

Minutes, Asheville Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force December 3, 2009

Janet Barlow called the meeting to order late due to traffic tie ups on the west side of the river. Janet reviewed the vision and mission of the task force:

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

Our Mission: To Educate the public about bicycle & pedestrian transportation. To advocate for the development and maintenance of safe, convenient & inter-connected facilities and to promote the benefits of walking and biking for individual and community health.

Introductions: Everyone introduced themselves. Janet Barlow, Joe Barrett, Matt Fusco, Susan Garrett, Linda Giltz, Don Kostelec, Barb Mee, Tom Redinger, Rachael Reeser, Heather Strassberger, and Mike Sule were in attendance.

Next, the agenda was reviewed, and the following additions were made with the consent of the attendees:

Review railroad crossing design for Riverside Drive
MPO focus group for the MPO congestion management plan
Asheville on Bikes city bike plan tracking efforts

Announcements: The next meeting will be January 28, 2010, back to the regular fourth Thursday schedule. There were no other announcements.

Stimulus Projects, Clingman Avenue Project

Barb Mee reported that the bike and pedestrian stimulus projects and the Clingman Avenue projects are progressing through contracting and have completion deadlines in the fall of 2010.

Mission Hospital Plan for Hospital Drive

Mission Hospital is planning to extend the part of Victoria Road that intersects Biltmore Avenue to connect Biltmore to McDowell. They will call the street Hospital Drive, and it will connect to Victoria Road. The hospital wants to make Hamilton into a private road, so the issue will come before the Asheville City Council as a road closure. Those present reviewed plans that Janet and Don had, and recommended keeping an easement for bicycle and pedestrian use and possibly shared lane markings on Hamilton. The plans call for bike lanes on Hospital Drive and on Victoria as far as the project extends.

Watchdog Program for City and County Boards

We need volunteers to review agendas of their meetings so we don't lose opportunities to comment. These are the boards that are not specifically bicycle or pedestrian in

nature, but where issues that affect bicycling or walking environments might be taken up.

In order to spread the work around, the goal is to have two or three people watching each board, and to have each person only asked to watch two or three boards, so it doesn't become too much work. Each committee, board or commission has a point of contact, and it is just a matter of making the contact with that person and asking to be on the agenda e-mail distribution list, and then reading the e-mail when it comes.

Each year the city publishes a list of city committees, boards and commissions and committees boards and commissions on which city Council Members serve. Claudia and Barb looked through the full list and edited it down to the attached list of committees, boards and commissions that are most likely to have bicycle or pedestrian issues come before them. If you want to see the full list, contact Maggie Burleson, Asheville City Clerk (mburleson@ashevillenc.gov), or Barb Mee (bmee@ashevillenc.gov).

Volunteers at the meeting were:

Janet Barlow 1. Asheville Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Committee
2. MPO Transportation Advisory Committee

Joe Barrett Asheville Downtown Commission

Matt Fusco 1) Asheville Board of Adjustment
2) Asheville Planning and Zoning Commission

Susan Garrett Asheville City Council Planning & Economic Development Committee

Linda Giltz 1) Asheville Greenway Commission
2) HUB Community Economic Development Alliance Board
3) Asheville City School Board

Don Kostelec Asheville Transit Commission

Barb Mee HUB Community Economic Development Alliance Board

Tom Redinger Asheville Planning and Zoning Commission

Rachel Reeser Asheville Housing and Community Development Committee

Mike Sule 1) Asheville Greenway Commission
2) Tourism Development Authority
3) MPO Transportation Advisory Committee

More volunteers are needed, including someone to coordinate this project in the future. Expanding it to include Buncombe County is a goal.

Owen Middle School bicycle education program. This is an opportunity to volunteer to work with teaching the League of American Bicyclists Smart Cycling curriculum to the 8th grade classes at Owen Middle School. A description of the program is attached to these minutes. Volunteers are vital to making this program work. Contact Claudia if you are interested (claudianix@libertybikes.com).

