

Bike / Ped Task Force Minutes 9-23-04

Present: Elizabeth Teague, Rom Redinger, Blake Esselstyn, James Latimore, Kristopher Hinz, Vicki Rowe-Currence, Terri March, Monica Koerschner, Joseph Viola, Claudia Nix.

* ET brought copies to the first draft of the Pedestrian Plan for her committee members to review and make up with their candid comments. This is a true draft not to be shared with the public yet. She has asked us to have them returned by our next meeting. She is willing to answer any questions or discuss issues with anyone, so feel free to call her. She will bring maps to the next meeting for further discussion of the plan.

* The NC State Bicycle Program will again be calling for RFP's beginning Oct. 1st for another round of planning grants. These will be for \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00. ET suggested that we request one for updating our bicycle plan. It has been a long time since one was done for the area. We decided to do some brain storming later in the meeting. We talked about the need for letters of support for the planning grants. Terri can get them from the Health Dept. and Healthy Buncombe. Vicki can get one from Mission Hospitals Health Education Dept. The WNC Bicycle Dealers Association will write one as well as The Blue Ridge Bicycle Club and Kris said he would be glad to write one from the Bike/Ped. Task Force.

* ET also mentioned that we may have an opportunity after all the flood damage to get some help from FEMA as they improve the roads that were damaged to have some things upgraded with bicycling in mind. The city has talked with the FEMA personal about this.

* The Share the Road PSA is coming along. It has been filmed and is now being developed. Choice for airing times are being worked out. When a copy is available Claudia will bring it to show at one of our meetings.

* Terri and Monica reminded the group that International Walk To School week is Oct. 4-8. and Walk To School Day is Oct 6th. The area plans to participate again this year. Only with the same schools as in the past. It was suggested that we see if Charter could take some video of kids walking to school so we would have some footage for a pedestrian PSA. Claudia will ask him if this would be possible.

* The website is up and now running. Blake has put all the minutes of the meetings on the site, a number of good links are up and connected. We can start advertising it now as www.abptaskforce.org

* Monica discussed the progress she is making on the Incident Report Form we would like to develop and put on the web site. We have a good

start on what we want to capture. She is working on a format. ET informed us that the city police dept compiles traffic incidents and that Ed Eads does that work. ET will talk to him about coordinating his information that involves pedestrians and bicyclists with us.

Brainstorming Ideas for the Bicycle Plan

- * Improved signage
- * Some existing Share the Road signs are no longer visible (trees & vines now cover them)
- * Specific areas need highlighting with signs i.e. caution bicyclists, watch for cyclists (on Hwy 25 southbound near McDonalds uphill & curve).
- * Do media when putting up new signs, educate on purpose of signs
- * Plan for education moneys to inform public what we are doing & why.
- * Develop education process for cyclists on rules of the road
- * Additional Bike Lanes on main routes for commuting
- * Improve the options for cycling
- * Commuter Plan (revisit the suitability map)
- * Brochure on how to commute by bike
- * Develop ways employers can support cyclists commuting

Desires for Bicycle Connections

1. Hwy 191 corridor, off road path following French Broad River to connect the NC Arboretum with the Biltmore Square Mall.
2. Possible connection, off path or on road, Biltmore Park to Arboretum. Along Long Shoals, Clayton Rd. and Hwy. 191.
3. Connect Hominey Creek Park to Farmers Market with off road path, going under I-40.
4. Connect Buncombe County to the Fletcher Greenway via Hwy 191 from Parkway south to Henderson County.
5. Connect Azalea Road to Black Mountain Community with bicycle facility.
6. Hwy 251 from Broadway north to Madison County with bicycle facility.
7. Oakley Connection from Oakley School Road to the Swannanoa River Greenway.
8. Connect the Blue Ridge Parkway to Azalea Road with a bicycle facility.
9. Paved shoulders on the Blue Ridge Parkway through the Asheville city limits.
10. Some type of bicycle facility on College Street. At least have car parking back in not pull in.