

Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force Meeting

Minutes

April 20, 2017

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: Grace Curry, Dustin Clemens (speaker), Billie Lofland, Barb Mee, Tom Redinger, Han Winogrand

Introductions & Administrative Details

Facilitator: Grace Curry

Minutes: Billie Lofland

March minutes approved, with correction of the name, Han Winogrand

Speaker/Presentation: Dustin Clemens, City Capital Projects Division—Riverway projects and predicted detours

- **OVERVIEW:** TIGER 6 is a Federal Program, Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery. The federal government contribution is approximately \$16 Million. Another five or so grants have been obtained for the RAD, mostly City and Federal. The total budget \$50 Mil.
 - The City is hiring a Construction Project Management Firm for the Tiger 6 projects—RAD greenway. Lots of infrastructure going in at one time.
 - City wanted to be as efficient as possible. Instead of just getting bids, worked to develop another process—Construction Manager at Risk. “At risk” allows city to get a total cost for the oversight of all projects. If costs go over, the Contract Manager covers the overage. This approach also brings assurance that not restricted to lowest bidder paradigm.
 - Bidding out now—joint venture between two companies, Beverly-Grant and Barnhill Construction Co.
- **PRESENTATION:**
 - There will be five or six projects going on at one time
 - Through MPO got significant funds--\$6 Million, money the MPO gets to direct
 - Struggling with budget to make sure that can afford all project elements.
 - Bid coming in May 2nd—very telling as to what can be accomplished. City Council will make a decision.

- Bacoate Branch Greenway: a much wooded route which will have boardwalks and retention ponds.
- Town Branch Greenway: this route does a lot of zigging and will include storm water MPs, a pedestrian bridge and a few retaining walls. Runs into McDowell Street and then heads back to Beaucatcher Mountain.
- French Broad Greenway West: The route runs between Amboy and French Broad Park. New Belgium just completed a connector.
 - A question came up about keeping dirt paths and reducing paved surface. It was noted that paved makes public space more accessible. A suggestion was that maybe parallel dirt to concrete. It was noted that Lucy Crown is working on a dirt trail path system.
 - The City budget doesn't have maintenance money. That is why this project will have concrete instead of asphalt.
- RAD TIP, combined with the 5 Points Round-about project: This is by is by far biggest and longest duration project.
 - The project starts at Hill Street—adding a dedicated bike lane, sidewalks and greenway. For cars—straightening out road, at intersection at Haywood. On street parking will be added.
 - The goal is not to increase traffic speed. Widening for bike lanes and parking. As the road is now, it is very dangerous. There will be dedicated on street marked bike lanes, two on one side.
 - Sidewalks—plan to have them everywhere.
 - Lots of other infrastructure—stormwater ponds, adjusting water and sewer lines, utility poles.
 - Barb said there will be jug handles at the railroad tracks.
 - There was a question about New Belgium and truck traffic and whether there are plans to improve the bridge? The answer was, not now.
 - For full deals on the RAD TIP project, visit this website:
http://www.ashevillenc.gov/departments/community/riverfront/radtip/project_updates.htm
- Livingston—complete street.
- SCHEDULE: Bids in May. In June, staff will ask City Council for approval. The project ends August 2020. There is a timeline for starts and ends. Greenways don't start until 2018 or 2019. Again, the initial focus is on RAD TIP.
 - Will have public information meetings.
 - There will be constant oversight, with two superintendents will be overseeing the contractors every minute work is being done .

Open Discussion/Project Work

- Report from the Walk-Friendly Working Group: The group will be meeting Monday, April 24 at 1:30 p.m. at 67 Biltmore. The current project is to pull together a list of recommendations for RFP for the Pedestrian Master Plan.
- Website update
 - The March minutes will be posted with the name correction
 - Billie said she no longer has the time to maintain the website and asked for volunteers. Barb suggested she put out the request for a volunteer when she distributes the minutes.

Regular Updates

- Asheville Police/Fire/Rescue : No update.
- Multimodal Commission: Billie Lofland and Barb Mee
 - AIM Implementation Team Update: Barb said she is still working on developing a policy for sidewalk closures and pedestrian safety procedures during construction. She is looking at two different approaches—one for the more intense downtown and another for the less intense areas.
 - Two topics are coming up at the April MMTC meeting: Vision Zero and setting up a Fuel Cell charging station
- French Broad River MPO – No update.
- Asheville/Buncombe: Barb Mee
 - City Council is considering making it illegal to park in bike lane. Staff requesting that City Council put this into the ordinance.
 - The NCDOT-City Staff Safety Working Group continues. The City is trying to get NCOT to put sidewalk on Fairview, even on bridge that connects Oakley to River Ridge.
 - Buncombe Bike Ed now hosted at Senior Opportunity Center, on Grove Street off of Patton. Parks is helping to promote and APD helping to teach.
 - Strive not to Drive Week—Events include the Walkable Wall Street on May 12 and Walk the Talk on Coxe Avenue, May 16 at 4:30 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 18, at 5:30 p.m.