

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force
Minutes
September 21, 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

- Till Facilitating, Janet taking minutes
- Till Dohse, Claudia Nix, Randy Warren, Joy Ponder, Meg Pigman, Matt Fusco, Terri March, Tom Redinger, Han Winogron, Scott Dickens, Barb Mee, Emily Kujauna, Charlie Menefee, Mike Sule, Janet Barlow
- Janet taking minutes
- Review minutes – not completed; will provide at next meeting

Open Discussion/Project Work

- Bicycle and pedestrian count report – Till will have more detailed report later. Pedestrians somewhat less; bicyclists 40% down, about 500 pedestrians per hour at downtown intersections; 70% wore helmets; South Slope had about 150 per hour; Clingman and Patton had much higher ped counts; Question about whether more regular counts will be useful; not sure how it might help and some concern about the volunteer time involved. Will consider more next month when Till presents completed reports.
- Data – Terri has data on ped/bike counts and injury reports.
- AoB report on Riverside Drive railroad crossing information (Mike) – Unsafe crossing of railroad on Riveside Drive for bikes; Mike provided draft report [pdf with these minutes]; Knoxville study found that even 30 degrees was ok, but 60 degrees was better. To get that angle on Riverside Drive, bicyclists would need to be in the opposite lane. AOB has been gathering data on this issue and is looking for more ideas on solutions. Next step will be presentation at MMTC. Suggested that records for calls for EMTs at that location be investigated. Consider some minor fixes (signs, markings, etc) and investigate possibilities without major construction. Look at getting video data on the crossings like Knoxville study. Mike will provide a final report later
- Patton Ave & Haywood Rd/Johnston Blvd intersection (Deborah Brogden) – Deborah not at meeting but Janet shared her concerns. Barb passed out list of prioritized intersections for pedestrian signals and Patton and Haywood is the next one on the list. [List is provided as pdf document.] Barb will be looking at the intersection with the DOT working group soon.
- Report from the Walk-Friendly Working Group – planning for next meeting in October; focus on next Walk Friendly application which will need to be renewed by June, 2018
- Website update – Scott has been going through site and has recommendations for changes;
 - Check into incident form and whether it's being used, etc. got to Asheville app; Don't know if there's anything that takes the place of the incident report; Meg's response is 'call the police'.
 - But is there some way to gather data on issues? Is it useful? IF it's important, then consider doing a revamp and publicize?
 - Move meeting info to home page; approved recommendations for changes

- Anti Bicycling Sign -Tom Redinger – question on sign on US 74S from River Ridge (Home Depot) with sign that says “No mopeds, no bicycles” which prevents getting to 74 South. Barb will follow up; asked Tom to send her an email and she’ll check further into the situation.

Regular Updates

- Asheville Police/– Meg - Watch for me meeting with various organizers; have done a few educational activities; billboards are up and bumper stickers are out; thanks from Mike Sule for Asheville Police help on cleanup after Open Streets; also thanks for addressing issues on Riverside Drive; Barb is talking with NCDOT also about no parking signs
- Asheville Fire/Rescue - Joy – no report
- Multimodal Commission – Went over Comp plan at last meeting and have worked on it since then; transit presentation at the next meeting; intend to focus on Vision Zero in the future
- French Broad River MPO – Emailed report from Lyuba
 - The new projects are due to be entered for SPOT prioritization for state and federal funding in the 2020-2029 TIP/STIP by September 29th. MPO staff and Division 13 staff will be entering the following projects in Buncombe County (if any of those are funded, funding is likely to be in 2023 or later years):
 - Bent Creek Greenway-from Farmer’s Market to Hominy Creek Park
 - Bent Creek greenway-from Asheville Outlets to WNC Farmers’ Market
 - Bent Creek Greenway-from Lake Julian to the French Broad River
 - Reems Creek Greenway –from future I-26 to Karpen Soccer Fields
 - North RAD Greenway (Riverside Drive) from Hill Street to Broadway
 - Hominy Creek Greenway from Sand Hill School Road to Enka High School
 - Johnston Ave Sidewalks from Patton Ave to Iona Circle
 - Old Haywood Road Sidewalks from Patton Avenue to Smokey Park Highway
 - Deaverview Sidewalks from Patton Ave to Westmore
 - French Broad River West Greenway
 - Blue Ridge Road Sidewalks (Black Mountain) from US 70 to Fortune Street
 - Riverwalk Greenway Phase III (Black Mountain) from the Dog Park to In the Oaks Trail
 - Road Diet on US 70 (Black Mountain) from blue Ridge Road to East of Sutton Street
 - Fonta Flora Trail (Black Mountain) from Charlotte Street to the town limit east of High Street
 - FBRMPO is considering moving the call for planning studies to the fall timeline, instead of combining planning study applications with the spring STBG-DA application cycle. If approved by the MPO Board, the FY 19 planning study call for projects would start in October and go through December 31st; local match commitment letters would be due in late June-early July to accommodate the local budget process. Previously-funded studies: contract for the Asheville Pedestrian Plan study between LOSRC and the City of Asheville is pending the Land of Sky Regional Council meeting on September 27th where they are expected to approve the recent MPO budget changes.

- MPO staff have no recent updates from the NCDOT Bike Ped Division regarding the Biltmore Ave-McDowell feasibility studies. This is after numerous attempts to contact them.
 - NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Study call for projects now open-applications due November 9th. MPO resolution of support required. 40% local match requirement for a town the size of Asheville. Corridor studies are eligible (e.g. Swannanoa Greenway corridor study).
 - Spring 2018 STBG-DA call for projects will likely be held from January-March. Approximately \$7.5 million will be available for this call for projects (FY 19, 20, 21). Some of the projects on the SPOT list above will likely be submitted for STBG-DA, as well as others. 20% local match required. A local government sponsor has to submit the project application, even if partnering with another agency for a local match. Bicycle, pedestrian, greenway, highway, transit capital and a variety of other projects eligible; transit operations not eligible.
 - Julie White is a newly-appointed Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation at the N.C. Department of Transportation and now oversees the Bike Ped Division and Public Transportation. Julie White was previously with Metro Mayors and has a good understanding of complete streets issues.
- Asheville
 - I-26 working group update(?) – no report
 - Report from NCDOT-City staff safety working group – will be looking at various Haywood and Patton soon; will be doing a tour of accessible signals and looking at issues; Fairview Road sidewalks in progress
 - Bike Share Study update – NCDOT has not approved contract yet
 - Recent additions/completion of Sharrow network on Woodfin, College street, Montford; ones on south Market after repaving; request for signs saying “Bicycles may use full lane”.
 - Open Streets! – success – about 2100 people attending; getting survey information still and will analyze and report later; emergency vehicles were able to make it on and off the route ok as necessary; 81 participants in bike rodeo
 - Buncombe
 - Buncombe Bike Ed update – web page is up for CycleSmart and registration info
 - Buncombe County – Data info under bike ped counts covered earlier

Agenda Items for next month?

- Guests you want to invite to future meetings?
(Pending: City Capital Projects and Streets Staff, update on sidewalk projects)

Announcements/Events

- Next Bike/Ped Task Force meeting – Thursday, October 19, at 5:30 pm
- Southeast Greenways and Trails summit to be held in Durham October 1-3
<http://www.nconconservationnetwork.org/events/southeast-greenways-trails-summit/>
- NC Bike Walk Summit will be in Wilmington November 3-4,
<http://www.bikewalknc.org/2017/03/2017-bikewalk-summit-nov-3-4-wilmington/>
- Carolina Thread Trail –