Report on Alliance for Biking and Walking Workshop

Mike Sule gave a report on the Alliance Winning Campaigns training that he, Claudia, and Barb attended in Richmond, Virginia. The training had us outline a campaign that would be useful and winnable. The campaign that we designed was to get implementation of the bike plan for Haywood Road through west Asheville. After some discussion, we agreed to look at pedestrian issues on the corridor as well as bicycle issues. In order for this to work best, all of the interests would need to get behind it.

We have also applied to host the training in Asheville next year.

Progress report on our accomplishments during 2009.

Due to time constraints, this item will be taken up in full at the January 28 meeting, but there was a brief review and discussion of the list. It was noted that the pedestrian and bicycle counting effort should be added to the accomplishments, including that there were 53 sites, how many volunteers, the newspaper article and the participation from WCU; that the lane on N. Lexington Avenue is a climbing lane rather than bike lanes; Get There Asheville; sidewalk progress should be listed; and the partnerships and rolling nature of volunteers for the bicycle corrals should be included. Mike Sule asked that there be better clarification that this report included activities with numerous groups and that those should be listed or recognized in some way.

MPO focus group for the MPO congestion management plan

Heather Strassberger from the MPO and Don Kostelec from Louis Berger Group said that a part of the public involvement for the MPO's congestion management plan will be a bicycle and pedestrian focus group about congestion issues and how they affect travel.

Asheville on Bikes city bike plan tracking efforts

Susan Garrett introduced her tracking form for short term (0-5 year) recommendations from the bike plan. This is great information. Susan will be bringing items back to this group for work, and will be updating the form as progress is made. Susan handed out the form at the meeting. Look for the live form on the Asheville on Bikes website.

Review railroad crossing design for Riverside Drive

Barb Mee brought a drawing that NCDOT had provided for a possible improvement of the Riverside Drive railroad crossing and asked for input. The proposed design is a "jug handle" to allow cyclists to cross the tracks at a better angle. There is no guarantee that this will happen in the short term, but it is an opportunity to provide input. The drawing is attached to the minutes. Comments received include concerns about the slope and nearness of the existing cut area on the east side, and a desire for clear explanatory signage so that cyclists see the opportunity and motorists expect cyclists to

merge back into traffic. There was a suggestion that the jug handle pathway be colored green like bicycle facilities are in some other states.

The meeting was then adjourned.

***Housing & Community Development Committee** **Contact: Brenda Griffith 259-5721**

3:30 p.m., 4th Wednesday of each month, 5th Floor Planning Conference Room - City Hall

***HUB Community Economic Development Alliance Board** **Contact: Sam Powers 259-5433**

8:30 am, 3rd Tuesday of each month, Public Works Conference Room

>Land-of-Sky Regional Council Executive Committee **Contact: Michelle Barber 251-6622**

11:30 a.m., Fourth Wednesday of each month, 339 New Leicester Highway

>Metropolitan Sewerage District Board **Contact: Sondra Honeycutt 254-9646**

2:00 p.m., Third Wednesday of each month, MSD Offices – 2028 Riverside Drive, Asheville

***Pack Square Conservancy Inc.** **Contact: Marilyn Geiselman 252-2300**

Noon, First Wednesday of each month, 1 West Pack Square, 5th Floor Conference Room

***Planning & Economic Development Committee** **Contact: Janet Dack at 232-4505**

2:00 p.m., 2nd Wednesday of each month, 29 Haywood Street

***Planning & Zoning Commission** **Contact: Rita Baidas 259-5847**

5:00 p.m., First Wednesday of each month, 1st Floor North Conference Room, City Hall

#Public Art Board **Contact: Diane Ruggiero 259-5815**

3:30 p.m., Fourth Tuesday of each month, 1st Floor Conference Room – City Hall

>Public Safety Committee **Contact: Jessica Dunlap 259-5600**

3:30 p.m., Second Tuesday of each month, 4th Floor Training Room in Municipal Building

***Recreation Board** **Contact: Debbie Ivester 259-5800**

12:30 p.m., Second Monday of each month, 1st Floor Conference Room – City Hall

***River District Design Review Committee** **Contact: Nathan Pennington 259-5484**

8:30 a.m., Fourth Wednesday of each month, Office of Economic Development – 29 Haywood Street

