

Asheville Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force
Minutes
February 18, 2016

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: Don Kostolec, Barb Mee, Till Dohse (Facilitator), Billie Lofland, Janet Barlow (taking minutes), Joy Ponder, Terri March, and Dan Baechtold

BUSINESS

- Minutes - No copies; will approve minutes next month

Asheville Police/Fire/Rescue

- no police representative – Meg sick
- Fire – Incident Management Team has been meeting to prepare for IPMBA 2016, the International Police Mountain Bike Association Conference, April 23-30. Asheville Police Department is hosting that conference. There was a question about any discussion of routes from Crown Plaza to downtown – Joy doesn't know about that.

GUEST

Dan Baechtold – TIGER VI grant projects update

- The grant from FHWA (Tiger 6 funding) for network of projects in River Arts district includes Clingman Forest Greenway, Town Branch Greenway, French Broad River West Greenway, Livingston Street Complete Street, Five Points Roundabout, RADTIP; some missing links on Roberts Street Amboy Road bridge, there is a plan for NCDOT improvements to Smith Bridge (Craven Street)
- Moving along tight timeline for designs, with right-of-way (ROW) acquisition by June 30 to get money from FHWA;
- 14 Riverside Drive being renovated with bathrooms and gathering space; lots going on in that area; input process on public art going on right now with survey monkey survey; closing soon; Streetscape plans are being developed now and will be reviewed by city committees;

- Question about Amboy Road signal and making sure bikes trigger that signal; question about bike access to Smith bridge and bike lanes on Craven getting to the bridge and on the bridge;
- Question about extension of greenways north of project area, and Dan said that's not planned yet and some will depend on the i-26 plans.
- Don and Janet are interested in looking at detailed plans, particularly related to ADA compliance.

REPORTS

Multimodal Commission Report

Snow removal challenges—presentation by Don Kostolec

- Particular issues with plows blocking curb ramps with the piles of snow; four lane road completely cleared but all the snow stored on the sidewalk; bus stops blocked; DOT did respond quickly when snow pile was reported at one place; curb ramps blocked by snow piles; some businesses cleared parking lots and piled the snow on sidewalk; some property owners cleared but steps and overpass to Hillcrest not cleared and cage on bridge
 - How do we get plow operators to pay more attention; lower speed plowing??
 - Defining priority routes for pedestrians; follow plows with smaller machines; clear transit stops; 10 % to snow removal???
 - Consider engaging community in discussing priority rights; need to talk to business owners about not clearing parking lots onto sidewalks
- Recommendations:
 1. Priority corridors for pedestrians (ie downtown, bridge from West Asheville)
 2. Encourage to pile snow in parking places outside of intersections;
 3. clarity about snow not being piled on sidewalks from business parking lots (ordinance? And does it apply?)
 4. training for plow operators on not clearing street full width and blocking sidewalk with snow and curb ramps with snow
 5. necessity for access for public housing, and/or low wealth neighborhoods; Residents council?
 6. give up bike lanes during heavy snow with priority to keeping sidewalks clear, and cleaning bike lanes of debris after snow melts;
 7. access to transit, access for those who have to get to work and don't have choices.
 8. Need to plan for greenways, etc. in the future as transportation corridors

French Broad River MPO Report

Don reported from prioritization committee that some projects have been moved to a different funding source, which will free up funds for MPO to add some DA projects. Also note that some DOT projects may be fast-tracked and important to keep a watch on projects.

Asheville/Buncombe – brief updates

- Asheville in Motion (AIM) multimodal plan - going forward; Mariate will speak to Bike Ped Task Force group next month
- In planning stages of an Open Streets event – Terri has more info
- Bicycle Friendly Community reapplication
- Buncombe Bike Ed – meeting being scheduled to plan education dates for next year.

OPEN DISCUSSION/PROJECT WORK

- Report from the Walk-Friendly Group – didn't meet since last Task Force
- Report on the website update project – next changes are more major; Billie will have more next month
- NC Bike Summit update - scheduled for September 16 & 17 here; working on keynote speakers and other events; looking at mobile tour and reception at New Belgium; call for proposals in march; economic development and bike tourism

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS:

Next Bike/Ped Task Force meeting – Thursday, March 17, at 5:30 pm. Guest will be Mariate Echeverry, regarding the AIM Plan