

Asheville Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force

2019 Annual Report

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.

Summary Statement

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force (BPTF) routinely engages with the City of Asheville (COA), Law Enforcement, the French Broad River MPO and representatives of NCDOT Division 13 to learn from and to provide expertise and input related to bicycle and pedestrian safety and accessibility. The unique evergreen nature of this task force facilitates sharing information and providing a forum for community members and advocacy groups to make informed and meaningful contributions to the Multi Modal Transportation Commission (MMTC) and City planning efforts. Many actions below included input from these groups. Where appropriate, BPTF also provides input and support for activities initiated by other organizations to promote bicycle and pedestrian safety and access.

Accomplishments

- Applied to maintain the city's Bicycle-Friendly Community status.
- Coordinated the annual Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts that informs COA planning efforts. This year 27 volunteers collected data on 23 intersections. (Summary report attached).
- Provide input and advocacy for:
 - The Bike share feasibility plan
 - The *Close the GAP* plan
 - Swannanoa Greenway plan
 - RAD TIP implementation to increase accessibility and safety of corridor use for all user
 - Asheville Police Department's *Watch For Me NC* program supporting pedestrian safety
 - highway and road improvements including: I-26 / I-240 project, Amboy Road, Cox Avenue, Charlotte Street, New Leicester Highway
- Motions to City planning/decision-making
 - Railroad Crossing on Riverside - motion to support for remediation proposal (Nov 17)
- Supported activities initiated by other organizations
 - Bicycle Education: (Buncombe BikeEd League of American Bicyclists Certified Instructors.) BPTF provided input into website and registration to promote increased participation, and task force members volunteered as instructors.
 - Street Tweaks Team: (Asheville on Bikes, Blue Ridge Bicycle Club, and AARP) Supported a modified Open Streets Asheville component of Street Tweaks urban

tacticalism installation on Coxe Avenue. This initiative gave the public opportunities to try new ways to improve streetscapes and solve traffic problems.

- French Broad River MPO: Support in the development of a trail system. A regional bike trail group that has members of the BPTF has started meeting.
- Open Streets Asheville: provided input/support in planning and promotion the 3rd Open Streets Asheville which was cancelled due to Hurricane Florence.
- Strive: provided input/support to Land of Sky Regional Council in planning and promotion of regional event to increase awareness and participation in active forms of commuting/transportation.

Upcoming Goals

In our workshop on November 25, 2019 the group agreed to focus on the goals:

- Submit Bike Friendly application and improve our Bike (and Pedestrian) Friendly status.
- Research and make recommendations on Bike Share and e-mobility programs.
- Create framework to organize available data, information, and stated goals.
- Engage in outreach to get new members, new support, and more public awareness.

Current Membership

The following members were involved in writing this report:

Terri Marsh, Randy Warren, Michael Stranton, Scott Dickens, Colin Kinton, Grace Curry, Barb Mee, Tristan Winkler, Claudia Nix, Janet Barlow, Tom Redinger and Till Dohse