

June 21, 2007 Minutes

Present: Pattie Moore, Roberta Greenspan, Michael Suile, Tom Redinger, Tony Hauser, Elisa Mayes, Jack Saye, Adam Pittman, and Claudia Nix

Old Business:

Claudia reported that she, Terri March, Janet Barlow and Debby Blankenburg began compiling the information from our assessment of the streets around the hospital, AB Tech and Asheville High.

Pattie reported that a road one class has been set up for Sunday, July 22 at the Buncombe County Training room to begin at 9AM. We will be setting up another one hopefully to be held in August. For those interested please keep posted.

Pattie has gotten several individuals to ride roads to update our Bike Transportation Map. Hopefully, we'll be ready for a new printing soon.

Jack reported that the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club presented the Parks & Greenways Foundation and the Greenways Commission with a \$10,000.00 check from profits from the Fletcher Flyer last month. This is important money as it is not earmarked for anything special. It is equal to half of the Foundations yearly budget and will go a long way toward making greenways a reality in Asheville.

Along with this Jack and Claudia commented that the lesson learned from the Chattanooga Trip is that private money is what really makes greenways possible. Public private partnerships is paramount.

Claudia received a response to her speed reduction request from NC DOT. They want to wait for the Bike Plan report before determining what to do about the speed. According to the evaluation they performed June 22, 2005 they found that 85% of the traffic was traveling 45mph or higher. There were 4800 vehicles that day 1.3% were small trucks, ½% large trucks and only 57 tracker trailers.

Barb had given Claudia a report on the bike plan to date. There were 830 responses to the on line survey. Most, 43% are very comfortable on most or all roads, 26% are only comfortable riding on neighborhood or lightly-traveled roads and 22% only comfortable on roads with a marked bicycle lane. Most individuals are riding in Asheville, 83%. Although only a small amount are using it for their primary transportation 13%. Most are riding for recreation or exercise 1-4 times a week, 59%. A surprising number are using the bicycle for some errands or personal business 1-4 times a week 37% and 28% commute to work 1-4 times a week. About ¼ of the respondents have experienced a crash while bicycling in Asheville. Of those individuals, 45% were caused by or involving automobiles, 22% were caused by operator error or involved other bicycles, 19% were caused by facilities or conditions such as RR tracks, and 22% were other. This data is significant and much discussion about how to use this data to our benefit was discussed. First, we need to determine how accurate it is.

New Business:

Michael Suile reported that Asheville on bikes is becoming a committee under the auspices of the Clean Air Community Trust. This is a great leap in the organization because it will give them more validity and make it possible for them to accept donations through the non-profit. They are in process of drafting a letter of agreement with them. So far Michael has raised \$3,000.00 for the bike locker program.

Michael also reported they will be in the Asheville Holiday Parade the 2nd Saturday in November. The theme is building community through celebration. They are partnering with the Bee Association. He is hoping for a lot of participation with the bicycle community. They will be dressing up as bees.

Adam made an announcement about the Stone Soup Summer Solstice Festival at Hominy Creek Park Sat. June 23rd. It promises to be fun.

Claudia reported on the 3 bicyclists who have been injured in Asheville, recently. Two did not involved automobiles and are recuperating, the one that did happened at 9:45 PM. We do not know if he was wearing reflective equipment or lights.

Claudia reported that Tracey Armstrong had talked with the Driver's Ed teacher at Erwin Middle School. He mentioned that he did recommend that his new drivers be careful when passing bicyclists. He mentioned that they had someone from the motorcycle community come in and spends time with his classes and this was set up by the Superintendent. She has talked with Terri March to see if she can set up appointments with both city and county school Superintendents.

Claudia found a crosswalk flag program that is being used in Salt Lake City which we may want to consider trying for several places in Asheville. Their pedestrian Safety Committee has been using it since mid-2000, although, no engineering studies have been done. Using an information observation and discussion process they have seen an increased willingness of drivers to yield to pedestrians. It is a low tech inexpensive program and since Jan. 2001 have instigated an adopt-a-crosswalk program where individuals can sign up to purchase flags for a particular crosswalk at \$.50 a flag. This is a subsidized program by the city. The ideal is to increase pedestrian visibility. The pedestrian simply picks up a bright orange flag and carries it with them while crossing and leaves it on the other side of the street. The city installs flag holders on sign posts on both sides of the road at the crosswalk.

Announcements:

The Thunderhead Alliance is conducting a training in Louisville, Ky. During the week of July 13-15, 2007. Unfortunately, we received notice of this training quite late. Perhaps next year we can take advantage of it.

Liberty Bicycles is beginning their beginner classes on Monday, July 2nd they will be held on Mondays this year at Fletcher Community Park.

Robert Puentes, Pattie's brother-in-law will be speaking on Tuesday, July 3rd during the day at the Asheville Municipal Bldg. (Fire & Police Dept) from noon – 2pm. A light lunch will be served contact Stephanie Monson at 232-4502 or smonson@ashevillenc.gov or in the evening at a free public meeting from 5:30-7Pm the same day at the Reuter Center at UNCA. This is part of the speakers series.

There is a Safe Routes to Schools Net Conference being help on July 26th at 2pm EDT. Kathy Molin, our Transportation Demand Manager has gotten the conference paid for so there is no charge to attend. This conference will be held at the Enka Campus of AB Tech. Please let Barb Mee know if you plan to attend at Bmee@ashevillenc.gov.

Our next meeting, Thurs, July 26th will be the public hearing for the Asheville Bike Plan. Location to be announced later.