

Minutes Bike/Ped Task Force 12/04/2008

Members attending: Don Kostec, Bill Crownover, Dwayne Stutzman, Tom Redinger, Tony Hauser, Elisa Mayes, Tracey Roizman, Barb Mee, Allison McGehee, Terri March and Claudia Nix

Reports on other happenings:

- Folks were encouraged to participate in the RiverLink survey at (www.riverlink.org) for the Cragnolin Park and Buncombe County Greenway Survey at (www.buncombecounty.org).
- A group has started meeting to work on getting a multi-use facility on Hwy 251 along the river from Asheville to Marshall. Their first meeting was on Tues, Dec 2nd at RiverLink offices and they will meet again January 19th at 5:00 pm. They will begin looking at maps to determine who the property owners are, determine who might be willing to buy in on this idea and to determine who and where to start working. They have identified the pros and possible challenges to getting this accomplished.
- Buncombe County is applying for a RTP (Recreational Trail Grant) to extend the greenway along the French Broad in Alexander near the Mt. Bike Park.
- The Blue Ridge Bike Club has just finished tallying up member's mileage for the year which included 102,700 miles for only 27 people. Claudia decided it might be valuable if we could get a tally of mileage for all local cyclists. So if you have your exact or estimated mileage for this year please share it with Claudia at claudianix@libertybikes.com.
- Barb reported that she & Elisa spent time with city street guys to determine where to stand to get the traffic lights to change on city streets. Charlotte & Chestnut, Montford & Chestnut, Kimberly & Edwin, Coxe & Aston will all have painted symbols to designate where to put your bike.
- New way for citizens to report concerns, complaints & compliments are lbike@ashevillenc.gov, lwalk@ashevillenc.gov or lrider@ashevillenc.gov for transit issues. Let's get the word out to the general public.
- The Activate Asheville steering committee met today to begin planning their work. Two specific projects came up that would work right into the strategies they outlined in their strategic planning session so they decided to be working with these two projects which are:
 1. Buncombe County is in the process of having two new middle schools grades 5&6 one in the Roberson District and one in the North Buncombe District near Weaverville. These are time sensitive projects and they want to make sure there are SRTS efforts included in these schools and connectivity with the surrounding neighborhoods.
 2. The Council on Aging recently finished identifying the needs of senior citizens in Asheville. One of their needs involved making it possible for seniors to use the Asheville Transit system easily. They and Asheville Transit would like to have an audit conducted of the bus stops. Healthy Buncombe and Bike/Ped Task Force has conducted these audits. Claudia & Terri have agreed to assist them with training volunteers. We are hoping that those already trained would probably be glad to assist with that as well.

Next we divided into two committees to develop a pedestrian needs list and to work on identifying possible short cuts on roads or alleys and connections to make for bicyclists with greenways or off road connections.

The bicycle committee used the bicycle transportation map to look at missing links.

1. Connect the Wal-mart greenway to Wood Avenue traffic light into the shopping center to bicyclist would have a connection from the bike lane into Wal-Mart property and Oakley to Glendale and Thompson Streets.

2. Improve the Greenway connection on Weaver Blvd. (Reed Creek) to Weaver Park on Merrimon Ave. (either improve culvert over creek, change crosswalk, widen the sidewalk to crosswalk or possible new phase in traffic light so crossing can be done on angle. (Tony Hauser agreed to look at the culvert).
 3. Crayton Rd. off Sweeten Creek has been closed to car traffic. We want to open it up for bicycle and pedestrian traffic into Oakley to Liberty St.
 4. Connect Oakley to the Parkway to keep cyclists from the I-240 access to Fairview.
 5. Alley from end of Melrose to Long Street which parallel Merrimon Ave.
- We want to continue to look for alleys in town that can be used to make connections and ask other cyclists for assistance in finding them.

Notes from Pedestrian Subcommittee of the Asheville-Buncombe Pedestrian & Bicycle Task Force

Attendees: Grace Curry, Dwayne Stutzman, Tom Redinger, Don Kostelec, Barb Mee, and Tracey Roizman.

The Pedestrian Subcommittee meeting was part of the overall Task Force meeting and convened to discuss potential topics of interest specific to pedestrian issues in and around Asheville. The 90-minute group discussion covered a variety of topics and organized in subject areas within the table below. The goal of the next subcommittee meeting will be to amend this list and prioritize the subject areas for efforts in the next three to six months.

<p><u>Policies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of pedestrian policies within city's UDO; • Sidewalk maintenance & upgrades; • Pedestrian accommodations / detours during construction; • ADA policies; and • Pedestrian & bicycle walking / safety audits on projects. 	<p><u>Practice</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and prevent barriers to pedestrian access. Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Target store on River Hills Road; and ○ Connectivity between 2 developments. • Enforcement for cars parking on sidewalks; • Pedestrian connections to bus stops; and • Development review (high level and specific design).
<p><u>Design</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crossing treatments, with focus on 5-lane roads; • Sidewalk segments with utility poles / guide wires and other obstructions; and • ADA-compliant design, particularly curb ramps and pedestrian buttons. 	<p><u>Greenways</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variations in paving materials; • Grades & conflicts between pedestrians & bicyclists; • Sight distance; • Maintenance & clearing of brush; • Crossing of greenways with roadways & driveways; and • Utility easement language to allow future greenway use.