

## Minutes January 24, 2013

### Asheville NC Bike /Pedestrian 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, Jim Barham, Janet Barlow, Grace Curry, Tony Hauser, Jim Grode, Terri March, Tom Reddinger, Garrett Male, Barb Mee, Evan Coward, Shawn Davidson, Jonathan Derrick, Billy Brittain, Chris Byers, Vicky Rowe-Currence, Joy Ponder, Al Kopf

#### Old Business:

- December ABPTF meeting minutes – no changes

#### New Business:

- Bike Friendly Community feedback + “Bike There 2016” campaign
  - Follow up on responses/feedback to Bronze level community award and recommendations to get to the next level; group will be working on it. Bike There 2016 is working on some activities before the national cyclocross event in 2016; File, “BikeThere2016\_ConceptOutline\_19Dec2012” was sent with meeting announcement
  - City Council & MPO – discuss specific next steps & timing
    - committee is working on that and has had a number of meetings to discuss, begin planning with MPO, city council members,
  - Engineering committee – meeting schedule objectives
    - Looking at main arterial corridors to try to come up with solutions for bicycle connections and bypass options
- Walk Friendly Community – 2013/14 application update
  - Janet Barlow, Grace Curry –We’re working on filling in the application information and developing the various sections. The next application date is June 15<sup>th</sup>. Officer Derrick is working on enforcement section; someone from planning is working on the planning section; Terri March and Grace met to develop some parts on public health activities related to walking;
- River to Ridge Greenway Project – Al Kopf
  - Recent development to provide some connectivity and destinations, from Beaucatcher as “gateway”; to the River Arts district development to west on Hominy Creek; crossroads at downtown and tying the trails together; unite into an off-road and on-road system, with transitional areas on-road that are connected and clearly marked, and safe areas to travel; hiring consultant for Beaucatcher, Clingman, and Town Branch; identity creating ; TDA has grant process available

and they're submitting this proposal for funding through that process; Bike Pedestrian Task Force will provide letter of support; Al needs letter right away; proposal goes in this week

- Greenway updates –
  - Jim Grode – Greenway Commission is having a planning meeting with Parks & Rec on how to prioritize greenway corridors; asked for information and suggestions about that process
  - Terri – subcommittee of Parks and Greenways Foundation Board has noted that a lot of fundraising has focused around Wesley Grant Center; now trying to make sure that discussion is broader than that
  - Have heard that there's a need for decent user friendly map; will be working on planning that; meeting on March 22, 11 – 1 to get feedback from groups and members of community; asked for rep from Task Force
- Bike Love Master Plan showcase
  - Bike Love party is Feb 23; will be held at the Isis on Haywood Road, \$15.00 at door, \$12 in advance
  - Separate bike and greenway plans will be on display
- Asheville Police/Fire/Rescue –Officer Byers
  - Bid for Police Mountain Bike Conference in 2015 or 2016; Asheville is one of the top three cities, presentation for decision-makers on Feb 16; Bike/Ped task force (Kris) will send letter of support to them; looking at Crown Plaza as event venue; late in April or early May in 2015 or 2016
  - Committee with grant for Shiloh community to improve wellness and bike/ped safety; bike rodeo on June 8<sup>th</sup>; needs help with holding the rodeo, will be in touch with Blue Ridge Bike Club, also asking for help from Task Force
  - Pedestrian crash reduction plan, Pedestrian decoy operation on Dec 11<sup>th</sup>, on Patton and Louisiana and Haywood and Sand Hill, plain clothes officers crossing within crosswalks; issued 11 citations; Feb 21<sup>st</sup> will have decoy operation on Patton Ave downtown
  - PSA about the operation will be on the city channel soon
  - Donated bike lights, down to 10 sets, and 5 don't work; ABPTF will work with bike dealers to get more; info about who's getting lights: seems to be mainly homeless population; may need some data about who's getting lights, not names, just more information; Kris will follow up with Claudia about getting more
- French Broad MPO – updates from Lyuba Z.
  - Bike Plan input process – Not present, no updates; see last month's minutes
- Asheville/Buncombe – updates from Barb Mee & Officer Derrick
  - Pedestrian/vehicle accidents – news/updates
  - Not a good quarter to be a pedestrian, too many pedestrian deaths recently, three pedestrian fatalities since December meeting: one on Airport Road, one on Patton Ave, and one on Tunnel Rd; no charges against drivers; dark, peds not using crosswalks and alcohol impairment suspected in two cases; also child hit crossing to a park (recovered from injuries); City transportation department met with NC DOT about issues but more work is needed; wouldn't hurt for them to get feedback about the need for people to walk along or cross streets without pedestrian facilities, with specific stories about needing to get to store, etc.

Stories about not walking because it's too dangerous; maybe good person to hear your stories would be Kenny Wilson - kwilson@ncdot.gov

- Barb has a pedestrian safety presentation for older adults that she can provide; looking for child safety presentation that can be done at PTA festivals, etc. If anyone has leads, let Barb know.
- Questions about bicycle facilities on Haywood Road, what are opinions about bike lanes, climbing lanes and physical separation on cyclists; discuss after meeting
- Bicycle wayfinding project is moving forward; Grant from Blue Ridge Bicycle Club; hoping for council approval in February;
- Barb needs help scheduling Complete Streets workshops in March from Complete Streets org, evening presentation for the public and a full day workshop for public, staff and elected officials; Also NCDOT is doing Complete Streets workshops – Janet volunteered to help with scheduling
- Kris will have some suggestions for Task Force restructuring next month

#### **Announcements/Events:**

- Kudos to the city from Tony Hauser for Greg Shuler's quick response to a pothole that he hit with his bike in the dark; immediate response and it was fixed early the next morning
- Update the Task Force event calendar with meetings, etc.
- Asheville on Bike – Bike Love event - Feb 23, Isis Theater in West Asheville, 6 – 9 pm
- Feb 18 & March 25 - Dept of Health, Asheville Design center airing Designing healthy Communities at the Sherrill Center; information in attached flyer
- Grace recommends reading *Walkable City* by Jeff Speck