

September 27, 2007 Minutes Bike/Pedestrian Task Force

Present: Ken Putnam, Barb Mee, Pattie Moore, Janet Barlow, Donna Kelly, Grace Curry, Imke Durre, Shannon Fields, Till Dohse, Michael Sule, Terri March and Claudia Nix

We are still waiting for the consultants to finish the narrative information on the Asheville Bike Plan. Having a booth at the Lexington Arts Festival was very fruitful. We explained the bike plan to many individuals who were pleased to see the proposed improvements and were willing to give us support by either attending the city council meeting or writing support letters. We collected 6 pages of email addresses. It will probably be Nov or Dec before it is put onto the agenda as city council will not meet for two weeks during election process.

We are working on a letter and fact sheets to give to city council to help insure the bike plan gets adopted and implemented. Claudia circulated the beginnings around for all to see.

The Comprehensive Transportation Plan has closed their public comment period. All comments were given to DOT. The staff corrected the CTP maps where needed on the needs improvement problem. The transportation map was not to be considered existing bike facilities that don't need improvements.

Talked about additional links for the web site and getting the information out to the Coalition of Asheville Neighborhoods.

It was suggested by the planning dept. that we attend the city council meeting on Oct 16th to vocalize our concerns about pedestrian access interruptions on Biltmore Ave. if the Ellington is allowed to have a covered hotel arrival courtyard. Claudia plans on attending.

There is a free half day workshop on Oct 17 at the Enka Campus of AB Tech for a Safe Routes To Schools workshop. 9-12 or 1-4. You need to register on line for the workshop ahead of time no registrations at the door. Please pass the word to teachers, planners and parents Register at www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle by October 5th.

The four schools who participated in the SRTS workshops last March are now eligible to apply for the demonstration grants which offer considerable monies to make their schools more walking and biking friendly through engineering improvements, education, encouragement programs and enforcement. Those schools are Emma, Vance, Jones and Black Mt.

Claudia meet with McCray Coates of NC DOT, Rich Mathews, a parent; Ric Ledford of the city engineering staff; and Kathy Molin, Asheville Transportation Demand Manager to review the planned sidewalk for Beaverdam and crosswalks. It was a very positive meeting. We are hoping to make it safer for children getting to Jones and Asheville Catholic Schools with these crosswalks. There are several options we are looking into.

Announcements:

- NY Times had an article on the new design of the bike path being installed on one of the streets in NY city.
- The first SRTS National Conference will be held in Michigan Nov. 5-7. See Claudia for information if interested.
- This weekend, Sept 29 & 30 will be the WNC Bicycle Dealer's Trail Fest workdays for Alexander Mt. Bike Facility. This is the last work day to finalize the matching for the Rec. Trail Grant.
- The Blue Ridge Bike Club is looking for interested volunteers to organize the Hilly Hellacious. They need folks to step up and form the major team of organizers by Nov 1, 2007 to keep the event happening next year.
- Adventure Cycling Magazine had an article on Tom Norman and the NC DOT Bicycle program this month.