

Minutes Bike/Ped Task Force 4-23-09

Present: Adam Duchac, Barb Mee, Janet Barlow, Tom Redinger, Ken Putnam, Michael Sule, Grace Curry, Heather Strassberger and Claudia Nix.

Ken Putnam attended our meeting to give us the opportunity to ask questions, discuss and give feedback on the Standards, Specifications and Detail Manual which his department is in process of updating. It was a good opportunity for us to get things clarified and get questions answered. This is supposed to be updated every 5 years and it has been around 15 years since it was developed and never updated. It is driven by the UDO a policy of how things are done in the city. This manual spells out the specifications on what is done, for example how big a parking lot or space should be. Any comments need to be made to Barb Mee or David Kitt by May 8th.

Ken explained the workings of the manual and had copies for us to review. Janet Barlow and Don Kostelec have already given comments. They feel good about the Pedestrian and Bike sections but are worried they may have over-looked things in the rest of the manual that would affect bicyclists or pedestrians and want our comments. This ended up being a long meeting as we had a lot of questions for Ken.

Up dates and reports:

Asheville on Bikes parked 90 bikes at the city Earth Day event bike corral and signed 26 individuals up for the Strive Not to Drive week.

Bike rodeos have been held at the YMCA Healthy Kids Day and 56 children went through this rodeo on Saturday, April 11th. At Evergreen Community Charter School 45 6th grade students went through the program on Wednesday, April 22nd.

Claudia brought a copy of the NC Active Transportation Alliance's new newsletter with her. To read a copy or become a member go to www.ncactive.org.

The Blue Ridge Bike Club is organizing a "Ride of Silence" on Wednesday, May 20th. It is a ride to honor all individuals who have been killed or seriously injured riding a bicycle. Individuals are asked to wear white and a black arm band, obey all traffic rules and ride in silence. The NC Bicycle Program is promoting rides of silence across NC again this year.

For bike month the NC Bicycle Program will have posters featuring a ghost bike to put around town. Claudia will be receiving posters and asks for help putting them where motorists will see them.

The NC Bicycle Committee members will be meeting with our new Transportation Secretary William Conti on May 13th to talk about bicycle needs and concerns. Greensboro, NC was the runner up for hosting the National Bicycle Hall of Fame we lost to Davis, California.

On Tuesday, April 28th Claudia will be making a report to city council on the progress that Healthy Buncombe has made over the last two years.

Barb reported that the bike locker invoice has been received so they expect the lockers to arrive soon. They will be white to make the artwork show up. She will let us know when they arrive so we can plan a media blast.

She also mentioned that they hope to have a bicycle transportation corridor of Coxe, Asheland, Hillard and Martin Luther King which will have bike lanes on these streets. She will keep us posted on the possibility of this becoming a reality.

On Wednesday, April 29th the Buncombe County Greenway Commission will be meeting to plan the RFP for the Hwy 70 corridor greenway plan that the BRBC and others committed to pay matching funds so the county could receive \$30,000.00 to develop a plan to connect the Biltmore Village depot to the Black Mtn. depot via greenway.

Claudia reported on the proposed Southeastern High Speed Rail Corridor (SEHSR). There has been an agreement signed by both Virginia and NC to work on developing a SEHSR that would connect Washington, DC to Raleigh and Charlotte. The plan also includes the development of rail with trail along this corridor. Most cities along the route have signed on to co-operate. Each local community would determine where the trail will go. The trail will become part of the East Coast Greenway from Main to Key West. The success of the Charlotte high speed rail and trail has helped with this project which is expected to bring in more money than the cost to develop.