School Board **Contact: Elaine Carter 350-6119**

Regular Board Meeting

6:30 p.m., First Monday of each month, Administrative Offices - 85 Mountain Street - Lucy Herring Building

Worksession

4:00 p.m., Monday one week before the Regular Board Meeting, Training Room 203 at Administrative Offices – 85 Mountain Street - Lucy Herring Building

Sustainable Adv. Committee on Energy & the Environment **Contact: Maggie Ullman 271-6141**

3:00 p.m., Second Thursday of each month, Room A201 in the Public Works Building at 161 S. Charlotte Street

Technical Review Committee **Contact: Jennifer Blevins 259-5422**

1:30 p.m., Third Monday of each month, 1st Floor North Conference Room - City Hall

Tourism Development Authority

Contact: Jonna Reiff 258-6111

9:00 a.m., Third or Fourth Wednesday of each month, Chamber of Commerce Offices at 36 Montford Avenue; although locations vary

Transit Commission

Contact: Mariate Echeverry 232-4528

4:30 p.m., Second Wednesday of each month, 4th Floor Training Room – Municipal Building at 100 Court Plaza

Transportation Advisory Committee

Contact: Carrie Runser-Turner 251-6622

12:10 p.m. ext. 134, Third Thursday of each month, 339 New Leicester Highway

Tree Commission

Contact: Kathi Willis 259-5935

Noon, Third Monday of each month, Room A109 in Public Works Building at 161 S. Charlotte Street

URTV Inc. Contact:

Mark Wilson 252-5899 ext. 114

6:00 p.m., Third Thursday of every other month, 31 College Place – Building A

Victoria of Asheville

Contact: Ben Durant 259-5585

Meets on an as-needed basis

WNC Regional Air Quality Agency Board

Contact: Juanita Shanley 250-6777

4:00 p.m., Second Monday of January, March, May, July, September and November ,
49 Mt. Carmel Road

Code:

*** Most important to watch**

>Nice to watch

#If anyone is interested in watching

Smart Cycling for Owen Middle School

Smart Cycling is a bicycle curriculum which was developed by the League of American Bicyclists through a grant by the National Bicycle Dealer's Association. Healthy Buncombe will be holding classes during March 2010 for the 8th grade students of Owen Middle School in Swannanoa, NC. These students may or may not ride bicycles at this time; however we wish to give them safe and appropriate ways to ride bicycles because many of them will be taking driver's education in a year or two. This course will help them learn the rules of the road, practice the rules on bicycle which will then help them be better drivers. Students have been observed by teachers at Owen Middle riding inappropriately and behaving in a manner that could cause serious danger.

Goals:

To give the students the basic rules of the road and understanding of how traffic works so that all users are safe and considerate of each other.

To give the students the experiences of handling a bicycle in many situations that build on each other so they will be able to effectively ride in traffic.

To give the students the experience of putting together all the skills on a simulate streetscape situation.

To be able to handle all of the 8th grade classes we will be taking each class for two consecutive days at 45 minute time periods. The first day will be a classroom session to learn the basic rules, appropriate behaviors, and to be fitted for helmets & bikes which will be used during the on bike session. Three volunteers will be needed to assist the classroom teacher and Healthy Buncombe teachers in the classroom session.

The following day a 45 minute session will be held in the school parking lot going through the on bike skills course which each station builds on the previous skill and culminates in a simulated streetscape where all the learned skills will be practiced. Students will be tested and scored on their bike handling skills. If any students are unable to ride a bike they will be taken to another area and given the opportunity to learn to ride. Students will use the bikes and helmets they were fitted for the previous day. It will be necessary for them to share bikes. We would like to have a total of 15 volunteers for these sessions.

There are 4 sets of two classes each day. We plan on teaching two 8th grade classes on March 3 & 4 with a rain date on March 5 to pilot the program and see what needs to be tweaked. Then we will hold the remaining classes on March 22 & 23 and 24 & 25 with a rain date on March 26. The final classes will be held March 29 & 30 with a rain date on March 31. We would like to have a total of 15 volunteers for each of these dates. Classes will be held from 8:20 AM to 9:50 AM on the above dates.

