

Bike / Ped Task Force Minutes 4-22-2010

Members present: Terri March, Tom Redinger, Michael Sule, Barb Mee, Heather Strassberger, and Claudia Nix

We completed our goals and strategies for this year 2010. Please see attachment of them.

Heather Strassberger brought a list of sidewalk projects for individuals to choose from to help evaluate. There are many more to choose from. This is a very valuable project that will help the MPO staff because we will be taking pictures of the project area and answering questions that will help them evaluate the projects on merit of need not politics. This is a project you can do on your own time and in your own schedule. There are many more projects that need evaluating. The list of needed sidewalks is very large.

The Task Force has been asked to help with White Cane Day on October 15th. Many people are unaware of what a white cane is and how it helps a blind person get around.

Claudia made a presentation to the City Council Planning and Economic Development Committee (PED) about Complete Streets. These are streets designed and maintained for all users. The presentation was positively received by the committee members and city staff. Cathy Ball is looking into the wording and whether it should be included into the Standards and Recommendations Manual or be accepted through another element for which the city council to vote.

Claudia also reported that Traffic Engineer, Ken Putnam made a presentation to the same committee on a new procedure which ties into the Complete Streets policy quite well. The planning department, transportation department, streets department and utilities department will be having regular meetings so they can coordinate their work. They will be looking at all transportation plans, i.e. the sidewalk plan, bicycle plan, greenway plan, etc and see how they overlap and can work together. This will be an ongoing process which should improve our transportation network and develop integrated planning. We will keep watch over this process.

Cathy Ball also presented at this meeting about a new sidewalk ordinance. There are a lot of details to be worked out yet but I think such an ordinance will be very helpful in making sure that the sidewalks we do have will be kept clear so folks can use them. More information should be coming on this one.

Claudia, Barb and Michael reported on their meeting just prior to the Task Force meeting on the Clingman climbing lane. It seems that an agreement had been developed so the climbing lane can continue all the way to Hillard. It will stop just before the intersection so cyclists can get into the flow of traffic at the intersection. There will be a little loss of sidewalk width in a few places but we have been assured that they will still be ADA compliant and workable for all. The neighborhood members agreed to the arrangement.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 27th at our regular location.