

## Minutes January 22, 2015

### Asheville NC Bicycle and 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, Liz McLamb, Janet Barlow, Terri March, Tristan Winkler, Sgt. Scott Pruett, Till Dohse, Billie Lofland, Ofc Chris Byers, Sgt. Brien Griffin, Ofc. Chris Dennis, Judy McAfee, Claudia Nix,

#### **Business:**

**Asheville Police/Fire/Rescue (Scott Pruett)** - Scott reported on the fatality on Merrimon Ave.

Police department had late notification of the fatality, sometime after the crash, since she did not seem seriously injured at the scene. It seems she was about 60 feet north of the crosswalk. She had gotten off the bus, waited for the bus to clear and stepped out into the path of cars, northbound that stopped, then was hit in southbound left turn lane. Drivers were not charged. [Report is attached.](#)

Police are in discussion with NCDOT and they are looking at possible engineering solutions for Merriman crossings

Pedestrian crosswalk enforcement activities will soon be back as part of planned police activities, with some education as the first step. The Police department will partner with Barb and transportation department on applying to participate in the Watch for Me NC program. Police department and district attorney and transportation department director are all on board with reinstating that program.

Question regarding crosswalk laws, does pedestrian have to be in the crosswalk to have legal right of way. That is the way the law is written and necessary for enforcement.

Ofc. Chris Byers reported that two representatives of the police department are attending the 2015 Arizona conference to prepare for International Police Mountain Bike Association conference in April 2016 at the Crowne Plaza. Some discussion from task force about national Cyclocross event which will be in January 2016 at Biltmore.

**French Broad River MPO (Tristan)**– In the midst of second call for project STP-DA funds; lots of interest and competition;

Have been doing pedestrian counts around the region using automated counters. Trying to do a 3 month cycle, to look at the seasonal differences. Terri asked that it be sent to the Multimodal Commission

Submitted an application for funding for a transit demand management position; hopefully will have half-time position soon

**Multimodal Commission:** Multimodal commission has not yet met this month. The yearly summary report from this group will be submitted to the Multimodal Commission at their meeting next week. (report is copied at the end of these minutes). Thanks to Till for doing the first draft of that report and other members for their work on it.

### **Asheville/Buncombe –**

City is working on a tool kit of various safety measures, speed reduction strategies and measures to share with the neighborhoods. Looking for a volunteer from this group to help work with Jeff Moore on that. Janet, Claudia and Terri volunteered to help.

Asheville will be applying for design and construction funds for making connections for the greenways that end near the River Arts District, Clingman Forest, Town Branch and Beaucatcher. Also applying for funds for expansion of the Craven Street bridge in the “flood shadow” of the current bridge, which will allow adding pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Also applying for update of transit master plan

Capital projects updates: still need 6 easements on Hendersonville Rd, but getting close; Lakeshore Drive sidewalk section under construction, expect to be done by the end of January; sidewalk connecting Shiloh Recreation Center to Hendersonville Road is almost done; Paving on Hilliard and restriping is almost completed, green bike lanes will be later;

Claudia asked about green bike striping on Hospital Drive; Barb will check on that.

Ken is bringing a change in the parking ordinance to allow rear angle parking; may be considered for River Arts district; Task Force may need to support that with City Council; right now it's just going to public safety committee

Moped parking downtown on the sidewalk and at bike racks is being worked on by city staff; likely will ban mopeds from operating and parking on the sidewalk;

### **Buncombe Bike Ed**

Sweetheart deal for Bike Love – in the auction will be a “buy sweetheart a class to help them be more comfortable on the bike”

**Bike Friendly Application renewal** – group is working on the revisions to bike friendly application, aiming for August submittal; next meeting is Feb 25;

**Walk Friendly Follow up:** Small group has been working on reviewing the recommendations provided in the Walk Friendly report and has developed a listing of the major recommendations, then written a memo to go with them to the City Council before the City Council retreat next week. The draft memo was shared; some editorial changes were made and sending the materials from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force was approved. Task Force suggested people to receive copies of the email in addition the City Council and Mayor. It will be copied to Jim Grode, Cathy Ball, Mariate Echeverry, Ken, Barb, Gary Jackson,

### **Other discussion**

Liz suggested that there needs to be some work on the web site; asking for a committee member to consider stepping up to look at it more and see what revisions are necessary. Will be discussed at next meeting.

### **Announcements/Events:**

--Rally on Saturday for pedestrian safety: January 24<sup>th</sup>, noon – 1:00 pm at Merriman and Coleman

**Next Bicycle Pedestrian Task Force meeting Thursday February 26, 2015 at 5:30 pm**

## **Asheville Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force 2014 Annual Report**

### **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.

### **Ongoing Activities, Collaborations and Projects**

Many of the listed activities involved groups that contributed to the success of these initiatives. In the examples listed below, the Bike-Ped Task force played a role by providing feedback and support in helping diverse organizations to facilitate these activities.

- “Walk Friendly Community” project (our present designation is at the “Silver-Level”)
  - Evaluated the feedback report and prioritized its suggested improvements.
  - Wrote Op-Editorials to the Asheville Citizen-Times that appeared on May 21, 2014 and October 5, 2014 focusing on pedestrian safety.
- “Bike Friendly Community” project update (our present designation is at the “Bronze-Level”)
  - Started planning process to update our application. Renewal is due in fall of 2015.
- Bike There 2016 campaign
  - Provided input in the planning of activities in conjunction with the 2016 National Cycle Cross Championship
  - Provided a survey form to evaluate suggested bike routes in the city.
- Asheville Police Department collaborations
  - Provided advice and input to strengthen their efforts to encourage motorists to be more observant of pedestrians.
- Community Outreach
  - Provided feedback and volunteers for Strive-not-to-drive week May 16 -18.
  - Provided feedback to the French Broad Metropolitan Planning Organization.
- Complete Street Initiatives
  - Provided feedback for the restriping of Hilliard Avenue.
  - Several members attended the NC Bike Submit on October 10-12 in Greensboro.
  - Member presented plan to bring more bike parking to parts of the city.
  - Provided input to group working on I-26 connector project.
- Education
  - Offered bike safety classes for commuters (Mar 8, May 10, Jul 12 & Sep 13)
  - Offered traffic skills classes (Apr 12, Jun 14, Aug 9 & Oct 11)
- Assessment

- Coordinated annual pedestrian/bike counts with UNCA's Center for Health and Wellness.

Respectfully submitted by Lothar Dohse January 14, 2015