

Agenda Bike/Ped Task Force Oct 28, 2010

Vision: For Asheville to be a community of connected pathways that is healthy, safe and accessible for people of all ages.

Mission: To educate the public about bicycle and pedestrian transportation. To advocate for the development and maintenance of safe, convenient and inter-connected facilities. To promote the benefits of walking and biking for individuals and community health.

Individuals in attendance: Janet Barlow, Vicki Rowe-Currence, Zac Altheimer, Tom Redinger, Lou Lieb, *Katie Chappell, Terri March, Mike Sule, Barb Mee, and Claudia Nix.*

Next Meeting will combine November & December meetings, and will be held on Dec 2, 2010 at the Buncombe County Training Room on College Street.

The meeting began with our visitors.

- **Gary Ray the President of the Federation of the Blind** brought up pedestrian safety an important issue for blind people.
- Shared proclamation for White Cane Day presented to city council by Mayor Bellamy.
- Video - Tim Jennings developed - airing on the city channel and a 30 second PSA that he hopes to air on WLOS.
- The White Cane Law states every car **MUST** come to a complete stop when a blind person comes to a traffic circle or crosswalk.
- Trying to educate folks to pay attention
- Hybrid cars and right turn on red are very dangerous for blind & sighted.
- Pedestrian issues are on our agenda and we have not spent much time working on them this year. We hope to spend more time on them in the coming year.

The Old Enka BASF Property redevelopment was another issue discussed. Developer, Martin Lewis from Lewis Real Estate and Wm Buie from Lapsley Engineers & Land Planners came to give us a review their plans for traffic entering and exiting this property. City Traffic Engineer, Bobby Croom; City Planner, Jessica Bernstein and Marc Hunt, Chair of the city Greenway Commission also attended this meeting.

Martin Lewis explained that Fletcher Partners includes Bill Newman and Ken Murphy of Taylor/Murphy construction, and Ken Wilson of Ken Wilson Ford & his father Bob Lewis, purchased this property and have spent two and a half years to dismantle the old buildings and go through Brownfield mitigation. Most of the 800,000 sq foot bldg has been recycled.

- Their vision is for retail, restaurants, a medical component, and some manufacturing. Their best guess is it will take 14 years to develop. No commitments yet on the site.
- They also own an adjoining site Enka Commerce Park. Want to capitalize on the brand of Enka and are keeping the old clock tower.

- Plan on donating a fair amount of land to Buncombe County for additional ball fields, is adjacent Buncombe County Sports Park with soccer fields. Mr. Murphy plans on building a bridge across Hominy Creek to connect the two portions of playing fields.
- Their traffic study shows they need a 5 lane bridge for the entrance off of Hwy 19 & 23. The 5 lanes width set to maintain the elevation has been approved by Norfolk Southern. Their requirement calls for 23-1/2 feet above the rails.
- Talked to the city & had it rezoned; gone to Greenway Commission, Technical Review Committee and Planning & Zoning
- They are looking for a compromise to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian and motorized traffic.
- An important note is the bridge has a 6.5% grade coming from Patton Avenue and 9% grade going out to Patton.
- The city is requiring all roads in the development to have bike lanes and sidewalks.
- Talked to DOT about the 6.5% grade they don't particularly like it but will approve it due to the constraints with the railroad.
- Two miles of frontage to Hominy Creek; developer will build a section of greenway on the frontage to the retail space and donate the rest to the county to develop into greenway. The bridge is about 500 ft long so the reduction of width will be about 600 ft.
- There was much discussion about bike lanes vs. wide outside lanes. Our final suggestion was that they narrow the travel lanes to 10 feet each, make the sidewalk full size consider a wide outside lane facility rather than trying to share an 11 ft lane with traffic which would narrow from bikes lanes inside the property. The 9% grade would hinder bicyclists wanting to take the lane.

It was difficult to get into the discussion about the next steps for the Bike Plan with only 30 minutes remaining for the meeting. Plan to go over in next meeting.

- Claudia shared accomplishments this year and passed around the map of the bike lanes that have been installed.
- She asked that folks think about using bike route signs and Sharrows to connect the existing lanes to direct folks around town through bike routes.
- Money will be tight so this would be a lower cost to completing our short term goals in the plan. The Sharrows cost \$125.00 each and signs are less each.
- She also reminded folks that we have not worked on our goals regarding pedestrian education and hopes to begin this project.

Barb Mee reminded folks that we have the, I bike, I walk maintenance form on the city site, click on the stop sign and the forms will come up. We need to publicize this information to the general public.

Katie complained about the channelized stripping on the RiverLink Bridge at the new roundabout at Roberts & Clingman Streets. We need to educate the cyclists that they do not have to follow these stripping strips. This was designed before our bike plan was developed. Katie was worried that motorists would give her a hard time for not following

this stripping. It was the general coconscious that motorists will probably not notice the markings.

We need to work on the following: Strategy for pedestrian investments and catching pedestrian crossings around town.

Announcements & updates:

- Claudia reported on the Pedal Link Project - all but \$2,900.00 was raised by the private sector to help the city and county purchase the Waller Tract to extend the Riverfront Greenway. We have gotten a loan to cover that amount and will need to repay it. This has been a good example of the cycling community coming together to improve cycling conditions.
- Ukulele Concert by the bicycling Ukulele man at Laurey's on Saturday, Oct 30th at 2PM
- The Pumpkin Peddler Bike Ride by AOB on Saturday at 3 PM.
- Committee reviewing Haywood Road Corridor Friday, Nov. 19th at 9AM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.