

Minutes January 23, 2014

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.

Attending: Liz McLamb, Barb Mee, Lyuba Zuyeva, Terri March, Till Dohse, Tristan Winkler, Jonathan Derrick, Meg Pigman, Kris Hinz.

OLD BUSINESS

I-26 Connector

At the last meeting, Marc Hunt presented a proposed letter regarding bike ped accommodation as part of I-26. There was verbal support from the Task Force. At the moment there is nothing further. NCDOT is expected to unveil the next set up plans in April—would like to see presence and support from this group.

Walk Friendly Award Presentation

Barb-it was on the employee recognition part of the agenda of the City Council. Follow-up presentation was requested, not sure what the status is.

NEW BUSINESS

Asheville Police

Meg Pigman-will be replacing John as the liaison to the Bike Ped Task Force. Would like to do more pedestrian enforcement on Haywood Road.

Additional safety discussion followed. Lyuba Zuyeva-announcement about the Watch for Me NC Campaign (www.watchformenc.org). NCDOT is looking to have additional municipalities and college campus locations apply. Applications are due by April 17th. Barb Mee is hosting a webinar at Asheville City Hall on February 12th 2-3 PM (Mezzanine level) to learn more about this program. Till Dohse-looking at some crash rates presented by Don Kostelec, Asheville has high pedestrian crash rates and bicycle crash rates overall, and minority crash rates are very high especially. Hispanic population is too small in Asheville to make a valid comparison. Jonathan Derrick-African-Americans might be more likely to get hurt in bicycle accidents as it appears many don't take safety seriously and they do not use helmets and lights. Terri March-there used to be an initiative in the past where an element of bike ped safety was introduced as part of driver education. Jonathan Derrick-we already go into high schools to do safety education, can incorporate multi-modal elements. Terri to let Claudia and Gwen know to connect with Jonathan (jderrick@ashevillenc.gov) to share bike ped education elements so that Asheville Police can incorporate it as part of high school presentations.

Bike There 2016 Campaign

Liz reminded the group that at the last Bike Ped Task Force Bekah Webb presented the maps that she created with the "Bike There 2016" routes. Would like to have further input prior to February Multi-Modal Transportation Committee meeting. Kris-would like to find ways to improve bicycle connectivity

in the city limits by January 2016, when the Cyclocross Championship will be taking place at the Biltmore Estate. Feedback on the bike-friendly application indicated that main arterials need to be retrofitted to be more bike-friendly.

The progress we have made so far is that we have some routes identified and we have some maps. Now that we have them mapped, the next phase is to ride-test those routes and make sure that routes really make sense. We need volunteers. Will be soliciting participation from Asheville on Bikes, Blue Ridge Bicycle Club. We are hoping to ride-test them by April. We will also need to start involving NCDOT in some of the conversations because a lot of the routes are on state roads. Lyuba-need to number/label the routes. Till-we might need to provide specific scale/metrics to the testers (i.e. how bad was the traffic, surface, etc.) so that everybody is looking at the same elements. Kris-great idea, need to design a survey together and have a draft. Then we can use survey monkey to recruit volunteers. Barb Mee-there was a survey when the suitability maps were done. Claudia might have this, would be a good starting point.

Kris-once we test-ride those routes, it will be time to incorporate them into official plans. Possibly amend into the Asheville Bike Plan or Asheville Multi-Modal Transportation Study. Barb-the Multi-Modal Transportation Plan for the city is starting, currently consultant selection is underway. April 2015 is the target completion date. Kris-hopefully we can pick the best corridor written into the plan, including a cost estimate and feasibility assessment. Once the recommendations are official, we can go after funding including private funding to accelerate construction. There will be a brief presentation at the Multi-Modal Transportation Committee meeting on February 26th 3-4:30 PM. Kris will be there to present.

