

## **Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force**

### **Virtual meeting minutes October 15, 2020**

**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**

- Since neither Till Doshe or Janet Barlow were in attendance Randy Warren facilitated and Claudia Nix took notes.
- Review [minutes from September](#) – Put off till next month as folks had not read them.
- Attendees: Tristan Winkler, Colin Kinton, Paul Endry, Scott Dickens, Terri March, Randy Warren, Barb Mee, Peter Looper, and Claudia Nix

#### **Old Business**

- Riverside Drive debris report - Barb reported that she talked with the NC DOT maintenance engineer, Chris Medlin, and he will have a discussion with the public safety person regarding the maintenance problems there to see if they can talk with the yard and customers about the issue. He agreed the Mulch yard is problematic.
- Reducing city-wide speed limit – Barb and Randy mentioned the police dept has increased ticketing but don't have staff to deal with the amount of speeding being done. The Multimodal Transportation Commission (MMTC) did not meet last month but will take this issue up this month. Randy is hoping that a city wide speed reduction will be enacted.
- Automated speed enforcement -Randy – Hoping MMTC will take this up.

#### **Discussion/Project Work**

- Close the GAP update – Barb, not much being done, hope to start public engagement soon. Terri has some ideas on ways to increase the engagement with use of UNCA students.
- Bike/Scooter Share Study -Randy, Barb – again nothing done yet. MMTC will meet this month. Randy is proposing to separate the scooter share as that is hindering the bike share study. The other holdup is lack of funding.
- RADTIP update – Barb, everyone is excited about the finish of this greenway but nervous about the dangerous intersection at Amboy Rd. bridge. Barb said the “no turn on red” sign is up for traffic from Riverside to turn on Amboy but people are not heeding it. There are plans for a crosswalk and a bike light for cyclists coming from Meadow Rd to join the bike lane but not sure when will be installed. Also city is looking at a new design there. The contractor and city does not want people using it until it is finished. We need to get the word out on this. Randy almost had a crash there today. We don't want someone killed there. Barb will see about getting the design for this intersection so

we can look at it. Also, we will plan a visit to the site. Other complications are the Meadow and Amboy Rd plans have been tabled due to NC DOT funding. Barb mentioned that she and Lucy have discussed the need for doing counts on the bridge as to how many people are using the bridge through multi-modal modes. Terri, Claudia, Randy, Scott and Colin. Agreed to help with this. Colin may have some count boards we can use.

### **New Business/Projects**

Randy added a discussion on using R turn lanes for bicyclists – had a discussion on this issue and will plan to discuss more next month with hopes of coming up with a request of city on this.

- Randy brought up issue of the need for paving Meadow Road. It has become very dangerous. NC DOT has put this road improvement off till 2025 we will discuss next month what our options are to getting something done.
- December meeting is Dec 17. Normally special purpose and location; usually we work on our annual report for MMTTC. Not decided on yet, was discussed about whether to have virtual or not. Will decide next month. Think about options.

### **Regular Updates** (brief updates/announcements and input from Task Force)

- Asheville Police/Fire/Rescue – no one attending
- Multimodal Commission – no meeting last month
- City project updates – Barb reported the traffic division head Scott Pruitt is retiring at first of next year. Scott Frye is taking his place and he is also a good guy.
- Barb says the NC DOT woes are affecting sidewalks also, but the short one on Patton between Louisanna Blvd & Druid is 60% designed. **If anyone wants to see the design should contact her.**
- French Broad River MPO – Tristan reported that they have adopted plans including the Hellbender Trail plan & state trail plan, H'ville Road study and Tunnel Rd studies are coming along. Regional Transit Study is also moving along.
- Buncombe County – no one here
- NCDOT updates – Their money woes continue, some short term issues not as bad as the long term ones. Many big project are pushed way back i.e. some parts of I-26, Sweeten Crk Rd improvements, upgrades to Amboy, Meadow and Swannanoa River Road. There is a 2 billion short fall.
- Asheville on Bikes/BRBC/AARP/Street Tweaks/other groups – Pumpkin Peddler is Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, this weekend memorial rides to honor Craig Mosley happening from Bold Rock, Street Tweaks project in West Asheville will not happen until next spring.

### **Announcements/Events**

- Claudia announced that Transportation for American is having a discussion on how reducing driving can aid in the improvement of global warming on Sept 28<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm.
- NC DOT Study for the next 30 years is looking for input. Make sure you have plenty of time before starting.
- Next Bike/Ped Task Force meeting is November 19
- Keep sending/posting images for the [Task Force website](#) and [Facebook page](#). [Scott Dickens](#) is the point of contact.