

Minutes 10/23/08 Bike/Ped Task Force

Attendees: Pattie Moore; Till Dohse; Tracey Roizman; Rose Cowles; Tom Meeks; Terri March; Vicki Rowe-Currence; Joseph Viola; Heather Strassberger; Thomas House; Dwayne Stutzman; Bill Crownover; Barb Mee; Don Kosteter and Claudia Nix

Officer Eberhardt expressed his regrets for not attending. He had a family event he had to attend. He will meet with Melissa Williams at the department about the press release and get back with us.

The new bike transportation maps arrived and we will be distributing them to the bike stores, outdoor shops, the chamber and perhaps map & book stores. Claudia will email the bike stores to let them know to expect someone coming around with the new maps and requesting money up front for donations. She will also develop a receipt the folks can use when distributing the maps. They can bring the money to Claudia and she will get it to the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club treasure, Charlie Clogston who has agreed to hold all the money and keep track of how much we collect.

Rose will distribute maps to Bio Wheels; Black Dome & Ski Country & took 20 maps
Pattie will distribute maps to Hearn's, Carolina Fatz and REI & took 12 maps
Bill will distribute maps to Youngblood Bicycles
Barb has a box of maps
Claudia will distribute to Diamond Brand, Epic & Pro Bikes & has all extra boxes

Claudia shared a brochure she made for the driver's education program she is working on. Terri and Tracey had suggestions for making the brochure more readable and appealing. Terri agreed to contact city and county school systems to find out how to contact the driver education instructors. During our discussion of how to get the safety word out to more people, Terri suggest having an op-ed article describing all the programs we are working on

Heather Strassberger a planner for the MPO with Land Of Sky attended the meeting and explained that the DOT has developed a listing of the roads which are off limits for large trucks. This involves many of the secondary small roads in the mountains. This was necessary for safety after the legislature relaxed the ban on trucks using these roads. She also explained that the public comment period is open for the Priority Needs list and encouraged folks to look at the list at www.landofsky.org web site and to comment on the list. The link to the list is on the front page of the web site at the center bottom of the page. Follow the directions to down load the list.

We reviewed the bike summit information. Pattie suggested that it be sent out to all of the task force members to review and make suggestions on the areas with which we are willing to commit. Claudia encouraged folks to attend the next meeting Nov 11 at the Buncombe County Training Room from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

We discussed the idea of setting up several committees so we are able to work equally on several areas of interest by task force members. Janet Barlow has agreed to take the lead of a Pedestrian safety committee. Don Kosteter, Tracey Roizman, Tom House and Barb Mee agreed to work on this committee. Janet has a couple of others to ask, however any one else who has an interest is welcome and should let Claudia or Janet know. We viewed part of an interactive pedestrian safety CD that would be good for middle school classrooms. We will turn this over to Healthy Buncombe for their education kits.

Elisa and Till agreed to work on another committee we'll call it the "legal short cut committee". They will be compiling a list of short cuts for cyclists & pedestrians which may be through alleys, paths or bike boulevards. If you come across areas which might work for a legal short cut, make a note of it so they can research it. Hopefully we can get approval for them and be able to add them to our next map update.

Barb has been given approval to check out loop detectors on several city streets to see if a carbon or aluminum bike will be picked up by the detector. Pattie & Elisa are willing to help with this project and Claudia will lend a bike. We reviewed the list of streets Barb had and developed a priority of the list. We'll let you know what happens.

Remember, the Pumpkin Peddler event will meet between 6:30 & 7:00 PM at city / county plaza on Halloween. Asheville on Bikes is hosting a casual ride. All are welcome. The Point Lookout Greenway dedication will happen at 10 AM Thurs, Oct 30 on the trail near Ridgecrest a bike ride will meet at the municipal parking lot on Hwy 9 near the depot in Black Mt. at 9:00 AM.

Another important event is the Activate Asheville event Nov. 10-12. Mark Fenton is being brought to Asheville to help us determine how to make our community more walkable and friendly to bicyclists. This is a free event but folks need to register. To do so go to www.machec.org. The event on Monday afternoon is for the general public at the Renaissance Hotel downtown.