

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force**  
**DRAFT Minutes**  
**February 18, 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.*

**Introductions & Administrative Details**

- Intros –

Till Dohse	Terri March	Tom Redinger
Janet Barlow	Brendan Merithew	Mike Sule
Dan Baechtold	Pat Katz	Randy Warren
Scott Dickens	Colin Kinton	Tristan Winkler
Paul Endry	Barb Mee	
Donner Lohnes	Claudia Nix	
- Till Facilitator for tonight?
- Janet taking minutes
- Review/accept January minutes ok let barb and till know if changes

**Guest(s)**

- Dan Baechtold, City of Asheville, re: corridor studies
- Three big corridor studies going on in the city of Asheville right now; \$\$ coming from FB MPO Biltmore McDowell being managed by city and Hendersonville road and Tunnel road are being managed by MPO staff
- MPO is funding and interested in corridor studies = City of Asheville and Buncombe county were only two MPO entities that chose to participate (Local match needed)
- All on fairly similar time schedules right now – all in the developing final reports and recommendations stage at this point; Hendersonville Road a little closer to being finished
- Tunnel Road is from the tunnel to S. Tunnel Rd to Swannanoa River Rd
- Hendersonville is Rock Hill Road to Airport Rd
- Biltmore McDowell from downtown through Biltmore Village. Big points of issue there are hospital and Biltmore village area, as well as downtown

**Questions –**

What happens after recommendations are made – 1) will go to multimodal commission and council 2) not totally clear what happens next, but plan is to use them in MPO planning process to develop projects, etc. ; hopefully get some smaller projects sooner 3) larger projects will go through prioritization by MPO and could be several years for approval and longer to get funded

Each study has a land use component so will be looking at how land use and transportation work together to help implement plans – could be some zoning changes, but more likely changes in standards or incentives,

Hendersonville Road is close to being finished, draft report is on MPO site  
McDowell Biltmore – next public meeting in about a month

Tunnel Road recommendations sometime in March;

Tristan extended thanks to Dan for his effort and all the work he's put into it  
Hoping that corridor studies will inform decisions when it's time to look at funding, etc.

A place where people can sign up to get notified

<http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/hendersonville-road-corridor/>

### **Old Business**

- Ranking goals from [annual report](#)  
May have been some desire to rank the goals in last month's meeting but not a strong feeling that it's something the task force needs to tackle. Work on things when the opportunity arises.

### **New Business**

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### **Discussion/Project Work**

- Close the GAP update (Till) - survey results pending survey closed before last month's meeting; will have recommendations from consultant soon; question asked about how many took survey – guessing 1200; pursuing further engagement with people of color or disadvantaged communities and people with disabilities; hoping to get to some outdoor events and get more info and input as things open up

Claudia – People for Bikes rating communities and different from LAB; Claudia suggests going to people for bikes and looking up their ratings; ratings relate to comfort level and Claudia says it might be helpful to look at those ratings and recommendations and see if it provides recommendations that we could work on implementing; questions from committee about where recommendations come from methodology for ranking:

<https://cityratings.peopleforbikes.org/methodology/>

Barb suggests that maybe a committee could/should look at it and see what it's using and what needs to be added; and see what we can do with it; will consider putting together a committee next month

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

- Asheville Police/Fire/Rescue – No report
- Multimodal Commission – meeting monthly again now and big issue was motion to appeal to the state for reinstatement of transit funding that was somehow changed by COVID funding; discussed Amboy bridge and that design more and it's being revised and will move forward; moving speed limit issues forward? Barb answered that it is moving forward and probably will need consideration in Raleigh at DOT;
- French Broad River MPO – lots of studies ongoing; still working through NCDOT delays; resolution for more collaboration in other situations like the recent funding and reordering of projects with NCDOT; another issue on agenda is a presentation on NCFirst, a project that is looking at different funding for NCDOT; meeting next week and agenda and zoom link is on web site;
- Buncombe County – no rep or report

- NCDOT update – Brendan said Amboy Bridge and Meadow Road curve are being looked at further and different options and how to change projects to make it happen sooner; MPO and DOT looking at changing larger project to move portion of it further; some consideration of adding sidewalks or other changes to lanes sooner as a temporary fix; may be possible improvements in Meadow Road as part of resurfacing project; Tristan complimented division 13 of NCDOT for looking at issues and being open to different ideas and working toward solutions; Hannah will return to Div 13 soon
- City project updates – sidewalk projects but not imminent, hoping that airport road project will get moving soon; city submitted a letter of interest to people for bikes to apply for some funding for improvements downtown; question about situation with sidewalk on Leicester highway – been caught up in NCDOT funding issues
- Asheville on Bikes/BRBC/AARP/Street Tweaks/other groups – Mike updated- survey open on Wilma Dykeman greenway – respond to it; 2)AOB hosting bike film festival, online and tickets on a sliding scale; 3) shared some projects that AOB is supporting in the city.

### **Announcements/Events**

- Next Bike/Ped Task Force meeting is March 18
- 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.