

Bike / Ped meeting July 23, 2009

Attendance: Tom Redinger, Don Kostelec, Tony Hauser, Janet Barlow, Terri March, Katie Chappell, Heather Strassberger, Sara Molskness, Barb Mee and Claudia Nix

We spent most of the time planning for the national bike/pedestrian counts that will take place in September, the 8th, 9th, 10th and 12th. The group sat around city and county maps choosing over 50 sites where we would like to station folks to count pedestrians and cyclists during a 2 hour time period each day. We will next begin recruiting volunteers and prioritize the sites which will be determined by the number of volunteers we are able to recruit and we will need to conduct training for the volunteers. If you are interested in helping or know of others who would like to help contact Claudia and sign up.

Claudia reported on the passage of the complete streets policy by the NC DOT board. It was a unanimously adopted that they would require NCDOT planners and designers to “consider” and incorporate multi modal alternatives in the design and improvement of all appropriate transportation projects within a growth area of a town or city. Any exceptions to the policy must be approved by the Chief Deputy Secretary. This new policy incorporates public transportation, pedestrians bicyclists and motorist travel. Since the new Chief Deputy Secretary is very pro multi-modal this is a good thing.

A new NC DOT representative has been nominated by Governor Bev Perdue for our Region 13 and 14. She is Wanda J. Proffitt who is president of Carolina Mountain Realty in Burnsville Yancey County. We have no idea what her knowledge is regarding multi-modal travel needs but will plan to get to know her and give her information about our needs.

We spent what little time we had left discussing the proposed bicycle legislation. Those present were interested in having the recommended distance in passing a bicyclist increased to at least 3 feet and to have the law address the issue of harassment of bicyclists.