

Minutes May 28, 2015

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, Donner Lohnes, Terri March, Billie Lofland, Barb Mee, Janet Barlow, Tom Redinger, Officer Welborn, Grace Curry, Mike Sule, Claudia Nix

Updates:

- Multimodal Commission report– Terri March
 - Pencil in (date subject to change) June 27 greenway meeting with consultant hired by Connect Buncombe
 - AIM meetings in late June, dates TBA, finalizing community typology and design elements and trying to figure out match for Asheville and how we develop our corridors; likely that complete streets policy will be revised to match
 - Legislation to keep an eye on (concerns from WalkBikeNC) - study bill passed last week not allowing mopeds on streets with speed limits over 45 mph, may have implications for bikes
 - Sidewalk subcommittee developing recommendations for criteria to prioritize neighborhood sidewalks in new construction
 - Neighborhood Advisory Committee representative is changing
 - Multimodal Commission Retreat June 16, 9-3, looking at role after multimodal plan is developed; question about whether it's open to the public; Barb said probably would be but Terri will check;
 - UN Child Declaration for Road Safety – proposal that city council pass a resolution supporting it
- Strive Not to Drive
 - Registration numbers about 261; have to complete the follow-up survey to officially participate; 32 – 34 worksites signed up
 - Lots of exciting events and good media coverage; transit and pedestrian issues were more addressed this year; lots of buzz on social media
 - Celebration ceremony still to be planned and will need nominations for the Golden Awards for this year
- Safe Routes to School
 - Number up this year as well
 - Homy Valley did a lot of activities and had a big deal with its new crossing signal and the public private partnership there
 - Study ongoing - WARTS (West Asheville Routes to School) along Haywood Road area, includes a map of routes, etc.
- Asheville Police/Fire/Rescue

- Still passing out bicycle lights, stored at the downtown district office if someone wants/needs lights, provided by the WNC Bicycle Dealers Association; committee members requested that lights be given to the West Asheville police officers to give out in that area.
- Concerns expressed regarding vehicles parked on sidewalks – Officer Wellborn will contact CROs (community resource officers) in various areas of the city to urge more attention to this issue. Police can give parking citations or impeding sidewalk citations (impeding traffic = higher fee), or can find the owners using license plate numbers and call them. They don't usually tow cars for that offense. Any patrol officer can address this issue. The number to call is non-emergency number 828-252-1110. Same thing is true if cars are parked blocking the bike lane.
- Question about whether the public safety committee would be a place to bring up the issues of vehicles parked on sidewalks or issues with vehicles parked the wrong way on streets. Send email to Barb from more discussion
- Officer Wellborn said that he could be contacted if there were additional questions: hwelborn@ashevillenc.gov
- Asheville City
 - Cycling on Downtown sidewalks – concerns expressed, particularly about bicycle delivery folks on the sidewalk traveling in a hurry, recent crash with tree grate and plate glass windows; not illegal to ride on the sidewalk but riders are supposed to yield to pedestrians; police have cited bicyclists for reckless riding on the sidewalk; Task Force members are not in favor of restricting bicycles on sidewalk and other solutions were suggested;
 - Question about parking on both sides of the street and drivers sometimes pulling up on the sidewalks to “avoid their mirrors being hit”. Billie wanted to make a request for parking to be restricted to one side of the street; Barb said to contact Jeff Moore for consideration of modifications to parking.
 - Volunteer needed to put together news portion of the mailing - gathering info that is sent to Barb and then cutting and pasting it together, putting the title, date, and organizing the information, in time from reminder about the meeting; would take a couple of hours a month; could be nice to dovetail with the web site; Billie volunteered to try it for next month.
 - Bike/Ped count volunteers needed for the September bike/ped counts
 - **Project Manager needed!**
 - Data Entry – Tom Redinger volunteered to do that task
 - Watch for Me NC – Asheville did get selected this pedestrian and bicycle safety campaign, will probably kick off at National Night Out in August. Before that, there will be some preparation for it and police will receive training on pedestrian yielding activities. Looking for contacts for neighborhood newsletters and contacts to reach more people with education messages. **Barb will be asking for volunteers to help with getting the info out.** May be some media buys as well with pedestrian and bicycle safety messages.
 - Pilot program for Neighborhood Speed Reduction program, Pace Car program, rolled out last week. It will be offered in other neighborhoods later.
- Buncombe Bike Ed

- Classes ongoing
- Need volunteers for June 20th Bike Rodeo, 1pm – 4 pm at Wesley Grant Community Center, contact Claudia Nix ASAP if you can help, claudianix@libertybikes.com
- French Broad River MPO - no report
- Grace asked about Walk Friendly group and continuing focus on pedestrians; will continue to meet and work with Watch for Me NC as well as follow-up on requests to City Council

Open Discussion/Project Work

- Task Force Website – Billie has taken a look at the web site and has some ideas about options to improve it; some issues and need to update links and other old information; Billie will look more and communicate with Lee about it and bring more suggestions to the group next month

Announcements/Events:

Next Bike/Ped Task Force meeting – Thursday, June 25 at 5:30pm