

**Asheville Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force
Minutes
November 17, 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.*

Attending: Billie Lofland, Terri March, Barb Mee, Sgt. Scott Pruett, Ofc. Meg Pigman, Tom Redinger. Mike Sule and Tristan Winkler

Facilitator, Terri March; Minutes, Billie Lofland

Introductions & Administrative Details

- October Minutes approved
- November Agenda approved

Guests

Sgt. Scott Pruett talked about the APD's implementation of this year's Walk For Me NC program and other bicycle and pedestrian issues. Officer Meg Pigman also attended and provided information for the discussion.

- APD was focused on political events related to the election, so it couldn't focus on Watch For Me NC.
- No decoy actions taken this year because of concerns by administration. One concern was one of liability by putting the safety of the officers acting as decoys at risk.
- Using different methods of enforcing, such as watching for cars not stopping at crosswalks. Also passed out a large number of educational materials at public events and places. Billboards were placed on Merrimon and Ashland, and there is at least one in West Asheville.
- Sgt. Pruett emphasized that both he and Meg have ownership of the program and work towards increasing pedestrian safety.
- There was a discussion about what constitutes jaywalking. Jaywalking is crossing between two signalized intersections. It is not jaywalking to cross mid-block if there are not signalized intersections at the end of both blocks—an example would be on Haywood Road. When the issue of the problem of cars parking in bike lanes, Sgt. Pruett noted that it is not illegal to park in a bike lane if there aren't No Parking signs. It is also recognized that with Asheville narrow streets, delivery trucks will need to block travel lanes, both car and bicycle. Exceptions are US and State roads, such as Haywood Road.
- The City of Asheville has 230 sworn police officers. It is having a hard time attracting officers because of pay.

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Regular Updates

- Multimodal Commission (See attached minutes.) – Terri March & Billie Lofland
 - A presentation by Rich Richie of the French Broad MPO about efforts to reduce auto traffic. It was suggested that he provide the same presentation he gave to the MMTC meeting to the BPTF.
 - Ken Putnam presented a draft of the new Parking Study. Barb noted that Parking Services contributes to the Transit Commission. She also said she is going to ask how BPTF members can access the parking study draft.
- French Broad River MPO - Tristan Winkler
 - City of Asheville came before MPO with a request for a Biltmore Avenue feasibility study. The MPO asked for the project to be expanded and said it would request funds of \$200,000. This project would enable a bike lane on Biltmore along with other infrastructure improvements. There was a discussion of road diets and turning four lanes into three, with the center lane serving as a turn lane.
 - MPO passed resolution for I-26 improvements from I-40 south into Henderson County
- Asheville/Buncombe
 - Barb noted that it was on Ken's list to add an ordinance that there is No Parking in bike lanes. She said that city ordinances can be more strict than State, but not more lax.
- Walk-Friendly Working Group
 - Billie passed around draft minutes from the last meeting. She noted that the group had set as a major goal assisting with the City's efforts to develop a new pedestrian plan.
 - The Group has developed a list of existing City Plans because another task is to see how all the plans interact. Task Force members added other plans that should be included. Billie said she would update the list.