

# Asheville Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force

## 2020 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

- This year, due to CoVid-19, the task force met virtually every month since July.
- Submitted and received the city's Bicycle-Friendly Community status at the bronze level.
- 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 (continued involvement)
  - The *Close the GAP* plan (continued involvement)
  - Provided input to the Greenway Committee
  - RAD TIP implementation to increase accessibility and safety of corridor use for all user
  - highway and road improvements including: I-26 / I-240 project, Amboy Road, RAD TIP North, Cox Avenue, Charlotte Street, New Leicester Highway, Overlook Dr. and Hendersonville Rd.
- Motions to City planning/decision-making
  - Motion: Recommend to City Council that the speed limit be lowered to 25 mph. (Sep. 17)
  - Motion: Recommend to City Council that it install automated speed enforcement devices. (Sep 17)
  - Endorsement: Mike Sule's Slow Streets Initiative (Aug 20)

- Supported activities initiated by other organizations
  - Bicycle Education: (Buncombe Bike Ed League of American Bicyclists Certified Instructors.) Presently on hold due to CoVid-19.
  - Street Tweaks Team: (Asheville on Bikes, Blue Ridge Bicycle Club, and AARP) Presently waiting on design revisions on the West/Wayne intersection. Should be completed in Spring.
  - French Broad River MPO: Individuals have attended Corridor Studies and provided input to ongoing MPO projects.

### **Upcoming Goals**

The group agreed to focus on the following goals:

- Use feedback of the Bike (and Pedestrian) Friendly application to improve our bike/ped infrastructure.
- Work with the City to achieve reduction in City-wide speed limit to 25 mph.
- Evaluate the shared streets program to support the improvement and expansion of it.
- Get City to complete the connectivity of the bike lanes from College Str to Cox.
- Work with the City to activate the Vision Zero Task Force.
- Engage in outreach to get new and more diverse members, new support, and more public awareness and advance racial equity

### **Current Membership**

The following members regularly participate in the task force and were involved in writing this report: Janet Barlow, Scott Dickens, Till Dohse, Terri March, Barb Mee, Claudia Nix, Michael Stratton, Randy Warren, and Tristan Winkler