

# **Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force**

## **Minutes, May 19, 2022**

**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**

- This was a virtual meeting (Facilitator: Till Dohse)
- Till Dohse also took the Minutes
- Review/accept March Minutes & these passed with one minor correction.
- No changes to the Agenda

Those attending: Anna Sexton, Tom Redinger, Hannah Bagli, Terri March, Colin Kinton, Tristan Winkler, Till Dohse

### **Old Business**

- Update on benches in honor of Barb and Janet. Till contacted Kim Turner from Parks and Recreation. They will accept donation for a pair of benches, but we will not be allowed to place a small brass plate honoring Barb or Janet. (Park and Rec policy.) It is important that we have this little token to remember and we will pursue this issue further to get it resolved, before we proceed. Terri mentioned that the bridge over Reed Creek is dedicated a former employee H. Brinson, i.e. there is precedent to honoring a person Anna will talk with Lucy Crown and depending on the outcome of that conversation, Terri will get in touch with Gwen Whistler.

### **New Business**

- The group briefly discussed the letter from Mike Sule to City Council with regard to the Merrimon Ave. restriping project. Terri pointed out that the restriping project is an attempt to make Merrimon Ave. safer for ALL users, but that the perception for some is that it is strictly to add bike lanes. It was also mentioned that there is still time to submit comments to the DOT, and to City Council. Anna mentioned that it will come up to City Council for discussion on Tuesday.
- Randy Warren suggested via e-mail that we find topics on which we can focus in the coming months. Terri volunteered to facilitate a conversation to create an action plan. We will use old documents like the Bicycle Masterplan and the results of our group's 2019 Workshop as a starting point.

- Till mentioned that it is time for someone else to take over the facilitating of this Task Force. He mentioned that he will serve through September, but after that someone else need to take over.

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

- Anna gave the updates for both Multimodal and the City.
  - NCDOT will do Charlotte St./ I240 improvements starting in the fall and it will take 6 to 8 months.
  - MMTC recommended City Council pass a resolution asking NCDOT to improve sidewalks on Tunnel Rd / Riceville Rd intersection. (This was an existing project that was put on hold.)
  - The Merrimon Rd diet will move forward and is expected to be adopted by City Council. There will however be a removal clause that gives NCDOT the right to go back to the 4-lane model if key metrics during the evaluation period show problems.
  - City expects to be ready to get bids to implement for the College Street Project where bike lanes and
  - Bike Ped counters are going to be set up on the Wilma Dykman Greenway.
  - Pedestrian Friendly designation is up for renewal and is due June 2023. We have a choice of doing the paperwork to maintain the Silver or fill out a whole new application to possibly get the “Gold” designation. Some discussion followed as to which way to go: going for Silver vs going for Gold.
  - GAP plan is ready for approval. A [preliminary copy](#) is available on line.
  - AVL unpaved project. City exploring possibility of unpaved trails to complement the Greenway Network.
- French Broad River MPO updates (Hannah) – This week is Strive-not-to-Drive week. Saturday a Bike Rodeo on Chestnut Mountain in Candler. There is almost \$40M of NPO funding committed to Asheville Pedestrian / Cycling these after much vetting include monies for the Swananoa River Greenway, Riceville Rd. Sidewalks, Charlotte Street Resurfacing on Haywood Rd
- Other updates – Terri mentioned that an Asheville group is invited to NCDOT- Vision-zero Leadership forum in Chapel Hill.

### **Announcements/Events**

- Next Bike/Ped Task Force meeting is in June 16st (facilitator needed)
- Keep sending/posting images for the [Task Force website](#) and [Facebook page](#). [Scott Dickens](#) is the point of contact

Meeting adjourned at 6:45