

Bike/Ped Task Force Minutes
March 25, 2010

Present: Janet Barlow, Tom Redinger, Mike Sule, Jim Grode, Barb Mee, Bettina Freese, Grace Curry, Paul Endry, Lou Lieb, Heather Strassberger

After a quick review of the Vision and Mission of the Task Force introductions were made. We have a couple of new members and some folks who have not attended in some time. The agenda was reviewed to see if anyone needed to add anything.

Claudia gave a recap of the Bike Summit and passed around some information she picked up. She explained that the summit was larger than ever before with 700 participants. There was considerable increase in bicycle dealers due to efforts by the National Bicycle Dealers Association giving stipends and to Trek Bicycles helping dealers attend. Many in Congress are concerned about extending money for any projects no matter how good they may be due to federal deficits. They found that Senator Kay Hagan is a bicyclist, she met with the delegation and promised to do all she could to improve safety for bicyclists and she joined the bike caucus. The NC delegations has become one of the largest to attend.

Most of the meeting was spent on reviewing a request by Heather Strassberger with the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) staff. The staff has found that requests for bike and pedestrian projects are lacking a lot of details. She is hoping that the Task Force would be willing to assist in reviewing the projects and gathering the details they need. She has come up with a rough questionnaire which we reviewed and suggested details that we could gather to assist them. She also brought a sheet with some of the projects listed so we would have an idea of what she was wanting. Those attending had many questions and suggestions for the program which is what Heather was hoping for. She promised to attend our next meeting with a more complete program and hopes that this will become a regular program of the Task Force. There was a lot of interest on the part of attendees. It is a hope of Heather's that many people will attend our next meeting to get their assignments. The hope is that each of the three citizen advisory bike groups in our area planning organizations can do this so the prioritizing will be more accurate.

We added more some strategies to the goals. We will review them at next meeting to be sure there are no additions or changes.