

Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force

Minutes

January 20, 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

- Sign in and brief introduction of all attendees, Anna Sexton, Colin Kinton, Marcia Schroeder, Tom Redinger, Tony Hauser, Scott Dickens, Randy Warren, Terri March, Till Dohse
- Facilitator for tonight: Till Dohse, Minutes: Till Dohse
- Review/accept Yearend Report for 2021.

Old Business

- Recognizing Barb Mee and Janet Barlow
The group discussed types of recognition that we might consider for our two former members. Terri mentioned that the GAP plan may be dedicated to them. Till mentioned the possibility of dedicating a bench in their honor. This would require some fund raising on the group's behalf.

New Business

- Setting up Agendas this coming Year
Till ask for suggestions as to setting up the agendas in the coming months.
Randy suggested getting community input to come up with discussion items.
Anna could be the person that gives us the updates from the city staff.
Scott commented on the attendance and that in the past we had regular attendance by representatives of Police, DOT, Land of Sky. Presently we have few people showing up.
Terri stated that a good place to start are the Bike / Walk friendly reports. We should find action items that are suggested in these documents.
Till noted that this might be the year in which we need to reapply for the Walk Friendly status.
Randy pointed out that there are new measures of bike-ability and walk-ability in which

Asheville gets poor scores. These might be an item to look into. Also, we could look at the old master plans.

More discussion followed.

An action step agreed upon is to look at the Walk Friendly report by the next report to find specific items to address for the year.

Discussion/Project Work

- Report from a Merrimon Ave. 4/3 lane conversion (Randy)

Randy reported on a small group that met with DOT to discuss possible conversion of Merrimon Avenue from a 4-lane to a 3-lane with bike lanes configuration. DOT was open to the idea for further discussion. They will have a Public Meeting scheduled Feb 28th at the community center on Merrimon Avenue.

A discussion followed on the proposal. Some of the points that were brought up included: 1) we should not assume that this idea (converting Merrimon Ave. to three lane road) will have universal support and that there will be public pushback. 2) the Charlotte Street conversion from 4 to 3 lanes seemed to have improved the traffic situations. We should have data available to show this to public. 3) Merrimon avenue would become a lot safer with this new configuration.

Regular Updates

- City Updates: (Anna) Project underway to improve Bike traffic at College & Patton in downtown area.
- Multimodal Updates: (Randy) Main discussion of the Multi Modal Commission centered around usage conversions of Public Spaces. An important idea was presented that streets should be included as public space.

Next Meeting

- February 17th. Meeting will again be virtual.
- Discussion based on Walk Friendly Report

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.