

**Asheville Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force
Minutes
July 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.

Introductions & Administrative Details

Individuals present: Tristan Winkler, Marc Hunt, Charles Merfee, Billie Lofland, Tom Redinger, Anna Ndan, Steph Monson-Dahl, Jacob Stein, Mike Sule, Kim Roney and Claudia Nix

Person taking minutes: **Claudia Nix**

Facilitator for tonight: Billie Lofland

Review minutes –no one saw changes, minutes approved. Folks will send comments to Billie if any found.

Agenda OK, no Changes

Guest- Stephanie Monson-Dahl, City of Asheville Strategic Development Office

Steph started discussion by reviewing frequently asked questions. The city is staying within their budget for the RADTIP. If built as originally planned it would be \$20, million over budget. The plan includes a number of grants to make it happen. The cost to the tax payer has not changed. She is hearing a lot of comments that what they are building is unsafe for cyclists.

Northern end of the project will keep bicycle safety improvement by the RR tracks although changed i.e. they will not be cutting into the hillside for jug handle. Will try for flangeway fillers. The rest of project where no bike / ped facilities are present, they are putting them in. There will be greenway along the entire project, they have to include a lot of stormwater infrastructure to fix the problems there. They only have money to construct a 10 foot greenway along the south end of the project right now.

Generated by Wilma Dykeman Riverway Plan. The whole project is multi-fascitated. The various funding sources require that they respect the environment, connect people to work and homes, and include economic development. To get the 14.6 million dollars they had to prove to revitalize a low income area, provide transportation and improve housing. There are 9 different funding sources to make it all happen. It was May before they found out the plan was over budget and have been evaluating what

things could be put off to a later date to get into budget. Not one thing caused the overage. There are 5 or 6 factors on why it was more expensive. For example one is that the construction management companies have to assume some of the risk of the project and not increase the cost later. Second, there are massive construction labor force needs now. All this has caused a big disappointment for the community.

They already have the construction drawings for most of the items that will be done which makes it more difficult to make changes. However, we will have the opportunity to make comments on what should happen next and making priorities by attending the upcoming public meetings. There will be two workshops Friday, July 28 3-7 pm at 14 Riverside Drive & Sat, July 29 10 am – 2 pm. On August 10 the Riverfront Redevelopment Commission 4-5:30 pm at 14 Riverside Dr. and the Multimodal Commission at a special joint meeting of the Greenway Committee from 3-5 pm at City Hall first floor. They will evaluate the 10 – 16 feet greenway in south section. Big picture is building out the whole system.

In January the city will ask for funds for greenway projects from the MPO through the TIP process.

Most important thing we can do is to make comments we have till Aug 11 through Open City Hall forum.

We can also make comments to Multi –Modal meetings next week, or to the multi-modal commission August 3rd. Billie commented that we can send her recommendations regarding the plan.

Also included in the project is they are putting 1% of the city's construction cost to support public art.

Report from the Walk-Friendly Working Group – no meeting till September

Website update – Charles talked about the possible additions and changes to the web site.

Regular Updates

Asheville Police/Fire/Rescue – general announcements – No one here.

Multimodal Commission – Billie reported; Had a presentation from Stephanie Monson – Dahl, Talked about their retreat. Comp Plan was discussed. Presentation about I-26 the same thing we had at our last meeting.

French Broad River MPO – brief updates –Tristan reported the draft TIP has been revised and he strongly suggests that we make comments on it. The I-26 improvements are there, Swannanoa River Rd improvements are there. Riverside Dr. Amboy/Meadow Roads are listed for construction in 2020. The New Leicester Rd from Patton to Newfound is funded with a median divider. All on MPO website on left side of the page. FBRMPO.org They are also going through the prioritization process for future projects. Have other projects they will be adding to the TIP.

Asheville/Buncombe – brief updates Barb reported, I-26 updated report

Buncombe County – DATA DISCUSSION at a later time – Anna reported the NC data through the UNC system Hwy Safety data shows accident data. Barb is looking for people who are interested in this

information. Anna will send out a google doc. Barb hopes to have the study kick off in Sept. City is doing a disparity study and if you are interested it is on the Asheville City Source blog and can get through the Asheville website.

Buncombe Bike Ed update- Claudia reported, We now have a new CycleSmart web site check it out

Announcements/Events

Open Streets – Permit has been filed for Sunday, Sept 17

Next Bike/Ped Task Force meeting – Thursday, August 17, at 5:30 pm