

## Minutes July 24, 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.

**Introductions:** Liz McLamb, Mike Squires, Dan Baechold, Kristina Solberg, Till Dohse, Terri March, Tristan Winkler, Michael Biggs, Donner Loknes, and Janet Barlow.

#### **Business:**

#### **NC DOT - Kristina Solberg – presentation on STI and SPOT Prioritization**

Division is asking for comments about methodology for ranking projects; scored by Raleigh and then Divisions can locally assign points and rank projects; Can comment on both methodology to rank or specific projects and their rank.

- STI = new way of prioritizing transportation projects
- This process is based on new law. It is ok to comment on issues with law, but that is separate from the comments on the methodology and local project ranking.
- At local level, division could put 400 points on any mode and Division put 300 on bike/ped projects.
- Had 20 projects to rank
- Comments on criteria and how points were assigned

Comments through August 14; final ranking methodology and point assignments by August 29<sup>th</sup>. Then will be adjusted by Raleigh and then a new TIP will be published; Presentation will be provided to load onto the web.

#### Additional information/discussion:

Kristina noted that there's been a lot of publicity about Asheville having highest crash rate per 1000 pedestrians. There's a crash data tool[[http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/pbcat\\_nc/\\_bicycle.cfm](http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/pbcat_nc/_bicycle.cfm)] that we can use to look at crashes and she encourages us to use it to identify infrastructure issues. Then work with NC DOT and MPO to get those locations on a plan.

Watch for Me NC campaign – consider applying for the next round of funding. Campaign includes materials and a major activity of it is police decoy and enforcement activities. Asheville didn't apply last year because DA would not prosecute cases.

Question about educating drivers about sharrows and what they mean? And how to get that information out there.....further discussion and questions about markings, etc.  
Encouragement to get info into DMV materials

**Asheville Police/Fire/Rescue** – no report; no representative present

### **Asheville/Buncombe – brief updates**

City of Asheville Committee/Commission openings – applications due Aug. 6.

City is applying for grant funding for STP-DA for right-of-way for RADTIP and applying for another bus and expansion for ART and a bike-share feasibility study through TA funding (transportation alternatives). This is first step and probably will know about that funding in the next few months.

**Bike/Ped counts** - Will be done again in September 2014. Meeting at UNCA August 7<sup>th</sup> at Sherrill Center, Room 410. Contact Laurie Stradley <lstradle@unca.edu> for more information

### **Multimodal Commission**

Meeting included:

- presentation from Mike Sule about bike parking on the streets;
- presentation on affordable housing and equity and transportation.
- Request for support for Economic and Tourism Development grant application that might include greenway and some of the RADTIP improvements.
- Ken Putnam discussed process for spending money on sidewalks and ranking applications, and how to make that information available to public
- Elections for the commission. Three slots: Steven Obremski and John Rideout were selected. Last two candidates were Mike Sule and Til Dohse, and that decision has been left to Council
- Multimodal plan – getting moving on that

Questions about promoting bicycling in Asheville as part of tourism campaign. Different maps are available, but not easily available to people.

**French Broad River MPO** – no representative present

### **Other reports**

Group met to discuss pedestrian projects and recommendations from Walk Friendly Community report and will be getting back together this fall to develop further.

Questions asked about response to pedestrian deaths and whether the Task Force could/should respond. What is the point we want to make? Something about streets for all users,

responsibility of drivers, tag to the start of school and watching for pedestrians. Liz will draft a letter and circulate it.

Chart about death of users at different speeds, but the vulnerability of some users, children, may be useful to include/provide. Note that engineering doesn't solve all problems, but need options to allow people to get places without using a car; letter about sharrows and what they mean?

**Announcements/Events:**

- STP-DA and TA Call for Projects May 23-July 31, 2014
- Various Committee/Commission openings – applications due Aug. 6
- ProWalk ProBike Conference - Pittsburgh, PA - September 8-11.  
<http://www.pps.org/pwpb2014/>
- “Community Connections: Transportation Options for All Ages” a one day event on September 19, hosted by Land of Sky Regional Council
- Next ABP Task Force meeting – Thursday, August 28 at 5:30pm.