

Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force

Minutes

July 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.

Introductions & Administrative Details

- Individuals in attendance: Barb Mee (City Bike/Ped Planner), Till Dohse, Holly Brasher (first time attending), Maggie Ullman (Multi Modal Commissioner), John Rideout (MPO Planner), Grace Kelly, Tristen Winkler (MPO Planner), Claudia Nix, Hannah Bagil, Colin Kinton, Scott Dickens, Paul Endry, Randy Warren
- Facilitator for tonight is Till Dohse
- Minutes taken by Claudia Nix
- June minutes were reviewed and accepted
- Agenda Okayed

Guest(s)

- None

Old Business

- French Broad River MPO about the Hendersonville Road corridor study (We have been asked to endorse). John Rideout responded to comments from Don Kostelec and explained that this corridor study is a high level one and many of the details have not been worked out and won't be until an actual plan is developed. There was much discussion and some of our concerns related to the desire to have speeds reduced especially when cars will be crossing the proposed multi use trail on the west side of the road. We want to see driveways have more of a 90 degree turn radius so vehicles will reduce their speed which will make them more likely to see peds & bicyclists traveling on the trail. We also want to make sure that multiple driveways to shopping centers be reduced and shared driveways be increased to cut down crash potentials. We like the use of ped refuse in the mediums which will reduce conflict points. Tristan pointed out that page 77 & 108 points out access points & driveways.
- Colin made a motion to endorse the study and Claudia 2nd the motion. The motion passed.
- Link: [http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/hendersonville-road-corridor/Comments from Don Kostelec, responses from MPO and consultant team](http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/hendersonville-road-corridor/Comments%20from%20Don%20Kostelec,%20responses%20from%20MPO%20and%20consultant%20team)
- We were also asked to endorse the Tunnel Road Corridor Study which runs from the tunnel to South Tunnel Rd. past the mall and continues to Swannanoa River Rd. Scott made the motion to endorse this study, Claudia 2nd it and the motion passed.

New Business

- None

Discussion/Project Work

- Till mentioned that he attended the Greenway Committee's meeting in June which the Bike/Ped Committee was invited to attend while we meet with NCDOT staff and city staff to discuss needs for the I-26 Connector Greenway. He found it informative and appreciated the opportunity to meet.
- Randy wondered what the status of the Wilma Dykeman Greenway was and if it has been signed off. He has photos of issues which he will share with Barb. She mentioned that MSD has a pipe they need to replace but does not have details if it has been signed off on, but will find out.
- Bike Counts will again happen in Sept the week of Sept 13 and will happen Tues, Wed, Thurs. We hope to have our regular 25 stops covered and increase more spots on newly completed greenway & roadway improvements. Next month we will begin planning for that.

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

- French Broad River MPO – Tristan mentioned the new plan for an additional I-26 interchange between Hwy 191 & Long Shoals Rd interchanges to assist the new Pratt & Whitney Company site. There are many concerns about it's funding & whether it will take funding from other projects in the District 13 TIP. More details to follow as the details are revealed. It is expected to cost \$25 - \$35 Million to build and only \$10 million has been earmarked. The MPO board has not made a decision on this yet.
- Buncombe County – no one in attendance
- NCDOT update – no one in attendance
- City project updates – Barb mentioned a Storm Water project on Patton Ave east in downtown will improve the ped crossings at Patton & Clingman on all legs. The city will repave and strip the road from Pearson Bridge up toward Richmond Hill so lanes will be only 10' wide to allow for a climbing lane on the paved shoulder. On Overlook Rd in Skyland the additional sidewalk project will soon begin increasing sidewalk to next development. Vermont Road in West Asheville will begin soon. French Broad River West Greenway project has begun. Haw Creek sidewalk is moving forward in process. Patton Ave, Haywood Rd and Johnston Blvd ped crossing will be happening soon. The Ped Hybrid Beacon on Merrimon Ave & Spears should be going in soon city is waiting on ordered parts. Agreement has been reached on Amboy bridge sidewalk improvement which will be paid for by NCDOT and the City will pay for sidewalk connections from Meadow and the Wilma Dykeman Greenway. This will make this connection improved and safer.
- Multimodal Commission – Maggie reported on three issues. 1) The McDowell/Biltmore Corridor Study was discussed at their meeting and was very informative. 2) The AOB Street Tweet project called West/Wayne has been finished and has much improved the traffic situation. Roundabout put in, art work for safe protect pedestrian walkways enlarged and put in where none existed before, high viz crosswalks included. 3) There was discussion on the resurfacing of Merrimon Ave between NCDOT & the City about safety measures being made at the same time. This is a good thing and hopefully

improvements will be agreed upon. Claudia offered to share the pedestrian evaluation of Merrimon that was done several years ago by Healthy Buncombe.

- Asheville on Bikes/BRBC/AARP/Street Tweaks/other groups
- General updates - None

Announcements/Events

- Next Bike/Ped Task Force meeting is August 19
- Agenda Items for next month? Let Barb know
- Guests you want to invite to future meetings? Let Barb know
- Keep sending/posting images for the Task Force website and Facebook page.
[Scott Dickens](#) is the point of contact

Meeting was adjourned just before 7PM.