

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: Barb Mee, Garrett Male, Liz McLamb, Till Dohse, Steve Norman, Michael Biggs, Lyuba Zuyeva, Claudia Nix, Tristan Winkler, Joy Ponder, Susan Sojourner, Meg Pigman.

Business

Multi-Modal Transportation Committee

Till Dohse provided brief updates from the MMTC. Mike Sule was at the last meeting and put in a pitch for bicycle parking corrals. Also MMTC heard a presentation from a public health professional advocating for walking signs that indicate distance and time to the destination. In addition, MMTC heard a proposal to close Bradley Street in West Asheville in favor of new development. MMTC recommended keeping a walking path through the former street ROW. MMTC meets on the fourth Wednesdays. New MMTC members include John Rideout with UNCA (he is at-large/also on the Greenways Committee); also there is a new representative from the Transit Commission (Steven Obremski).

“Asheville in Motion” is the name of the multi-modal transportation planning study. The kick-off event has occurred and Till Dohse is on this committee as well. First public meeting planned for October.

FBRMPO

Tristan Winkler provided an update from the French Broad River MPO. FBRMPO held an STP-DA and TA call for projects back in the spring, seven projects have been submitted. It appears that all seven projects will be funded, FBRMPO Board to vote in September.

Lyuba Zuyeva provided an update to “Community Connections-Transportation Options for All Ages” event planned for September 19th. This event is focused on seniors and mobility/transportation issues. Land of Sky staff have decided to change the event to make it a half-day event only, in the morning on September 19th. There will be no lunch included and the event is now free. Registration link at <http://www.landofsky.org/events.html#cc2014>

Asheville Police and Fire

Asheville Fire-No updates at this time. Asheville Police—will be forming a Traffic Task Force.

City of Asheville

Barb Mee-has met with the public health representative to explore the walk signage to encourage people to walk more. Traffic Engineering mostly on board. Blue Cross Blue Shield funding expected to pay for it. Question about previous guerilla signs put up last summer-they were taken down. This time the signs will be legitimate. Barb is looking for volunteer support on this effort.

UNCA looking to hold a Bulldog Bicycle Bonanza in October. So far a suggestion has been made for a mountain bike course on the quad. If this group would like to be represented we could have a table at the event. To be held October 9th. Lyuba-this will be the same weekend as NC Bike Summit. Claudia-will be at the Bicycle Bonanza with BRBC tent, could include some of the flyers/maps.

Barb Mee-bicycle and pedestrian counts coming up on September 16, 17 and 18th. Easy to sign up online. Asking people to count for 2 hours at an intersection. Usually 5-7 in the evening or 7-9 AM and some Saturday locations. Lyuba Zuyeva-would be good to pick out one location to pair with an automated count using MPO counters. Till Dohse-the WT Weaver roundabout/greenway near UNCA might be good. Claudia-suggestion for new section of the Reed Creek greenway. Barb Mee-Laurey Stradley at UNCA to confirm the count location for the automated count installation. Barb Mee-Asheville on Bikes has link to volunteer registration on their site as well.

BuncombeBikeEd

Lyuba Zuyeva-taught August TS 101 class, two students attended. Joe Sanders recently received his certification and helped teach the class. Lucy Crown is scheduled to teach the September 13th Confident Commuter class. No instructors signed up to teach the October class. Some discussion followed about additional recruitment strategies.

By-Laws and Walk Friendly Community Application Follow-Up

Liz McLamb—question about the By-Laws. Till Dohse-need a couple dedicated volunteers to spend a month reviewing those. Liz and Till to set up a follow-up meeting for those interested. Should they be called something other than “By-laws.” To be discussed further.

Liz McLamb-would like to restart the Walk Friendly Community application feedback. Using the feedback, the group could come up with some pedestrian improvements. Will also send out an invite.

Strive Not to Drive Celebration

Claudia Nix-Strive Not to Drive Celebration will take place on Thursday, September 11th at 6:00-8:00 PM. At the Millroom downtown. The awards will be handed out at the celebration in lieu of a City Council meeting. This is also meant to be a mixer for the advocates and representatives from different group to get to know each other.

Haywood Road and Craven Street

Question about green paint used on the recently installed climbing bike lane on Haywood Road. Barb Mee—this is mostly for awareness so that drivers can see the bike lane a little better.

The paint is a little slick. It should have been sanded paint.

Michael Biggs-indicated he gets a lot of questions from newcomers about where they can ride bikes.

Question about Craven Street construction. Barb Mee-this project will take over a year. Access to Waynesville from Craven will be closed off soon. Waynesville will be accessible off Brown Avenue. Sidewalk on Haywood (second side) and permanent bike lane on Haywood will be delayed till after Craven Street project is done. Current Haywood Road bike lane is temporary.

Michael Biggs-repaving at the train tracks in the River Arts District still going on. Even after repaving it's wavy. Barb Mee-difficult to get updated information from the railroad companies on when and where repairs happen.

Asheville Police-Additional

Discussion about charging a driver for reckless driving if the driver was filmed while improperly passing and endangering a cyclist. From Asheville Police-could report it to the Police, it would be at the officer's discretion whether the driver would be charged.

Meg Pigman-Asheville Police attended the "Watch for Me NC" training. No longer teach using decoy officers. Will just watch pedestrians and wait so that it is not an entrapment situation, even though enforcing "yield to pedestrians in crosswalk" should not be considered an entrapment. Might be possible to implement a full safety campaign later.

Pedestrian Safety Letter to the Editor

Liz McLamb-last time we discussed submitting a letter to the editor from the Task Force, to address the uptick in pedestrian accidents this summer. Looking for direction from the Task Force. Would like to have something close to October 8th. Support from the Task Force was expressed for such a letter close to Walk to School Day (prior to October 8th). Discussion about visibility-pedestrians and cyclists need to have something bright and/or lights to protect themselves. APD statistician has numbers on bike ped crashes.

Question about bike ped issues comments. Barb Mee-comments can be emailed to iwalk@ashevillenc.gov, ibike@ashevillenc.gov and iride@ashevillenc.gov. There is also "Asheville App". Preference for fixable things.

Announcements/Events

- ProWalk ProBike Conference September 8-11
- SNTD Celebration on September 11th from 6-8 PM at the Millroom
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts on September 16, 17 and 18th
- Community Connections-Transportation Options for All Ages half-day workshop on September 19th 8:30-12:10
- Next meeting is Thursday, September 25th at 5:30.
- NC Bike Summit October 8-12 in Greensboro