Lyuba Zuyeva-need to make sure Riverside Drive is included in the updated maps. Land-of-Sky Regional Council might have the capability to post a copy of the map on the GIS online server, to make it more accessible to the volunteers. Barb Mee-would like to work with Downtown Police Unit to test-ride some of the routes. Kris Hinz-great thanks to Bekah Webb and Vicki Eastland for doing the work. Barb Mee-Bekah has her own company and does freelance GIS work.

Buncombe Bike Ed

Classes to start on second Saturdays in March at UNCA. Terri-Lucy and I are teaching the first class in March. Will be working on refining the commuter class slides. The classes are based on the League of American Bicyclists materials. We could take a look at Asheville Commuter Guide for some ideas. Terri-have some posters ready for the new series with new location. Don Kostelec donated the printing cost. There is an electronic copy. Barb Mee-would like to see an electronic copy of the poster. Lyuba to email Don for an electronic copy and send a copy to Barb.

Green Lane Project

Barb Mee-the City of Asheville has applied to be one of six demonstration cities in the second round of Green Lane Project. The first round included six cities for two years, mostly focused on technical assistance and education and a \$25,000 grant. Marketing assistance included. Expect to hear back in mid-March. We had several letters of support including from the Chamber of Commerce and New Belgium.

City of Asheville-Other Updates

Barb Mee-did a presentation about vulnerable users to the Multi-Modal Transportation Commission. They have asked the City Council to write a letter of support for federal legislature adding vulnerable users to the HSIP safety benchmarks.

Expect to bring the draft East of the Riverway Transportation Network plan to you next month and then approve it in a month. Livingston Street is part of this plan and also part of the Green Lane Project application.

Multi-Modal Transportation Commission

The MMTC requested input for annual report and the report has already been put together. A discussion followed about having a formal list of Task Force members to list with the report, etc. Barb-a few consistent people participate, and a few hundred people are on the email list. Terri-we do need to revisit a way to formalize some of the elements of this group. Some discussion about participation (i.e. attending 80% of the meetings) would count as membership. Otherwise the Task Force gets discounted. Liz-could we come up with a list of what the needs are as far as this group, what are the responsibilities. Barb Mee-could consider an Executive Committee. Kris Hinz-that would be similar to the idea of having several chairs for specific topics. Barb Mee-the Green Bike Lane application happened in collaboration with members of the Asheville Bike Ped Task Force.

Terri-this was Gwen Wisler's first MMTC meeting. She is the official representative from the Council to the MMTC.

FBRMPO Updates

Lyuba Zuyeva-FBRMPO has endorsed the Blue Ridge Bike Plan. www.brbbp.org.

WNC Chapter of Women in Transportation is getting started, geared to professional development for women in all modes of transportation and engineering, open to men also. Email Lyuba (Lyuba(at)landofsky.org) if you would like to be involved. February 18th at 11:30 AM is the first lunch meeting to discuss.

For SPOT prioritization, three Asheville bike ped projects have been submitted:

- McDowell and Choctaw pedestrian improvements
- McDowell Bicycle improvements
- Broadway bicycle improvements

Support from a local bike ped group would add extra points in scoring. The group was in support of all three projects.

Lyuba Zuyeva-FBRMPO also will be looking for volunteers to serve on the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Long-Range Transportation Plan/MTP update. There will be a request for volunteers soon. Two-year process.

Events and Announcements

- SNTD Meeting rescheduled to Wednesday, January 31st at 5 PM at WNC Alliance; typically the second week in May is chosen for SNTD
- Asheville on Bikes Bike Love event scheduled for Saturday, February 22nd
- Bike Corral: Barb Mee-would anybody like to look at some alternatives of bike corral design. Tristan and Lyuba have volunteered to help look for examples.
- Barb-Public Works Director is open, Ken Putnam is the interim, Jeff Moore is the interim Transportation Department head.

- Monday, February 24th-there will be a presentation on the East of the Riverway Transportation Network Plan, Energy Plan and some other studies funded with TIGER II grant. Likely the time will be around 5:30-8 PM.