

2006-10-26 Bike / Pedestrian Task Force

Present: Pattie Moore, Monte Kropp, Jack Saye, Janet Barlow, Ric Zeller, Tom Redinger, Steve Rinsler, Tony Hauser, Paul Endry, John Chmelik, Terri March and Claudia Nix

During introductions Jack mentioned that the Parks & Rec. Foundation Board is hoping to have a bond referendum in 2008 to help with funding greenways. Janet Barlow is a new task force member from Atlanta, she works with the blind to help them as pedestrians, Marty Kropp is a cyclist who has moved here recently and decided to join us in our efforts, Ric Zeller works with Quality Forward, and Steve Rinsler has moved here recently is retired and a new bike rider wanting to learn how to get around by bike. We welcome you all to the task force and hope you become steady participants in our efforts to make Asheville more friendly toward bicyclists and pedestrians.

Our next meeting will be the 5th Thursday of November to avoid Thanksgiving at the Buncombe County Training Room on College, our regular meeting place.

Discussion on the bike mentoring program, Bike Buddies, it was generally agreed to plan a workshop just before Strive Not to Drive next spring. Perhaps hold training rides, as well. Claudia will bring the LAB CD to the next meeting and we'll see how we might use it in with the program. This discussion will continue next time.

Steve Rinsler would like to see an interactive mapping program where an individual could put in their home an destination and a suitable bicycle route would be developed for them. There was a discussion on the possibilities of that being done with our map. We do not know whether that would be possible and no one seemed to know how to accomplish it at this time. This is a great idea for the future.

Safe Routes to Schools – We have two coordinators who have stepped up for Asheville City Schools, Vance Elementary & Asheville Middle. We will probably work with Black Mt. Elementary for a county school. Plans are being made to bring workshops at the two schools. Claudia talked with Asheville Police Chief, Wm Hogan and found him very supportive of the SR2S program and has agreed to see that at least a Resource Officer is participating with each city school workshop. He also agreed to find a liaison for our Task Force to help us coordinate programs with the police department. There are a number of possibilities to develop awareness programs with their help.

We still need help with setting up our web page. No one has stepped forward from our request with UNC-A intern program. He will contact Blake. We are very hindered in communicating with the general public without a good operating web page. Terri suggested we talk with Lea Haun at UNC-A to see if someone in her program would help and John Chmelik agreed to help. There was also discussion about whether we could piggyback off the city site. Not being an official part of the city may keep this from happening but will look into it.

It appears we may have 10 individuals who are willing to take the LAB Bike 1 class. An instructor from Charlotte is willing to come put on the course if we have 10 individuals at \$25.00 per person. Pattie will contact him to set up a date. This is the first step in becoming a League Cycling Instructor LCI. We would like to have several Instructors for our Bike Buddy program and other education programs.

The individuals interested in the class are: Tony Hauser, Kris Hinz, & Pattie Moore, from the Task Force, Mike Nix & Tom Jenkins from Liberty Bicycles, Julie White, Archer Yates, Claudia Nix from Blue Ridge Bicycle Club and anyone else?

Claudia & Terri have been wanting to do an assessment of the hospital area of Biltmore Ave, Victoria to AB Tech and McDowell by the hospital and Asheville High to assess for at least pedestrian needs and if we have enough folks bicycle needs, as well. This might take place this winter, those interested in helping were Janet Barlow, Pattie Moore, Tom Redinger, and John Chmelik. If we can get enough who have done this assessment before we will not need to do training and could accomplish the assessment one Saturday in about 3-4 hours. If anyone not at the meeting is willing to work on this project let Claudia know.

Judy Rhew with the Buncombe County access channel is willing to show our Share the Road video if we can get it put onto a CD format. Claudia has a call into Charter Media to see if this is possible. It was suggested by Terri to contact Lauren Bradley to see if the City Channel would also show it. Another suggestion to contact URTV as well. Claudia will check both of these avenues after a CD is made. We also hope to have articles on sharing the road and yielding to pedestrians this coming year. Paul will write an article on helmet use. Anyone else willing to write an article?

Claudia circulated the Shifting Times Newsletter for the Atlanta Bicycle Campaign so folks could see what other area advocacy groups are doing. She also passed a letter to the editor that has not been published yet from a cyclist who lives on Hwy 9 who has posted a sign on his property requesting that motorists be more cautious when passing bicyclists.

RiverLink has officially purchased the Edaco Junkyard property on Amboy Rd. and is having a press conference tomorrow at 4PM to announce it. This is a terrific purchase as the two parks will be connected by a continual trail.

This year's Walk to School Day, Oct 4 had 2,200 events in the US that registered on the SR web site. This was also the first year Internat'l Walk to School Month occurred with 40 countries participating. Asheville had several schools participating again this year.