

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force
Minutes
September 17, 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

- Till, Colin Kinton, Tristan Winkler, Janet, Paul Endry, Brendan Merethew, Michael Stratton, Randy Warren, Barb Mee, Scott Dickens, Claudia Nix
- Sign in and brief introduction of all attendees
- Till volunteered to be Facilitator for the meeting
- Janet volunteered to take the minutes
- Review [August minutes](#). Passed.
- Problem with debris on Riverside Drive was added to the Agenda.

Old Business

- Cleaning sidewalks and bike lanes on Riverside Drive is done periodically by city sweeps, but it's quickly gets debris in it again from businesses and gravel from driveways etc. There is concern with businesses dumping materials, and question as to who is responsible. Randy asked if there an ordinance that addresses it; sidewalks. It is likely that property owners are responsible, but that there is no enforcement of ordinance. Barb will look into this issue, and determine who is responsible to ensure that the lanes are kept clean.

Discussion/Project Work

- Counts (September 14-19) (Till) – Pedestrian numbers seemed to be down; Claudia saw lots of people downtown but others seem fewer; We'll have a report of the data next month.
Question about the process and how data is used. Each year the same intersections are tabulated the same way. We follow guidelines from a national group "Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project". The data go to this group and then to the City via the Multimodal Commission. The results are used informally. City has used them at various times to talk about population walking or biking, and it changes some of the issues and perceptions. It is not a formal count, more like a pilot study. Need it to be more statistically accurate? Michael suggested automated system that counts pedestrians, bikes and autos? The cost of this would only be justified if there a genuine need for it. Barb noted that new greenway will have automated counters. Equipment is available but there are costs involved in staff time in downloading info from counters and coordinating its use.

- *Close the GAP* update (Barb) – No new news at this point; waiting for ability to open surveys, hopefully will be soon; there was three days of ADA training with city staff

New Business/Projects

- Encouraging reducing city-wide speed default limit from 35 mph to 25 mph (Randy) could be local ordinance that changes default speed limit to 25 mph? suggests that Asheville do so also. Barb looked into this and Ken's response was he thinks it conflicts with state law but will have legal look into it. **Randy moved that bike ped task force recommend to multimodal that default speed limit for city of Asheville be reduced from 35 to 25 miles per hour. Seconded by Claudia.** Potentially this could reduce signing because there wouldn't be a need to lower speed limit signs on residential roads-could be reduction in need for signs, etc. Posting doesn't necessarily change driver behavior Passed unanimously. Till will write it up and send to Randy and Michael to take to Multimodal Commission.
- Encouraging automated speed enforcement (Randy) – came up at multimodal last month and there were concerns expressed about whether legal and there was limited support from police; APD is spending a lot on enforcement and doesn't have manpower to enforce. **Motion to recommend to Multimodal that Asheville invest and install automated speed enforcement devices. Seconded by Claudia.** Passed unanimously. Barb noted that cities need to get specific authorization from NC legislature to use it. And state mandated that administrative fees couldn't be over a certain amount and dollars generated go to school system.

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

- Asheville Police/Fire/Rescue - no report
- Multimodal Commission – much of last meeting related to discussion with police on enforcement; also supported AOB statement; two openings on multimodal commission right now; open for applications until at least October. Presentation on public space management issue and city is working on it and Randy was pleased with what was happening with that.
- City project updates – Barb – NCDOT funding is on hold and most city projects are still on hold; Transportation dept has been working with other departments on public space management issues; lots of outdoor dining possibilities coming along; Banks and Buxton are configured as shared streets; Haywood Road to be resurfaced and looking at some streetscape elements too. All of the official city meetings are carried on the Youtube channel; look for public engagement hub on the city website; city buildings may be opening in mid-October?
- French Broad River MPO – Board has approved some projects, one in particular the Haywood Road project with funding for pedestrian and bicycle improvements; approved funding for improvements at Charlotte and I-240; and various other projects are in the works. Hellbender regional trail moving to Board for approval. Continuing corridor studies on Tunnel Road and on Hendersonville Road 3-day virtual workshop in early October on Hendersonville Road project Now to the bad

news - DOT financial issues are not going away and many projects are being delayed considerably.

- Buncombe County – no report
- NCDOT updates – Brendan – lots of projects that we are working together on; financial situation is grim but there are a lot of things still happening in terms of planning and moving forward to be ready. Looking for opportunities for benefitting other modes when resurfacing roadways. Haywood Road as an example – Making these other changes - Keeping it fairly low budget (7 million)
- Asheville on Bikes/BRBC/AARP/Street Tweaks/other groups – update from Claudia about west Waynesville project and roundabout at that intersection; provisional outline on the streets on Sunday; hoping to install in a couple of weeks; City is still looking at memorandum of understanding and getting that worked out.
- General updates - NA

Announcements/Events

- Next Bike/Ped Task Force meeting is October 15
- Agenda Items for next month?
- Guests you want to invite to future meetings?
- Keep sending/posting images for the [Task Force website](#) and [Facebook page](#). [Scott Dickens](#) is the point of contact.

Adjourned at 7:10