

Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force
DRAFT Minutes
April 15, 2021

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: Till Dohse, Janet Barlow, Randy Warren, Claudia Nix, Tristan Winkler, Colin Kinton, Paul Endry, Terri March, Mike Sule, Brendan Merithew, Barb Mee and others.

Introductions & Administrative Details

- Sign in and brief introduction of all attendees
- Facilitator for tonight? Till
- Do we have someone taking minutes? Janet
- Review/accept March minutes – not ready, look at next meeting
- Agenda OK? Changes?

Guest(s)

- None

Old Business

Corridor Studies Update

- **Tunnel road** presentation last night and Tristan will send link and recording of meeting will be available; very different configurations, using space outside the current roadway area and new ideas; link to info in Barb's email
- **Hendersonville Road** - moving forward and will have more info in summer; link to info in Barb's email
- **Biltmore McDowell** - looking at repurpose of some of the space along the roads to add bike and ped facilities. Randy asked that consultants be on the agenda for another meeting to provide more info in detail; how to add multimodal facilities on those roads; meeting with the task force is not in the scope of work for consultants; recording of meeting will be on the web site; Randy very concerned about the details and issues related to study and making sure the information is accurate and needs to go to bike/ped task force before going to multimodal commission. Dan Baechtold will come to meeting to discuss if we want him to. Link in Barb's email to materials from meeting
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Amboy Rd [ped/bike counts](#) (Barb/Colin) three different counts have been done on this corridor counts on each end of the bridge; Latest was on a lovely Sunday afternoon and large numbers of people were observed; some questions about counts and some discrepancy in numbers.

Update from Brendan on that – DOT safety and mobility unit has gotten funding for improvements within the year to add sidewalk and restripe; interim improvement until rebuild of bridge in later larger project; supplemental dollars also added to widen shoulders on Meadow

Road; concept under discussion of striping a visual buffer between roadway and shoulder; looking at segmenting project and may be able to get it sooner, but right now implementing interim will make a difference; Mike Sule commented and recommended consideration of three way stop at Riverview, Amboy, and the entrance to French Broad River Park before the bridge; lots of peds crossing there and would help in speeds and risk taking at that location for both peds, bikes, and vehicles

Riceville Road at US 70 – corridor project delayed, but will make some changes there as short term interim project; some connectivity for sidewalks and crossings; maybe use some spot funds; so many larger project have been delayed and these interim projects are going to be more likely for the time being

Notes on People for Bikes program rating cities/increasing bicycling comfort and rates (Claudia)

Claudia said one of the ways to increase the rating is to have city staff person submit response to their survey; looking for connectivity of facilities and ways to make bicyclists comfortable in getting around town; Claudia emphasized that connectivity and concentrating on those issues

New Business

- Richmond Hill roadway shoulder stripe – may be able to restripe and get 4 foot shoulder stripe on the uphill side; Barb asks: is this an acceptable idea for now or not something the City should do? Response from task force members is that any time a paved shoulder can be added is considered good; encouraged addition of “cyclists may use full lane” signs also
- State Street bicycle concerns – Barb has received some comments and concerns on bicyclist issues; not yet ready to discuss concerns and issues at this point and/or solutions

Discussion/Project Work

- Close the GAP update (Till/Barb) - info at www.ashevillenc.gov/closethegap
 - Till attended meeting and can't really report details at this time; Barb noted that consultants are working toward a draft plan and hopefully will be able to have some in person meetings; concerned about holes in public involvement.

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

- Asheville Police/Fire/Rescue + no report
- Multimodal Commission = UDO standards for sidewalk is being discussed; Merrimon Ave and issues with DOT plans and MMTC will meet with them more; have other projects going on with professional trail builders as part of Asheville Unpaved initiative; AOB is involved in planning for Asheville Unpaved;
- French Broad River MPO – Tristan gave short report on the work in progress.
- Buncombe County – no report
- NCDOT update – covered earlier
- City project updates – Barb will put link to capital projects dashboard into chat box and task force members can look at that, which is comprehensive. On Amboy Road, city is picking up some of those costs; Patton and Clingman repaving and will make some changes to make crossings better; Haywood Road project with sidewalk improvements will be later this year; pedestrian hybrid beacon will be going in at Merrimon at Spears Ave.; let contract for Haywood, Patton, Johnston crossing pedestrian signals in late summer
- Asheville on Bikes/BRBC/AARP/Street Tweaks/other groups - no report
- General updates na

Announcements/Events

Don't forget about Strive 2021 – Tristan will make a link available

- Next Bike/Ped Task Force meeting is May 20
- 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