

Bike/Pedestrian Task Force Minutes 6/17/04

Present: Terri March, Cathy Hohenstein, Paul Endry, Joseph Viola, Joel Bassett, Bette Jackson, Dwayne Stutzman, Elizabeth Teague, Vicki Rowe-Currence & Claudia Nix.

This was Joel Bassett's first meeting, he is a student at WWC who is beginning a bicycle library at the school and hopes to develop one for Asheville. Just like a book library it lends out bicycles for folks to use for a pre-determined time period. This solves some of the liability problems with the yellow bike program.

Our next meeting will be held July 15th. Steven Lee Johnson, a landscape architect with the city of Asheville will attend our meeting to explain the progress with three trails in the city, Clingman Forest, the Wal-Mart Greenway and the trails in the future Azalea Park. Please plan to attend.

We decided that we would take suggestions over the internet to come up with a new name for our task force. If you have an interest in changing the name please give your suggestions to Elizabeth . We will revisit this if there are suggestions.

New pavement has been put down on Riverside Drive from the bad RR tracks near Hillside Street to Lyman St. This is a big improvement; it looks like the road has been slightly widened, as well. Road striping has not been placed yet. Unfortunately, this paving has made the tracks more treacherous. We asked ET to look into the status of improving the track crossing for cyclists.

The track on Depot Street has been taken out and the road resurfaced as well. All these improvements are welcomed. A group from the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club worked on Amboy Road to improve the lane width by removing grass and weeds that crept beyond the boundary of the road surface.

Terri gave us a recap on Strive Not to Drive. We had eleven entries for the film festival, there were less pledges probably because we spent less time on it. We had good response to the transit emphasis and have gotten positive feedback from Bruce Black our Transit Director, especially on all the media coverage received over counsel & commissioners riding the bus. Billy Jonus wrote us a theme song which we hope to use for future. There was little turnout for the bike ride and expo possibly due to closeness to the MSF. Will move to late April near Earth Day next year.

Elizabeth said the city pavement management survey will be accessing every city road, sidewalks and ADA ramps. Our assessment of Merrimon Ave. will help with this effort. When she gets a draft of the pedestrian plan she will get her committee together to review it (should be end of June). The presentation of the Pedestrian Plan is to be made to the Planning Board July 7th. The sidewalk along Patton Ave. from Haywood to Wilshire in West Asheville has begun. The next section to be done will be from Regency Park to Leicester. Several NC DOT hearings on I-26 will be happening in the coming weeks. The MPO will be doing it's Long Range Transportation Plan. This is done every five years for the next 20 years (2005-2030).

We began making our priority listing for bike and pedestrian improvements. We did not begin prioritizing this list yet. Please respond to ET with your additions if you do not see them listed below. (I have added a few after talking to members who did not attend the last meeting)

Sidewalks on both sides of Tunnel Road

Ped. Light at College St. & Oak St.
Reduce speed on Amboy Road
Making open cut available for bicyclists
Share road signs on Town Mt Road
Change parallel drain grates on Merrimon Ave. & Riverside in bike lane
Improve signal sensitivity for bicycle on Gracelyn near Merrimon Ave.
Connect Amboy Road bike path to Farmer's Market (work on funding with I-40, 26 & 240 interchange improvements)
Connect Arboretum to Biltmore Square Mall with an off road path
Bicycle/Pedestrian facility on Riverside Drive in Woodfin from Silverline Plastics north
Make a path connection from new North Asheville Library along Beaver Lake (need to talk to Lakeview Association)
Need Bike/Pedestrian facility on Lakeshore Drive to connect Merrimon Ave. to homes along road to Elkwood.
Work on Swannanoa River Greenway to connect Nature Center to Fr. Broad River Park.
Identify roads inside city that could use a dedicated bike lane for commuters

Committee updates were made. No one from the web site committee was able to attend, however I have gotten word from Kris Hinz that the web site is on line tentatively. Please preview it and give your suggestions. The address is:
<<http://www.abptaskforce.org/>>www.abptaskforce.org.

Safety & Education Committee met after the Bike/Ped. Meeting. We have made a list of the safety spots we would like to develop. Claudia will discuss these with Charter Media about getting their help developing the spots.