

2-25-2010 Bike/Pedestrian Task Force Minutes

Present: Tom Redinger, Jim Grode, Heather Strassberger, Gus Jerdee, Tony Houser, Joe Minicozzi, Barb Mee and Claudia Nix

There were two new attendees this meeting a representative from the Asheville Greenways Commission and new member. After introductions we reviewed the agenda and then gave the floor to Joe Minicozzi who works with the Asheville Design Center.

Joe attended our meeting a couple of years ago to share information about an area of land running behind the businesses on the south side of Patton Avenue from Louisiana Blvd to the proposed I-26 interchange area that he thought would make a great greenway. Today he can to get our support for developing a feasibility study for the greenway corridor. After considerable conversation we agreed that the concept was a good one although it is not in any of the Asheville Plans. Joe mentioned that the Design Center plans on doing this feasibility study on their own with a grant for which they are applying. They would like a letter of support from the Task Force to help their efforts of getting the grant for this study. Claudia agreed to write a letter as we feel this would be a much safer and needed alternative corridor for cyclists and pedestrians especially if one of the bridges does return to being a community street rather than an interstate.

We moved on to the next agenda being developing the goals for 2010. The following are the goals we chose for 2010.

1. Continue the bicycle education programs for children and adults as well as continuing to educate motorists on appropriate safe behaviors to share the roadway.
 - a. Continue our children's bicycle rodeos.
 - b. Continue working with the schools to educate children.
 - c. Continue offering adult Traffic 101 classes.
2. Begin a pedestrian education program.
 - a. To address safety issues for all pedestrians.
 - b. In an effort to inform residents of their responsibility to keep pathways clean and safe for pedestrian travel.
 - c. To educate our citizens about parking and walking options. To educate drivers about yielding to pedestrians.
 - d. To developers about the needs of pedestrians and how they can help to provide them.
3. To continue advocating for more connected facilities for biking and walking and bike parking facilities.
4. To celebrate our successes by publicizing them. By thanking the workers who are installing them. By thanking those who make the decisions to provide the facilities.
5. To continue our work to make our streets safe for all users by making our streets more complete and getting Bicycle Friendly status.

The next step is to develop measurable and attainable strategies to accomplish these goals. We will be working on them at our next few meetings.

Heather suggested that we make sure we are considering people of color and those of lower social economic standing. I do believe that our efforts do include these folks but it is important that it is stated in our goals. We will work on goal # 6 at the next meeting.

Heather would also like to enlist the Task Force to help the MPO evaluate the projects to be placed on the TIP. We will discuss this next time.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 PM