Driver's Education Program

Goal: To make new driver's aware of their responsibilities when behind the wheel of a car, to understand the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians, as well as their vulnerability and to help them understand how they can share the roadway safely and appropriately with these users.

Skills: Know the needs of bicyclists and pedestrians and be able to communicate them to new teenage drivers. Be able to relate to teenagers, not talking down to them or preaching to them. Be able to expose the rules of the road and talk about their own experiences.

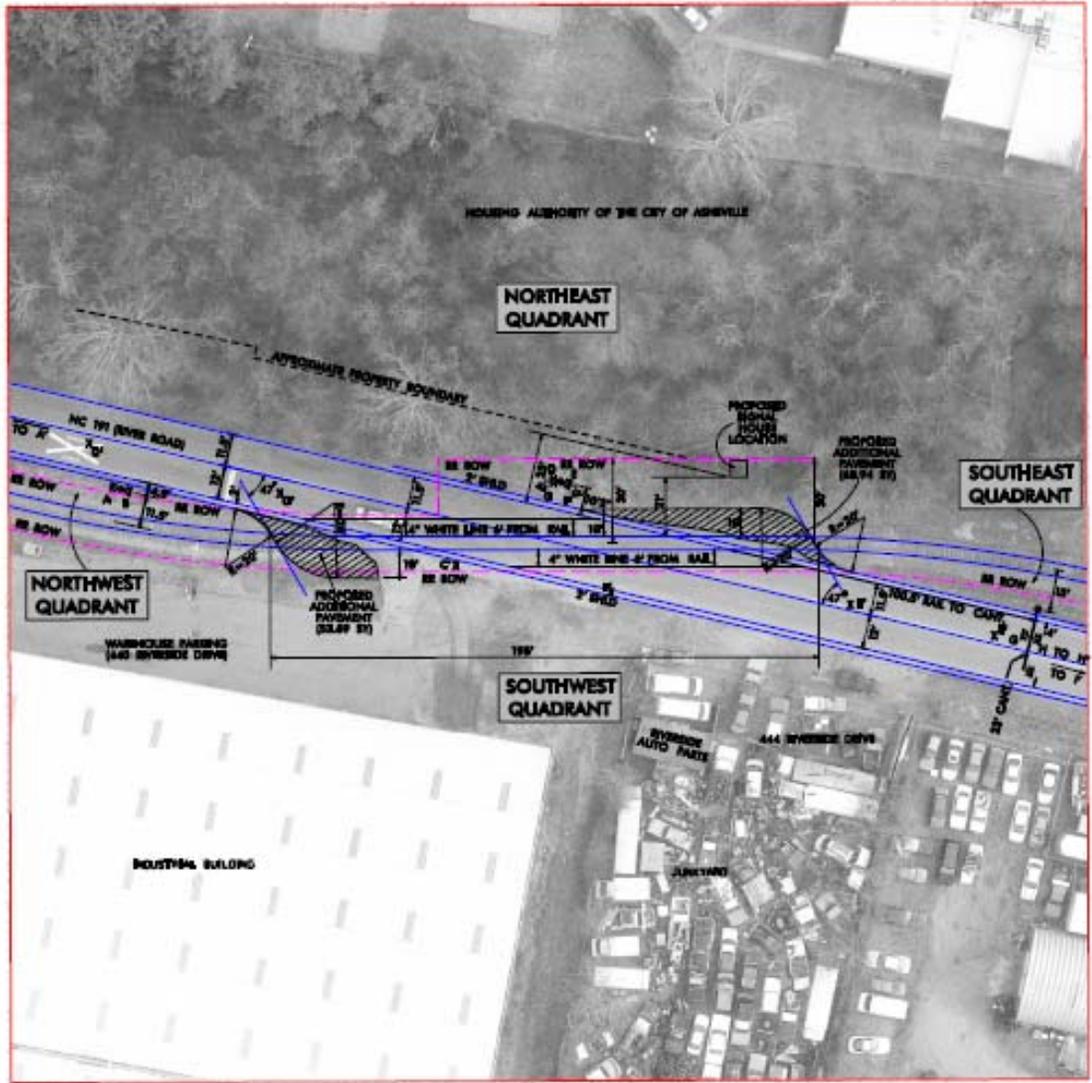
Responsibilities: Contact the driver's education teacher at the school they are assigned to and set up a time to teach the module during that teacher's classes.

