

Asheville Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force

Minutes

January 21, 2016

Individuals present:

Facilitator Till Dohse, Barb Mee, Claudia Nix, Adam Case – APD, Grace Curry, Lyuba Zuyeva, Terri March, and Tristan Winkler.

APD Report

Adam Case gave a review of the successful “Watch For Me, NC” program with the **Asheville Police Dept.**

- There was a 27% reduction in Pedestrian crash during the same time frame (Sept-Nov over past 5 years). Our average ped crashes is 37, this year we had 27 with no fatalities.
- It was great to get the word out about pedestrian safety and how motorists should behave around them.
- Motorists were given a warning for their first stop then tickets were given. Last month (December) they did another successful operation on Kimberly at a new crosswalk to help make folks more aware.
- Next year they should have more partners. This year they trained the daytime traffic patrol and downtown unit as well as one AB Tech officer. Next year the Airport public safety unit wants to participate. UNCA will continue and AB Tech has vocalized including more participants. There is a possibility that Black Mountain and Weaverville police will join in. The Governor’s Highway Safety is giving incentive points for purchasing equipment to police patrols who participate.
- There were 12 APD trained this year.

Multimodal Commission Report (Till and Terri)

- Our Task Force recommendations were combined with the other Multimodal Commissions and given to the City Council to be used for their retreat next weekend. Some of our requests involved a reduced default speed limit within the city of 25mph, Terri agreed to give the list of recommendations to be distributed with these minutes.
- The neighborhood sidewalk policy was finalized and can be seen on the City website. The next Multimodal meeting will be next Wednesday in City Hall.

French Broad MPO Report

Tristan and Lyuba reported on **the French Broad River MPO**.

- The MPO Board meeting will be next week and is open to the public if anyone wishes to attend.
- Several projects in this year's TIP have been accelerated but not funded. They are bike improvements along Broadway (the divided section) and McDowell Street.
- The I-26 Connector project was also moved to right-of-way acquisition in 2020.
- There will be 13 million dollars available for SPTDA funding this year because several project have been moved to state funding rather than city funding.
- The MPO Complete Streets workgroup is being dissolved as the number of work groups was becoming unmanageable. They have decided to instead hold an annual regional Complete Streets event which will be started in Spring 2017. They need volunteers if anyone is interested in helping to develop it.
- They are still in the process of hiring a regional TDM Coordinator. They have received more applications and hope hire someone this spring.
- The MPO staff has developed a new format in listing the TIP projects and hope that keeping up with the progress of projects will be easier. Take a look on the Land of Sky website. Also listed on the website are the regional bike & ped counts and regional sidewalk plan.

City of Asheville and Buncombe County report

- Barb mentioned that the RADTIP project is moving forward, they will begin acquiring right-of-way (ROW soon.
- The Livingston Street design will have a public meeting on February 11 from 5:30-7PM and several other neighborhood programs will also be reporting then. They are Green Opportunities and Walton Street Park.
- The AIM plan wants our input and Barb went over both the pedestrian and bicycle parts of the plan for us to comment.

Announcements

- **Open Streets** - Terri reported that a small group is in the planning process for an Open Streets event that will happen on Sunday, September 18 this year. This will be the day after the finish of the NC Bike Summit and the American Planning Association Conference.
- **Bicycle Friendly Application** - Lyuba reported that a small committee is finishing up their application for Asheville's designation as a Bike Friendly City. We hope to move from Bronze level to Silver level. The application is due on Feb 11 and we are just waiting for a couple of questions to be answered. The designation is good for 4 years so 2021 we will have to apply again.

Open discussion:

- The Walk Friendly group has been meeting and developed several questions to hopefully improve crosswalks in the city. The goal is to have someone from NCDOT and Jeff Moore, City Traffic Engineer attend our March meeting to discuss potential improvements.
- Barb also reported that a crosswalk on Kimberly now has flags available for pedestrians to use when crossing it. We also have a neighbor who has agreed to be the keeper of the flags making sure there are some on each side of the roadway.
- Our web site has been updated and improved thanks to Billie Lofland and Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force members.

Our next meeting will be the third Thursday of February 18th.

Submitted by Claudia Nix, with reformatting by Billie Lofland