

Agenda October 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

Attending: Evan Coward, Jon Derrick, Doug Sheehan, Lyuba Zuyeva, Liz McLamb, Tom Redinger, Kris Hinz, Terri March, Garrett Male, Mike Squires, Claudia Nix, Janet Barlow, Tristan Winkler

New Business:

French Broad River MPO

Lyuba passed out a list of pedestrian projects and bike projects to be considered for SPOT 3.0 [attached] Other projects could be added but would need to be identified in some completed plan (bike plan, ped plan, etc)

-Bike Ped projects for SPOT 3.0 (Strategic Prioritization Office of Transportation) prioritization call for projects

---Solicited by the FBRMPO by October 29th, 2013; FBRMPO submits 20 bicycle and pedestrian projects for prioritization for funding in the STIP; jurisdictions within FBRMPO submitting multiple projects are asked to identify their top 3 projects; a local match of 20% required, if funding in the STIP is allocated, the funding will be for 2016 - 2023; local responsibility for ROW (right-of-way) acquisition;

-FBRMPO to hold a call for STP-DA and TA (Surface Transportation Program-Directly Attributable or Transportation Alternatives) projects in June 2014

---Bike ped projects, small roadway projects and transit capital projects, as well as feasibility/preliminary engineering studies eligible; local match of 20% required

Asheville Police/Fire/Rescue – general announcements

-Downtown has some bike lights to pass out but have been passing them out.

-Question asked about recent enforcement on Haywood Road; it's currently a crash reduction area for West Asheville and there has been some focus on pedestrian crosswalks and speeding

Traffic Calming policy changes

-- submitted letter of support from Task Force for changes with concern expressed about 2 issues, thresholds for traffic calming and statement that "only traffic calming as speed humps or speed cushions", encouraged flexibility; letter attached at end of minutes

NC Bike Summit (10/17/2013 -10/20/2013)

--about 10 - 12 representatives of this area attending, Don Kostolec and Marc Hunt presented there;

--Claudia & Lyuba shared info about various presentations: DOT presented their "Watch for me NC" program which has been piloted in the Triangle (see <http://www.watchformenc.org/>), a

pedestrian and bicycle safety campaign from NCDOT that they expect to roll out next fall to interested communities, anticipate a need for communities to provide some funding to participate; Claudia passed out some posters; more are available from NCDOT or Barb Mee; realtor presented about working with developer on the possibility of pedestrian bridge as part of their development; presentation on Charlotte's bike share program and how quickly it rolled out; Highway Safety Research Center presentation on why biking and walking is good for us and some of their Complete Streets resources;

-- state DOT will be rolling out pedestrian and bicycle counters for each Division office

Bike Friendly Community feedback + "Bike There 2016" campaign

AVL "Primary Corridor" assessment – completed workshops and got feedback to map out from routes from city center to city limits; making recommendations using the current facilities and getting some GIS mapping of those routes;

--Bekah Webb is working on mapping routes in the next week or two;

--after that's done, there will be a need some ride testers

--survey will be set up for community feedback

--plan is to get these routes integrated into formal plans (multimodal transportation, bike plan,)

Buncombe Bike Ed

- May have classes at UNC Asheville in the future and UNCA will help market the program; still have to come up with a route for the ride with participants; starting next spring

- Bike rodeo on November 2; need more volunteers

Asheville/Buncombe County

-Terri – updates from multimodal commission

---East of the Riverway project is comprehensive plan; meeting tonight; City Greenways plan was updated with existing roadway changes in the community and connections with Buncombe County Greenways, important for it to be updated as DOT considers plans for I-26; almost 30 miles proposed in city!

---RFP for multimodal plan in the next month or so

- Liz - Get Moving Map – collaborative project by the Asheville Parks and Greenways Foundation and others; map of greenways, proposed and currently completed, and parks; she passed out copies; more available

Walk Friendly Community

- 2013/14 application update – no info yet; waiting for announcement still; will know by Tuesday

Announcements/Events:

Pumpkin Pedaller, Saturday 10/26 at 2:30 at City Hall (ashevilleonbikes.com)

Volunteer Oasis, Saturday 10/26 at 10am-12noon, Carrier Park (myashevilliparks.org)

Transportation Choices for NC, Nov. 8 from 12noon to 3pm in Chapel Hill

Carolina Thread Trail Conference, first weekend of December

Hominy Creek Greenway Master Plan November 12 4:00 – 7:00 pm Riverlink office

Next ABP Task Force meeting – Thursday, December 5 at 5:30pm

LETTER RE traffic calming policy changes

October 22, 2013

Ken Putnam
Director, Transportation Department
City of Asheville
PO Box 7148
Asheville, NC 28802

Dear Ken,

As the facilitator of the Asheville Bicycle & Pedestrian Task Force, I am writing to express our volunteer members' overall support for the proposed changes to the City of Asheville's Traffic Calming Policy. We recognize and appreciate the value of traffic calming measures and the positive impact they can have on bicycle and pedestrian safety and comfort. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to learn about and comment on this important policy.

While we support the policy overall, we have two concerns. Our first concern regards the following proposed change, "The only traffic calming devices that will be considered include speed humps and/or speed cushions." We encourage the city to leave flexibility in the policy to allow consideration of new types of devices and other measures that may be developed. In addition, we prefer the use of speed cushions or "pillows" over speed bumps, as they are a better accommodation for bicyclists, pedestrians, and emergency vehicles.

Our second concern involves the following, "Change the minimum threshold to include a speed condition and a traffic volume condition." Several of our volunteers pointed out that some neighborhoods that need and desire traffic calming measures may not be able to meet both conditions, especially the current traffic condition of greater than 1,000 vehicles/day. Instead, we propose leaving the criteria as a *speed condition or a traffic condition* OR using a sliding scale to determine need.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact us if we can clarify our position further.

Best regards,

Liz McLamb
Facilitator
Asheville Bicycle & Pedestrian Task Force