

5-29-08 Minutes Bike/Ped Task Force

Don Kosteler, of The Louis Berger Group; Officer Ann Fowle, of Asheville Police Dept.; David Tindall; Janet Barlow; Terri March; Bill Crownover; Joseph Viola; Katie Chappell; Officer Don Eberhardt of Asheville Police Dept.; and Claudia Nix.

Terri gave an update on the success of Strive Not to Drive event. We doubled our participation in folks who pledged to use an alternative mode of travel during the week, over 30 people participated in the Mayor's Bike Ride and the bike corral was a success even though the weather was cold and rainy. There were at least 24 bikes corralled at one time and as bikes were picked up others came in. The organizational committee has decided to not increase events but to see about adding times throughout the year that folks are encouraged to use alternative modes of transportation.

Claudia updated us on the progress of the bike transportation map. She has talked with Dave at the city GIS program he is to talk with Daniels Graphics to see if his program is compatible with Daniels. If so we will be progressing with getting the updates done.

Barb Mee sent the updates on the progress of the bike plan changes. The shared lane markings have been ordered and will be placed on So. French Broad as soon as they come in. They will go from Patton Ave. to Livingston St. She will be putting out some education materials to the public about them. If anyone has ideas on ways to educate would be appreciated.

The bike lockers have been taken on as a project of the city parks and recreation department. She suggested they as Michael Suile to be involved in this project. They want to know where on city property they should be located.

She is concentrating on these two right now but then will work on the Lexington climbing lanes before the money evaporates.

The Kimberly traffic calming issues came up in our meeting and Rich Matthews had asked that we discuss them in our meeting. There was concern voiced in the meeting by several members. We like traffic calming, our concern is the number and size of the islands as it may be impossible for 2 motorists and a cyclists to all pass safely at the same time. It was suggested that Cathy Ball be contacted with this concern and a recommendation of temporary islands be placed first as a trial to see if they will work before the money is spent. I sent an email to Cathy and she appreciated our concern and the suggestion. She has passed the information on to Ken Putnam to look into.

We were honored with Officers Ann Fowle and Don Eberhardt attending our meeting. We began reviewing the concerns with them. They are in total agreement with us that we need to have a campaign on the rules of the road for all users. It was decided that we would use both city and county TV channels first. Michael Suile suggested using his Evergreen students next fall to develop TV spots. We need to use our contacts to get this information out to the public.

The police department does have a nice warning ticket for bicyclists and will be getting copies of it made. It addresses helmet use, running stop signs, stop lights, riding at night

without lights and riding on the wrong side of the street. They will be glad to use them as a tool to educate the general public. It would be nice to have a similar tool for motorists. We discussed the idea of using stings to educate motorists especially with pedestrians. They have done them with the crosswalks around the court house. There came up the question about ticketing motorists not stopping for pedestrians in the crosswalk and Officer Eberhardt felt the law prohibited this unless the crosswalk was signed. He will look into this and get back with us about the exact wording. The question about bicyclists riding on the sidewalk came up and the officers thought this was a violation in Asheville and was just not being enforced. He will look that up also. We ran out of time, we will continue going over the rest of our concerns next month and hopefully begin working on them.

We forgot to talk about who is willing to work one of the After 5 Concerts to run the bike corral. The SNTD committee needs us to help with this program. Bill Crownover is willing to help in June.