

Bike/Ped Task Force meeting 10-25-07

Present: Tom Redinger, Pattie Moore, Grace Curry, Joseph Viola, Katie Chappell, Till Dohse, Michael Sule, and Claudia Nix

Claudia explained that the Technical Coordinating Committee of the MPO approved the Comprehensive Transportation Plan and would be having a public meeting next month. This plan is a big picture on the plans for the upcoming 30 years. It does not have to be specific and does not involve funding. Things will be updated periodically. It is hoped that this plan will help avoid conflicts between modes and look at conflicts. We did get the bicycle plan projects added and corrected the misconception that the bicycle transportation map had facilities on them that did not need improvements.

We discussed the passage of the Ellington, the concerns that we were unable to bring up at the public meeting and the fact that some of our concerns were being addresses. The main problem is that pedestrians will no longer have that long corridor of uninterrupted from auto traffic. We feel the fact the developers agreed to go for L.E.E.D.s certification and they agreed to turn their light down during migration, were big factor in their approval.

There was much discussion about the bike plan and how we are going to work at getting the plan accepted by city council. Claudia is working on the white paper. It was suggested that we add a short overview of the plan and the type of facilities and be sure to add the economic impact, as well. We will try to send this out before our next meeting.

We spent a considerable amount of time talking about the problem of people parking on city sidewalks and what we should do to get more awareness out there about the problems this poses for pedestrians. There was talk about sending a letter to the police department and copy to David Foster with pictures showing problems. Some of the known area problems are Charlotte St. from Macon to Edgemont, Chestnut between Merrimon and Charlotte, Kenilworth area on Forest Hill Drive, and Warwick; Biltmore Avenue across from Short Coxe. Also discussed a possible letter to editor about the problem and making the general public aware that sidewalks are not paved to the same standard as roadways. Autos damage the sidewalks and this is not cost effective for our city who is making this expense to make places for folks to walk and then having them used for cars not people. We will need to have more discussion on this topic and develop a plan of action that will be effective. We would like to coordinate with the police dept.

Safe Routes to Schools

The free ½ day workshop happened with good turnout. The funding possibilities are:

1. Demonstrations grant showing innovative programs for 32 schools who participated in the spring workshops. We have 4 local schools who are eligible to apply for these \$250,000.00 pots of money.
2. Action Plan Service Award is help from a consultant to assist in developing an action plan for SRTS.

3. Non-infrastructure Grant Reimbursement Program where schools can get funding to develop programs for encouragement, enforcement, education and evaluation programs.
4. NC DOT Highway Division Funds. These are grants which are awarded to each division for spot infrastructure improvements. Each division is given up to \$200,000.00 to use throughout their division.

Claudia updated the group on the Beaverdam Road sidewalks and crosswalks which could be rolled into the SRTS grant. They have been having very positive meetings with the DOT on this project. The Emma School project is going to be much more challenging. There will be a lot of work to do to get this project off the ground as the state does not have much right of way and this is a very dangerous stretch of roadway.