

Minutes August 25, 2011 Bike /Ped Task Force

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.

Introductions:

All participants – brief intro

Kris Hinz, Janet Barlow, Barb Mee, Don Kostolec, Lyuba Zuyeva, Terri March, Claudia Nix, Vicki Rowe-Currence, Tom Redinger, Zack Althermer (AOB), Till Dohse, Jim Grode (Greenways Commission), Cathy Ball (City of Asheville), Stuart Rohrbaugh

Old Business:

July ABPTF meeting minutes – review/approve

Approved

Lake Craig Restoration project - Cathy Ball, the city's Public Works Director, has will present the project plans for questions & feedback

- Cathy described this very complicated project that includes stream relocation and road construction in the midst of recreation facilities
- Working with Corps of Engineers on this project.
- Some money was appropriated after 2004 hurricanes to purchase property to remove buildings from floodway, and to develop plans for flood reduction projects on Swannanoa watershed
- This is a flood reduction plan for this area along Gashes Creek; dam there that was used for power production in early 1900's; looked at for possible temporary impoundment to prevent damage downstream, designed for 5-10 year flood event;
- Issues of all the recreation facilities in small area, river/road keeps eroding from river
- Phase 1 relocating Swannanoa River and making wetlands “necklaces” along side, getting water to recreation shelters
- Flood reduction is required to get state funding for this, looking at old dam and potential for reuse
- Looking at adding new bridge, making part of Azalea Rd one way and adding new one way connector, between Gashes Creek and Azalea Rd just above the soccer fields, and adding bike lanes and sidewalks on new

roadway, adding bike lane on Azalea between new connector and Gashes Creek

- Making Azalea one way (out) from new connector to Gashes Creek
- May use the dam for flood control.

Don noted improvements in regular sweeping of bike lanes, said it's much appreciated. Cathy said working with NCDOT on weed cutting and other issues

- NC DOT Complete Streets Policy – PHC summary and community feedback (highlights/overview – Claudia Nix)

Public comment period and pioneering healthy communities developed a set of suggested comments and sent out to large numbers of people; lots of responses

- Task Force Meetings – recruiting new & regular support
 - see BFC application (ref. question 14c)
 - new people to be involved from various groups basically to get more support on application
 - user groups – covered
 - law enforcement – Josh Hill, Travis Duyck (get officer as LCI?)
 - Chamber of Commerce/tourism – Kelly Miller, VP of Chamber; Don will ask him for suggestion; Zack has appt with him tomorrow; Kit Cramer
 - Asheville Economic Dev – Stephanie Monson
 - public Health - Terri
 - planning department – on mailing list +Barb generally acts as liason
 - transit agency – on mailing list, rep by Barb, and monitored by Yuri and in transportation dept
 - MPO – Lyuba and Claudia
 - school Board – Leah Ferguson, City Schools Foundation
 - Parks Department – Jim (Greenways Commission); Terri (on Parks & Greenways Foundation)
 - ADA advocate groups
 - neighborhood groups
 - bike shops

New Business:

- BFC Application 2012 – project update (Kristopher Hinz)

Split up the application into sections and are working on completing, Barb handling the basic information and intro; Lyuba will take care of engineering, Claudia & Terri on education section, Zack will handle encouragement, and Don on evaluation and planning; problems with google groups/docs accessing the documents, but Kris and Lyuba will coordinate and work out bugs in group; short meeting after regular meeting concludes and will get together at 2 week intervals to work on getting a draft done by end of September;

- Till Dohse – presentation on "where to put signs for cyclists"

Cycled in Europe and got interested in bicycle directional signs for cyclists. He has worked on this idea here and has some suggestions of places in Asheville for signs to encourage cyclists to travel better routes; has a google earth file of the routes; Destinations = Asheville City Plaza, Library, McCormick Field, River Arts district, UNCA, (other destinations, get the rest of the list from Till). Routes chosen by scoring items like density of traffic, road condition, obstructions/signals, efficiency. He has developed a list of where signs could be located. Will send files and Barb will send out to mailing list.

- Get There Asheville has scheduled a City Council candidate forum at Clingman Café on multimodal transportation for September 22 from 6 to 8 pm. Re-schedule Task Force meeting for another date/time?

Agreed to move next Task Force meeting to 29th

- Bike/Ped counts for September (Barb Mee & Don Kostolec)

Scheduling and volunteers, try to count 10 – 15 locations this year and consider them benchmark locations for every year, rather than quite so many; aiming for week of 12th, or week before, 5- 7 pm, or school locations in the a.m. Training in the week or two before. Count at a few locations where facilities have been added; need volunteers to do this; will send info out soon; any suggestions of good locations in the other communities/counties, please let Lyuba know – possibly Weaverville, parkway at Brevard.

- MPO Projects – Lyuba

-MPO has list of 47 ped projects and 29 bike projects and need to narrow them down to 5 in each group by November; this is for 2018 – 2022 time frame; discuss on next month's agenda

-Grant for regional bike plan (7 counties (regular 5 +), Buncombe, Henderson, Jackson, Swain, [fill in list later] received – doing it in-house; -9/24 event – sponsored by ?, includes a bike ride,

- Transit money can be used for bicycle facilities up to 2 miles and ped facilities up to ½ mile from stops; only a small part of city is not within 3 mile of bus stop; MPO is looking at postponing New Freedom grants....
-APBP conference in Charlotte, Oct 24 – 27 focused on Complete Streets

-NCDOT is looking at doing a spot safety improvement on Overlook Rd and Barb has requested that they not do something that precludes adding bike lanes; community support and encouragement might be helpful

-Meeting planned for Walk South Asheville – Monday, 9/26, 7:00 pm at Carolina Day School auditorium

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Announcements/Events:

- Update the Task Force event calendar with meetings, etc.
- Kudos to bicycle officers who won awards (figure out a way to recognize them)

City is building more sidewalk this year than ever before!!!

Montford will be resurfaced and bike lanes will be striped

**Post-meeting project work – BFC Application Project Team
(30-45 minutes)**

- Progress update on draft application – all sections.
 - Questions, feedback, and team collaboration
 - Milestone & schedule review thru 30 Sept.
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