

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force  
Minutes  
January 21, 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   Scott Dickens   Randy Warren  
Brendan Merrithew   Claudia Nix   Colin Kinton  
Grace Curry   Paul Endry   Terri March  
Tom Redinger   Patrica Katz   Mike Sule  
Barb Mee

**Introductions & Administrative Details**

- Sign in and brief introduction of all attendees
- Facilitator for tonight?
- Do we have someone taking minutes?
- Review Annual Report (acts as Dec meeting minutes)  
Till reviewed. Group voted to send to MMTC.
- Agenda OK? Changes? OK

**Old Business**

- None

**New Business**

- None

**Discussion/Project Work**

- Close the GAP update (Barb)
- What do we want to pursue in next months?  
Report stated goal of low income participation. GAP will consider equity. Terri: let's send out annual report and consider this at next meeting.
- Other?

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

- Asheville Police/Fire/Rescue No representatives
- Multimodal Commission (Randy, Patricia) Met Dec 10. Claudia submitted a letter during public comment. Good way to start/reinforce issues; approved new members; approved 3 of 4 Road Closures, recommended against one; update on urban centers rezoning Vaidila Satvika. Meet next week.
- French Broad River MPO No representatives
- Buncombe County No representatives; Terri had talked with William High as COVID began, she will circle back to talk with him.

- NCDOT update Brendan Merithew, NCDOT Div 13. Amboy and Meadow: with new RADTIP facilities, Amboy bridge is a missing link. U4739 would have addressed, but recently pushed out to construction in 2029. Looking at ways to accelerate that portion of the project. Tristan Winkler from the MPO has contacted STIP Unit about bringing forward the bridge or maybe the Amboy Rd portion - yet to be discussed. Even if done, it will be a lengthy process to get to the point of construction. City brought up question of what we could do now. Bridge Program Manager has asked Structures Management Unit in Raleigh for help finding, evaluating solutions. Bottom line: looking at it, but even in best case, it will take more time than we would like. Requested Tristan put it on the next Prioritization Subcommittee agenda. Don't know how discussion will go.

Terri - warning signs possible? Instruct people how to navigate safely. Mobility and Safety group - Bucky Galloway is interested. He would be the person to assess whether signage, sharrows, etc. would help. Tom mentioned someone using a wheelchair would be in real trouble trying to cross.

Brendan welcomes ideas, suggestions. Grace mentioned signs to caution drivers. Lyman is 25mph, Amboy is 35, and Till appreciates that speed limits were lowered, it helps. Mike brought up the issue of the bridge being a big problem; no easy short term fix. Inadequate infrastructure built only for vehicles, not people. The fix is new infrastructure. It is problematic that MPO reprioritized by NCDOT without public process. This segment is part of Hellbender Trail and critical for connection to Black Mtn, Marshall, Swannanoa. Claudia prime program to work on this year.

Brendan - not like city built on individual timeline, it was supposed to be part of larger process, but NCDOT's schedule changed. Division Engr is pushing to accelerate whole Amboy portion to address Meadow Rd: either try to accelerate resurfacing, or do some interim patching. Randy mentioned the traffic light at the intersection - Dustin said NCDOT signal, they have to change. Any discussion about changing it to make it easier for bike, ped to enter. Try for all stop? Brendan will talk to Anna. Apparently funding is coming back, turning on PE for more projects, including Mills Gap. U-2801a starting up, expect public meeting later in the year about preferred alternative.

- City project updates  
McDowell Biltmore Corridor survey is up and open. Mike posted a link for the group including AoB survey guide.  
<https://ashevilleonbikes.com/take-the-mcdowell-st-biltmore-ave-corridor-survey>  
MMTC will get a presentation re: Tunnel Rd corridor study  
RADTIP ribbon cutting coming soon.

Grace some streets under consideration for 20 mph  
Increase from 20 to 25 on Johnson just outside Biltmore Village. Barb will try to find out background.

- Asheville on Bikes/BRBC/AARP/Street Tweaks/other groups  
AoB Hosting event called urban scrawl, submission deadline extended Monday. Turn riding with your GPS router as an etch-a-sketch and WNC as canvas. Please consider participation and seeing what people create.  
<https://ashevilleonbikes.com/urban-scrawl-bike-gps-art-challenge>

- General updates

**Announcements/Events**

- Next Bike/Ped Task Force meeting is February 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.