

Minutes December 01, 2011 Bike /Ped Task Force

Vision: For Asheville to be a community that is healthy, safe and accessible for people of all ages with a system of connected pathways.

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.

Individuals present: **Kris Hinz, Marian Arledge, Jim Grode, Grace Curry, Barb Mee, Lyuba Zuyeva, Claudia Nix, Don Kostelec, Terri March, Katie Benson, Mike Sule, Till Dohse, Vicki Rowe-Currence and guests Ken Putnam and Jeff Moore.**

Old Business:

- October ABPTF meeting minutes – were approved

New Business:

- Guests - Ken Putnam/Jeff Moore
 - **“Green Bike Lane”** Asheville has been given permission to be an official trial for the Green Bike Lanes by the FHWA. The benefit is we have this acceptance to put them in for one year but if the FHWA does not accept them we will have to remove them. There is concern about slickness of the products, there are two products the city is evaluating one a polymer similar to the rhino coatings for truck beds the other an epoxy compound with chipped glass that is suppose to give traction. The two sites are Hospital Dr. where bike lanes will be completely green and north and South Lexington where sections will be made green in sections. These two sites were chosen for their new pavement which will hold these coverings. They will need our assistance in evaluating these lanes after they are down. Lyuba requested they be done before the MPO conference in May and the SNTD week also in May. A question was brought up about the problems at So. Lexington & College with auto traffic getting into the bike lane. There will be opportunities to improve this as many poles and mast arms are rusting and need replacing & they will be moved out into the roadway with a bulb out to reduce the road size.

- **Charlotte Street corridor** – Ken explained that this corridor has been on the books since the early 90's to be reworked and after a charrett where business community was angry about the proposed changes the project stalled. The proposal is to have a trial period of 1 year beginning at the I-240 Bridge and do a road conversion from 4 lanes to 3 with center turn lane & paved shoulders to create a buffer of 3.5 feet on each side for pedestrians. City staff has been collecting traffic data & doing counts. They found that peak hour traffic volumes have reduced from the last time. There was much discussion & suggestions. Concern voiced was having people think bikes are to ride in that small area and the desire for sharrows as in the bike plan. Don suggested that light timing and sensors be upgrades so none of that interferes with the evaluation and workings of the roadway.
- **College Street bike lane closure** - (conversion to sharrows) this is only a temporary measure during construction of new court house building. The parking is permanently going away due to the size of the building and the sidewalk will be moved out to include the parking space. The bike lane will eventually return.
- **Ken was asked about the Master Plan of overlaying all the plans for the city.** He reported that progress is being made and that Barb Mee has been ushering it along very well. She has gotten the city IT department working to input a lot of data which is already helping to prioritize which projects are best to do first.
- Buncombe Bike Ed – discuss December 10 workshop (K. Hinz) So far only one person has signed up. Monday Kris & Lyuba will decide whether it happens. May have a ride if not enough.
- Bike light give-away program with Asheville Police Dep't – Claudia The WNC Bicycle Dealers are committed to purchasing light sets and giving them to the APD to give away as they give out warning tickets for those riding at night w/o lights. Having trouble get police to respond she will write Gary Jackson for assistance in this.
- French Broad MPO – updates from Lyuba Z. shared the excitement of the Regional Bike Plan which will include 7 western counties. On Wed, Nov 30 there were 50 or so individuals who attended the

steering committee meeting and public kick-off meeting at Haywood County.

- **Asheville/Buncombe – updates from Barb Mee** The Lake Craig project will be needing another public meeting because they need to find a way for residents above the project to travel in & out when there are soccer games going on. They may be changes from what we saw earlier this year. Also, The Reed Creek Greenway is slowly inching it way to being done. They have run into a problem with a bridge over the creek needing DOT's approval.
- **The neighborhood bike** loops need to be evaluated for missing signs. We need volunteers to assist with riding the routes with a map of where signs should be and designating those that are missing so that new ones can be made and installed.
- **The Wayfinding project** that Till Dohse worked on is moving along. We need a group to look over the locations for sign placement. Don suggested that the start of the bike lane markings becoming dotted may be a good place to post the signs except for on down hills which may need to be places back further.

**Post-meeting project work – BFC Application Project Team
(45-60 minutes)**

- Complete “Final Overview” section
- Refine existing document (additional data, content edits, etc.)
- Define contact list & timeline for “community feedback”
- Milestone & schedule review thru January 31.

This project is moving along we are in the final stages of the application and will be sending it out for review by several individuals before we send it off.

Minutes submitted by Claudia Nix