

Minutes - Bike / Ped Task Force May 26, 2011

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 and to promote the benefits of walking and biking for individuals and community health.

Present:

Tom Redinger, Grace Curry, Lyuba Zuveya, Janet Barlow, Terri March, Jim Grode, Bert Hamilton, Katie Chapell, Kris Hinz, Dan Baechtold, Till Dohse

Claudia Nix is home recovering from her recent surgery. The Asheville Bike/Ped Task Force members wish her a speedy & complete recovery. Kris facilitated the meeting in her absence.

Intros

Review minutes from last meeting – No changes suggested.

Old Business:

Don reported on the Haywood Rd Audit at the Haywood Corridor meeting last week.

- Well-received and group was very interested in the bike-ped counts in the corridor. Question about who attends the Haywood Corridor meetings, what is it? Mainly business owners and residents who live along Haywood in West Asheville; been meeting monthly to develop a comprehensive plan/guidelines for Haywood. This meeting was focused on transportation.
- Question about further audits; Lyuba said it could be helpful because DOT has some safety funds that could be used for safety issues.

Can the presentation be posted to the ABPTF web site? Or sent to task force members?

There is still no word on the hiring of new traffic engineer for the city.

- Dan said no movement on that lately; still open posting

Report from Barb about sidewalk closures, for construction or other purposes (her response to questions at last meeting about her role) –

I am one voice on the closure process. Closures are reviewed by me, traffic engineering, building safety, police, fire, transit, and others. I usually don't have to battle, but there is sometimes resistance to the idea of tunnels through projects. It's education as much as anything else. We will be better off if I can get an internal policy in place that specifies when we will approve a closure and when we need to find another way, but it is going to take time and research to write and get adopted. The other big problems are working with NCDOT on their roads to get a lane closure to install a pedestrian by-pass.

In the mean time, our lane closure permits specify that closure signage may not block the sidewalk, and require sidewalk closed ahead, cross here signage with sidewalk closures, but again, so many happen without a permit that it's an uphill battle.

- Concern was expressed by Task Force members about closures that do not provide appropriate pedestrian paths. More discussion possibly next time?

Progress on Clingman Road bike lane from Greg Shuler.

The utility relocation efforts are nearing completion. He spoke with all parties involved last week. All relocation should be completed by mid to late June. Based on this schedule submitted by the utility owners, our contractors have committed to be back on site in early July. Once on site, it should take about a month and a half. If all goes well, we should be finished in mid August.

This schedule is dependent on weather, and various other things, it is what he have at this time. Thanks for your patience, and feel free to contact me for an update at anytime.

Also city council is to deal with the increased cost this Tuesday 5-24-11, which is \$250,000.00 to include bike lane to top because reducing the parking on the street was not negotiable with Mountain Housing.

- Discussion about a letter responding to the Citizens Times article of 5/26 and Kris will discuss with Claudia and Barb and determine appropriate response.
- Was presented to City Council as we have to do it for bike lane; Terry Bellamy quoted as “we should be putting this money in sidewalks” instead of bike lanes. But really it’s paying for parking places??

Bike Friendly Status

We have a negotiated agreement with water quality on the cleaning of roads with bike lanes. This is very good because they have agreed to be cleaning those lanes as well as the gutter. Barb will be getting this on the city web site and we need to document this process.

We need to think about other ordinances we would like to have that would help with bike friendly status.

Do we want a parking in bike lane ordinance?

Or do we want an anti dooring ordinance which would state that motorists need to look before opening their doors when parked by a bike lane?

Are there others?

- Discussion: do we think that will work? Will ordinances work to solve the problems? Enforcement? State laws cover most of these issues
- Suggested that a small group should look more at the application requirements and what is used in other places and seems to work. Priorities for upcoming year fit in well with bike-friendly status and application.
- Kris proposed organizing a smaller “project team” to begin reviewing the LAB application in detail, then reconciling goals to the existing Bike Plan – Zac & Terri had said last time that they’d work on that group. Feb 2012 is thought to be next achievable deadline (next is July and we don’t think we could be ready for that).
- Question about training in the schools; Terri reviewed info on training in schools, Healthy Buncombe initiative; and training of more instructors. LCI training in Atlanta July 30/31; Lyuba stated that some may go from here
- Question about adult education we’re doing - Traffic Skills 101, media spots

Terri March - brief update on SNTD week

- Success, continuing to build, more measures of participation this year; more with media & social media; 212 folks who signed the pledge this year; concern that some who ride regularly didn't pledge; 20 worksites pledged and encouraged their employees to participate
- Follow-up survey being sent out to all participants (those who signed pledges); will have better understanding and more information and nominations and will give out awards later
- Asheville Green Drinks event on SNTD, changes in transit
- Focus on seniors included three events: walk, bike commuting class (classroom site) & bike skills class at Carrier Park
- Suggestion of class for seniors on driving near cyclists; Katie offered to help with that
- TF members noted that there was more information this year on transit and free bus rides on WLOS and radio
- Commuter breakfast stations – 140 people actually stopped for breakfast/coffee at those stations
- Bike Corral for Downtown after Five parked 100 bikes; 99 the next day
- Mayors ride – Mike Sule from AOB made some introductions; People included Vice Mayor, Brownie Newman + several city council members, David Gantt, Yuri Koslen from Asheville Transit and about 30 others participated.
 - Started out at Transit Station and reviewed bus info, bike racks on buses, and went to Clingman rbt and Clingman Café and Wedge talked about business impact from cycling; I-240 pedestrian bridge

New Business:

Barb asked for a discussion of a possible test of one, two or three bicycle fix-it stations? Would it be useful, and what would be good locations - both specific suggestions and qualities of a good location. Here's a link to a photo

<http://imgur.com/JbLvq>. test Cambridge, Mass has these stations.

Barb has some money available and wonders whether this is something we would like to test out. If so where would you suggest they be placed? On a greenway, or by bus stop, perhaps Clingman near round-a-bout?

- Need more info.
- May not need it because there are plenty of bike shops around.
- Maybe along greenway makes most sense, or at Carrier Park. No likely locations downtown suggested; TF members felt there were bike shops nearby.

Lyuba Zuveya - French Broad MPO update

- Started an MPO Complete streets subcommittee; Staff would also like that committee to function as bike ped committee; need to prioritize projects;
- First meeting is June 15th, 10:00 a.m. (Land Of Sky offices)
- NCDOT survey – online and Lyuba passed out copies in print as well
- Federal Grant proposal possibilities for cities – contact Lyuba for info, turnaround very fast, June 3 deadline, 20% local match
- “Bikes Belong” Community Partnership Grants of \$5,000-10,000 (application deadline is August 26th) Additional info available here:
<http://www.bikesbelong.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant/>

Grace Curry – update on Charlotte Street (North AVL)

- Resurrection of effort to improve safety for peds/bikes; Charlotte Streetscape committee has been meeting since October; done some redesign work with input of Ken Putnam, looking at road diet for Charlotte, particularly concerned with walking but not enough room for bike lanes on both sides; trying to put a buffer space between sidewalks and traffic lanes; going to businesses and getting their support and involvement; proposing CIP for fall

Some TF members asked to see more details on the designs being proposed as this moves forward.

Meeting on 31st about electronic billboards on Merriman at North Asheville Library

- Ordinance in the city that allows it; Any research on signage and impact on safety , particularly pedestrian safety? If so, Grace would like it.
- Austin TX research with signs being ignored and markings are more effective
- NCUTCD discussion/research?

Adjourn