Currence, James Latimore, Kristopher Hinz, Dan Baechtold, Sasha Vrtunski, Tom Redinger, Julie Spalla, James Metsch, Matt Johnson, Jeffrey Burns, Joseph Viola, Tony Hauser, Claudia Nix.

After introductions, the guidelines and agenda were reviewed and okeyed.

Jeffrey Burns & Dan Baechtold reviewed the progress the department has made.

- worked with DOT to sign & install pedestrian crossing signals.
- Will be installing audible ped. Signals at So. French Broad & Patton Ave. and Ashland & Patton for the blind.
- Will be installing LPI (Lead ped. Intraval) signals, which will allow extra time for pedestrians to cross the street.
- Have id.16 more bike racks will be installed, 6 W. Asheville, 4 Downtown, 6 in parks.
- Fee in Leau of money is \$97,000. will use ½ to fund sidewalks in Haw Creek & on Edgewood Rd. from Merrimon to UNCA campus. This is a 3way partnership with the school, the city and the state.
- Riverside RR crossing DOT is drawing up design, still waiting on approval from Norfolk & Southern.
- Sidewalks by Lowes in W. Asheville.
- Have a T-21 grant for Clingman Ave. & Clingman Forest to connect to Riverfront.
- Working on Greenway to Hominey Crk Park have \$300,000. allocated through I-26 plan. City is required to get easements, are working with Greenway Commission.
- Need to update ped. Thoroughfare plan
- Have a good team who are supportive of bike/ped issues; Dan Baechtold is MPO coordinator, Jeff Burns Transit, bike & ped planner, Anthony Bausic city traffic engineer (he is bike/ped friendly & Eliz. Teague Transp. Planner used to work at Land of Sky.

Sasha explained that she and Jamie Metsch are doing pedestrian counts downtown, they are surveying downtown businesses regarding a park & ride project while the new parking garage is being built as 200+ spots will be lost during construction. Want to encourage alternative modes of transportation.

August 25th they will hold a public meeting regarding the restripping of Haywood Rd. at Calvary Baptist Church in W. Asheville at 5:30 pm.

There was some discussion about the size of the group and who should attend and how to work with the MPO. It was agreed that we would not turn anyone away who wanted to attend. The MPO is allowed to develop committees as needed. They have many issues to work out now in reorganizing, we will use MPO staff & TCC to represent our

concerns & needs. Hopefully this will result in a sub-committee on a regional level for bike/ped. Issues.

Goals & Mission:

We need to go beyond just safety for cyclists & pedestrians. Make the area friendly & ideal. Want to work on a vision for Asheville in X years. Need to get the local health organizations to buy in on our vision and use the obesity & independence for senior citizens.

Homework – do research of goals from other cities

Boulder, Co. Go to:

www.ci.boulder.co.us/publicworks/depts/transportation/tmp.html

Portland, Or. Go to:

www.trans.ci.portland.or.us/plans/pedestrianmasterplan/default.html

Madison, Wi. Go to:

www.ci.madison.wi.us/transp/Bicycle/sept2000/bikeplan00.pdf pg 55-63 and www.ci.madison.wi.us/transp/pdp.html for their pedestrian plan goals

Burlington, Vt. <http://www.ci.burlington.vt.us/>

Brunswick, Me. Go to: www.brunswickme.org/planning/final%20Report.pdf

LAB – Bicycle Friendly Communities. Go to

www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org to read about this program.

Buncombe Co. Vision 2002 – Asheville the Healthiest Town by 2010

Tony will get us the article “Right to Ride”

We were reminded to remember several things in developing our mission statement and goals.

1. pedestrians & runners
2. to be positive rather than negative toward automobiles & their drivers
3. to be inclusive

Claudia reported that the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club has decided to devote part of their web site to collect data on road rage to see if they could facilitate the capture of individuals &/or reduction of situations.

The bike club has also agreed to assist in paying for the making of educational PSA's for bicycle & motorists sharing the roads.

Charter Cable is willing to work with us on developing the PSA's and airing them. The costs are \$300. for one filming and \$450. for two if done in one sitting. They will need 2 weeks to set up the filming. Blue Ridge Outdoors is willing to print any educational material we develop.

All agreed we need a committee to work on this issue and will develop committees soon.

Next meeting will be at same place (Buncombe Co. training room on Thursday, August 28th from 5:30pm. To 7:00pm.