

6/26/2008 Bike/Ped Task Force Minutes

Present: Gwen Wisler, Tom Redinger, Allison McGehee, Hannah Doyle, Andrew Bick, Joseph Viola.

Updated the group on the bicycle plan updates and suggested they check out the Sharrows which have been installed on So. French Broad Road. The decals for the Climbing lanes for Lexington have been ordered and will be installed as soon as possible. The bike lockers will be handled by Parks & Rec., who will be working with local artists.

We have been having positive responses to the Bike Corral parking for the Downtown After 5 concerts. This last concert in June had 43 people parking their bicycles. We collected \$112.00 in donations for the bike facilities which we turned over to Asheville on Bikes. Liberty Bicycles donated rear flashing lights which we gave to individuals when they gave us donations. We need more volunteers to help us for the three final concerts July 18th, August 15th, and August 19th. Allison McGehee is heading up the volunteers so contact her at Allison@qualityforward.org or 254-1776, if you are interested in volunteering.

Gwen Wisler and Claudia have been teaching about bicycle awareness to the driver's education students at Erwin Middle School. So far they have participated in 3 classes one was at North Buncombe High School. We feel it is a positive experience because these students would not have any awareness without this introduction. We would like to expand the program to other high and middle schools next year. If anyone is interested in working on this program please let Claudia know. This is a good way to reach new drivers and make an impression on them. We have a short curriculum with a video that is very good. We are also thinking about taking to Rotary groups as well. Please give us an introduction to a group you know of.

Claudia has also taken the LAB video to Judy Rhew to look at to see if she can use it for the Buncombe County TV channel. We hope to do the same with the city channel, also. We discussed other ideas for advertising appropriate riding behavior and sharing the road with motorists. Hannah is doing some work with WNC Magazine and their August issue will be a green issue. She will talk to them about doing an article. Claudia has been approached by the Laurel of Asheville for information on commuting and the bike plan. She is giving them information for their article on biking and pedestrian safety. Another suggestion was that we talk to the College for Seniors to see if they would like a program on bicycle and pedestrian safety.

None of the police officers were able to attend our meeting this month due to shortages.

Joe mentioned that Walkscore.com is a web site that will give you a walkability score for your address.

We again discussed the planned bike lane & traffic calming on Kimberly. It is not planned to have this road resurfaced when these facilities are put in as the money for the

traffic calming is coming from the Grove Park Inn. There will be a dangerous 1” dip and the islands are so big that they will squeeze the cyclists. We had given our concerns to Cathy Ball already but need to make sure she or Ken Putnam know about these issues. We are also concerned that if bicyclists do not use this bike lane that we will be further frustrating motorists and there was concern about whether cyclists would be going against the law if they did not ride in the lane. We do not want to encourage the city to put in deficient bike facilities. Barb agreed to look into the paving possibilities and Claudia will look into the law. **NC does not have a law that requires usage of bike facilities on road or beside the road.**

It has been a year since we conducted a League of American Bicyclists Road 1 class. We did host with Healthy Buncombe lunch time commuting workshops this past spring. We are considering holding another class this fall.

There will be an Alexander Work day on the old trail system so it is up to par with the new one. These work days will be Wednesday, July 2 and Saturday, July 5 beginning at 9AM at the trail head on Hwy 251. It is located on the East side of the road just past Flat Creek Road.