

Minutes September 24, 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:

- Barb Mee, Till Dohse (facilitating), Janet Barlow (taking notes), Billie Lofland, Officer Meg Pigman, Imke Durre, Inge Durre, Tristan Winkler

Business:

- Minutes ok
- Multimodal Commission – Till
 - Approved new Greenway Committee members
 - Reviewed issues with drivers and city transit system and discussed possibility of requesting a new RFP for new management group; will put out RFP in March for a new contract; meanwhile, MMTC will also look into the concerns brought to them
- French Broad River MPO – Tristan
 - 25 year transportation plan adopted;
 - DOT presentation on I-26 today; may be open to greenways; no change in how many properties taken; no plans to available at this point
 - Applications soon available for 5310 funds for organizations to provide transportation services for seniors or people with disabilities
- Asheville Police/Fire/Rescue – Meg
 - Conference call with Watch for Me NC, discussed issues with bad spin from media on campaign; planning for two pedestrian decoy operations a week;
 - Barb noted that Officer Lisa Taube set up a bicycle agility course at UNCA Bulldog Bike Bonanza yesterday
- Asheville/Buncombe – Barb

- Lot of public meetings, were listed on the agenda email;
- Retiming pedestrian signals downtown to give as long as possible to peds; concerns expressed by attendees about the long vehicular cycles on various streets (College, Lexington, Biltmore) that mean peds and vehicles have to wait too long; possibly to switch to shorter cycles overall?
- League of American Bicyclists sent someone for assistance visit who will provide some recommendations for next year's application which will be submitted in February
- DISCUSSION - ACTION ITEM: This task force needs to try to develop and suggest some council goals related to pedestrian and bicycling issues at next month's meeting; please email to suggestions to Till till.dohse@gmail.com and he'll put them together for discussion next month
- Buncombe Bike Ed – no report

Open Discussion/Project Work

- **Pedestrian and Bicycle Counts**
 - Tues – Thurs and Saturday – counts are provided;
 - Till has put together a spreadsheet covering all the intersections counted and will start tracking every year and see how changes affect bicycle and pedestrian flow; handed out summary sheet (file: 2015_Bike_and_Pedestrian_Count.docx)
 - Comment from Inge that pedestrian traffic has increased tremendously on Coxe Ave at Hilliard, Banks, and Buxton, particularly after 7 pm; discussion that these counts are part of a national project intended to count at during an “average week” at standardized times, but city may do counts at other times
 - Till is ready to manage the data again next year with Laurie and Mike Sule working on recruiting
- **Bike Friendly Application renewal**
 - League of American Bicyclists Assistance Visit – Barb talked about it earlier
- **Walk Friendly Follow-up**
 - Meeting was postponed, but Billie had gotten information about a grant available through the Everybody Walk! Collaborative and small group met to look possible programs; discussed issues with mistaken understanding of amount of grant available (thought it was \$250,000, but it was actually \$2500.); did bring out some issues that

would have to be addressed to consider something of this sort, such as starting a pedestrian advocacy group

- **Task Force Website (abptaskforce.org)**

- Billie, Lee Pirtle, and Liz met last week about the web site; Lee's soon going out of town for several weeks and won't be able to work on it right away
- Billie will take notes and summarize them and get details to him regarding the changes needed; Billie will send suggested changes that were discussed to those attending this meeting; (file: B&P TaskForce Website.docx)
- Question to group: Do past agendas need to be posted? Answer was no

- **Next Bike/Ped Task Force meeting – Thursday, October 22, at 5:30 pm - Billie will facilitate October meeting (Till and Janet will be out of town)**

- **Agenda Items for next month?**

Suggested council goals (for next year) related to pedestrian and bicycling issues at next month's