

Bike / Ped Task Force Minutes – May 28, 2009

Attendees: Terri March, Tracey Roizman, Barb Mee, Grace Curry, Gary Ray, Janet Barlow, Sara Molskness and Claudia Nix

Gary Ray joined us this week and brought his concerns about the need for better crossing for individuals who are blind in our town. It is very difficult for them to cross the street or know it is clear to cross without audible crossing lights. He also brought up the difficulty with hybrid cars being so quiet that he is not able to know they are there. His cue to cross is the movement of traffic going the same direction he is when he is crossing. When we start our media program we need to bring this up so motorists are aware of the seeing impaired individuals needs and we need to do more advocating with NC DOT to get these needs met. Thanks Gary.

Terri gave an update on the success of SNTD, the Mayor's ride and press conference. Having BRBC added a festive flare. We had around 35 riders on the mayor's ride and Buncombe County TV did an excellent job developing a video that is being shown on the county channel. The Transit 101 class had about 10 individuals and Hanna felt it was very successful. We decided to see if the Mayor would be able to give out the awards at one of the city council meetings.

Bike rodeos were very successful. We trained 170 children in 7 rodeos and had around 50 volunteers all total.

We were hoping to have one of the traffic patrol police officers in attendance to give us a report but they were unable to attend. Officer Eberhardt did talk with Claudia and explained they have had some problems with the program. First, most bicyclist do not carry identification with them, (they may have had one with it), their traffic patrol has gone from 5 teams to 3 teams which has put a big strain on their efforts for example one team now covers north and east so their territory goes from Beaver Lake to Exit 55 off I-40 in Oteen and the south team goes from I-240 on Broadway to Biltmore Park. They are dealing with territories that are way too large.

We briefly talked about the proposed bicycle laws. The NC Bicycle Committee would like to hear what bicyclist feel about the new law. They want to get general feedback in an effort to make it more workable and meet the needs of cyclists not hinder them. They are planning on discussing those suggestions with the legislator who introduced the bill so that the next time it comes up it will be a more complete one.

We still need to get commuter guides and Bike transportation Maps out to our outlets. If anyone has some time to donate to this please let Claudia or Barb know and they will get some to you to pass out.

Claudia reported that Senator Richard Burr (R) signed on to be one of the main sponsors of the SRTS bill. This is very exciting. Please write to Senator Kay Hagan to sign on to this bill. Even the American Academy of Pediatrics is supportive of this legislation.

Barb reported that we have volunteers who will be helping to assemble the bike lockers that have arrived. It was quite an ordeal getting the lawyers to ok the work by volunteers but it is going to happen, just in time to work with the YWCA's program to a 3 month membership for commuters who want to shower after their commute to work. It will only cost \$50. for the 3 month membership June, July and August. Tell your friends.

Next meeting regular time and place – 5:30pm June 25th Buncombe County Training room.