

Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force
Minutes
June 17, 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.*

Administrative Details:

Meeting Facilitated by Janet Barlow and notes taken by Claudia Nix

Those attending: Barb Mee, Patricia Katz, Tristan Winkler, John Rideout, Tom Redinger and visitor Caitlin Tobin with Killeston & Associates doing the Tunnel Rd Corridor Study.

Reviewed last months minutes & okayed agenda

Old Business:

John Ridout & Tristan Winkler of FBR MPO presented the Tunnel Road & Hendersonville Road Corridor Studies. The city of Asheville, Buncombe Co. in partnership with the five county Metropolitan Planning Organization is in process of doing their Long Range Transportation Plan. They are trying to have a better vision for the future & involve the public involved in that planning process sooner. This will help them develop a more realistic budget and hopefully tie land use and transportation together more than in the past. They were clear that we are not yet near construction process.

Hendersonville Road Corridor Study covers 5.4 miles is 5 lane undivided with sidewalks mostly on one side some missing links, has a fixed transit route and has undergone extensive growth. It is divided into 3 sections North is Rock Hill Rd to Blue Ridge Pkwy. Central is Racquet Club Rd to Overlook Road and South is Springside Road to Sycamore Drive.

A possible plan for Hendersonville Rd. is to have a 10' multi use path on one side, high vis crosswalks, ped refuge in the center of roadway and Hawk beacon in some locations as well as 11'-12' planted median in center of roadway to reduce turning conflicts.

Tunnel Road Corridor Study is 1.75 miles long much is 5-lane undivided with some sidewalks and fixed transit route. This study was to understand the needs, develop a better budget, understand public perspective of the area and develop an understanding for public & stakeholders, as well as better tie land use to transportation.

Both of these corridors are low functioning and not serving anyone. Both have high crash rates that are higher than most NC corridors. There are crashes of peds and cyclists around transit stops. They want to use more Urban & Town Centers in the new designs and will be focusing on safety, ADA crosswalks. Both areas are constrained. Tunnel Road has more redevelopment happening and needs a parallel roadway to ease congestion.

Recommendations are to reduce speed, improve access management using shared driveways, develop more multi-modal use, improve walkability, and improve connectivity.

Last month Dan Baechtold presented on the Biltmore/McDowell Corridor Study there was no decision made because the attendance was so small. It is going to the MMTC on next

Wednesday, June 23rd. It was suggested that folks send their comments to Patricia Katz who sits on the MMTC and she will share with the Commission.

Regular Updates:

- No report from MMTC or Buncombe Co.
- NC DOT sent a report through Barb which she shared. Merrimon Ave. there are concerns with the design of the interchange at I-240 and Broadway. They are hoping to reconnect Broadway to improve congestion. Improving safety is a high priority it is presently very confusing for motorists. They will be doing a traffic analysis.
- Meadow Road will be discussed at the next city & DOT safety meeting.

City Project Updates:

- The New Haw Creek sidewalk is close to bid. MSD will be repairing pipe along Riverside Drive in the Cycle Track area. They are hoping to make it compact.
- Janet brought up her concerns about the Sandhill Rd, Shelburne Rd, Manila and Hominy Creek Greenway. There needs to be improvements with high vis crosswalk to make folks more aware to folks going to & from the greenway. I will bring this up with the Greenway committee.
- Claudia reminded folks that the Greenway Committee has invited the Bike/Ped Task Force to join their meeting on Thursday, July 1 at 3:30 in the Training room in City Hall to discuss the needs for the greenway planned to be installed along the I-26 connector on the Jeff Bowman Bridge.

With no additional business meeting was adjourned.