

2006-12-27 minutes Bike/Ped Task Force

Present: Pattie Moore, Jack Saye, Katie Chappall, Elisa Mayes, Luther Dohse, Joseph Viola, Kristopher Hinz, Joe Minicozzi, Claudia Nix

Joe Minicozzi and Elisa Mayes attended our meeting from the Public Interest Projects. They explained their project to apply for a grant from DEHNR and the Air Quality Agency to put secure long term bicycle parking in the downtown area, (bicycle lockers). With the increase housing downtown and the increased interest in bicycle commuting they think this type of parking would be popular and encourage more folks to bicycle. They also plan on working with Arts to People who will use local artist to paint the lockers so they are attractive and draw attention to them. They are hoping to get local bicycle stores to help with matching the grant and bicycle clubs, (Pro Bikes and Liberty Bicycles are supportive of the project). The yearly rental fee will be \$90.00. They will do a survey of the users after the lockers are in and being used for 2 years to determine the success of the project. The plan is to put lockers in the three garages and the hallway beside the Economic Development office. We liked their project and agreed to be a co-sponsor of the project. The grant deadline is tomorrow. Elisa will bring a support letter out to the bike shop tomorrow for me to sign. I suggested they include the Commuting Guide as supporting documentation and comment that we had applied for a grant the year previously for the printing of the guide. We plan on using the guide, the bike lockers and workshops to encourage bicycle commuting.

The rest of the meeting was spent planning our walking and bicycling assessment on Saturday, January 27th from 9AM until noon. We will be doing a short training first and then breaking up into groups to do the assessments. Four teams will be assessing the sidewalks. Maps have been drawn up with the four areas divided up and numbered. State traffic counts are recorded. We decided that we would have the bicycle assessments done on foot for the measuring and recording of problems, however we will not be able to assess the feel for riding with rush hour traffic on a Saturday. We will designate individuals to do the riding during weekdays at a later time. The bicycle assessments will be done on Biltmore, McDowell and Victoria Roads. We have 17 people committed at this time to work on the assessment. If we get 21 we can have 4 teams of 3 each doing the walking assessment and 3 teams of 3 doing the bicycling assessment. We will need to have 7 individuals who have done this work in the past.

The state DOT repaired the drain grate on McDowell across from Asheville High and Claudia sent them a thank you note. The note was appreciated and we were told they would gladly repair any other problems we find.

Katie pointed out that there is a problem that needs to be repaired on Sandhill Road going Westbound just after cresting the hill near Southeastern Container and before coming to A-B Tech campus.