

Bike /Ped Task Force meeting October 22, 2009

Individuals present: Gary Lux; Natalie Murdock, MPO staff; Terri March, Healthy Buncombe; Grace Curry; Barb Mee and Claudia Nix

Terri gave an update on the community efforts in putting together a grant proposal for stimulus money that is being funneled through the state department of health. None of this money can be spent to construct facilities. It is to be used to promote community wide campaigns on active transportation and nutrition. There was a lot of interest in early childhood farm to table programs to promote healthy eating. There were 14 communities which applied for the possibility of only two proposals. We should hear soon whether we move to the next round.

Claudia reported on a meeting with Officer Don Eberhardt on reworking the bicycle enforcement program into an educational program. He gave her the name of the city video production person, Tim Jennings. She has talked with him and he is willing to develop some short PSA's from the League video "Enjoy the Ride". Hopefully we will be able to get them shown on a number of TV stations. They have redesigned the street patrol and now have a Downtown Task Force which is made up of bike patrol, gem cars, foot patrol, segways and patrol cars. Their job is to deal with all the problems in downtown. Hopefully this will help with continuity. He was given the name of the bike patrol officer that Terri met at a health fair who is interested in working with the Bike/Ped Task Force. As we develop our safety campaign we need to make sure that people understand the signs and how to use the facilities as well as know proper behavior. What are Sharrows and how to use them is the first item in our education process as we've become aware that many people do not understand what they mean. Claudia will be taking a picture of one and writing up a narration about them to be put onto the city web site and the Task Force site and we see about getting articles written for the newspapers.

Barb said the bike lockers are all going to be monthly rentals because they could not get the coin locks to work. There are 10 boxes which make 20 lockers. They are located at the entire city owned downtown parking garages and the Rankin hallway off Haywood Road. There is now a reduced rate to rent them monthly of \$10.00 in an effort to get them rented. We need to pass the word and get them rented through the parking division.

The results from our counting project are rather surprising and give us a good base line of data. We had 51 sites with a total of 5,700 pedestrians and 900 bicyclists counted, 67% of the cyclists wore helmets. Only 1 site had no pedestrians and only 1 site had no bicyclists and they were not the same site. We will be giving this information to Barb to use in developing facilities in Asheville and to the National Counting Project to help with developing data on facility use. It will be interesting to see if the numbers grow as facilities are developed.

Barb reported on the capital improvements for bike and ped which she hopes to work on soon and requested our approval of them. The North-end bike connector: Bike lanes

from Riverside Drive along Broadway to the climbing lane on Lexington. The Westside Connector would be up Haywood Road from the RiverLink Bridge, sharrows through the center of town then bike lane to Patton Avenue. These are all DOT roads which should prove challenging but we have run out of city owned roads.

The Blue Ridge Bicycle Club and Asheville on Bikes have each agreed to fund the purchase of 12 bike display racks to be used with the bike corrals. We need to find a place to store them in downtown Asheville so they will be convenient.

Folks were reminder of the Pumpkin Peddler happening on Halloween meet city/county plaza at 5:30 PM and enjoy a leisure 10 mile ride.