- >It often helps to break the ice to ask who in the class rides a bike and to what extent.
- >Give the test to the students giving them time to answer the questions on their own. This will help you determine what they already know and what information you need to give them.
- >Go over each question on the test answers with the students to determine what they know and what needs to be reviewed. Find out how they answered the questions.
- >Give them the correct answer or get a student to explain the correct answer.
- >Allow discussion if needed with students on the questions to help them understand the correct answers if needed. Give examples of your own experiences.
- >Show the video to reinforce what you've taught.
- >Talk about defensive techniques while riding a bike and that most individuals are not taught how to ride a bike using the rules of the road.
- >Talk about the importance of wearing helmets as an insurance policy.
- >Give them some statistics about how speed and preoccupation affects how well they drive.
- >Give them each a copy of the handout to reinforce what you've told them.

Time involvement:

The class module usually takes about a half hour. A lot will depend on how interested the students are and the number of questions they ask as well as how comfortable you are doing the presentation. It is a good idea to practice some ahead of time.

Depending on school size classes are usually offered several times a year. Sometimes the summer months are more often. If we get enough volunteer teachers we can have one per school and one or two alternates who can fill in when someone is not able to teach a class.



DISTANCE TO ALIGNMENT POINT

LIGHT UNIT	DISTANCE (ON FEET)
A	278 OR FIELD ADJUST
B	318 OR FIELD ADJUST
C	45 OR FIELD ADJUST
D	278 OR FIELD ADJUST
E	118 OR FIELD ADJUST
F	45 OR FIELD ADJUST
G	278 OR FIELD ADJUST
H	278 OR FIELD ADJUST
I	278 OR FIELD ADJUST

NOTE: ALL SIGNAL FACES TO BE 12' LED OR APPROVED ALTERNATIVE

ADT (2005)	6,688
RAILWAY SPEED LIMIT	30 MPH
TRUCK MOVEMENTS/DAY	2
TRUCK SPEED	18 MPH
RAILROAD MILEPOST	CROSSING MTL 142.3

- WORK DONE BY RAILROAD FORCES
- INSTALL CANTILEVER AND SIGNALS AS SHOWN ON PLAN
 - + NOTE: PROTECTORS SHALL BE MADE TO PROTECT THE GATE LIGHT SIGNS ON THE GATE IN THE VICINITY OF THE WOOD BRACKET
 - LOCATE UNDERGROUND UTILITIES BEFORE EXCAVATION
 - EXTEND EXISTING CROSSINGS TO ACCOMMODATE PAVEMENT FOR CROSSING BY RAIL
- WORK DONE BY MUNICIPAL FORCES
- INSTALL M8-12 WITH M8-18 SIGNS 150' FROM THE NEAR RAIL ON APPROACHES
 - ADD PAVEMENT AS SHOWN ON PLAN FOR SAFER BICYCLE CROSSING OF SKEWED TRACK ALIGNMENT COORDINATE WITH RR FORCES
 - INSTALL FOR NEOT STOP DRAWING (2821) OR CITY EQUIVALENT AFTER SIGNALS INSTALLATION
 - INSTALL & STAMP ENVELOPE PAVEMENT MARKING STRIPS THE WAY AS SHOWN ON PLAN
 - REPLACE STOP SIGNS
 - REPAINT RAILROAD CROSSING MARKINGS
 - REPLACE RAILROAD ADVANCE WARNING SIGNS (M8-11)

PROJECT No. 2-47708		 RAIL DIVISION
RIVERSIDE DRIVE AND NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY TRACK		
DIVISION 13 DATE: 12-28-09 BY: 2/23/09 DRAWN BY: JON HERRARDSON CHECKED BY: JON	MUNICIPALITY N.C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RAIL DIVISION ENGINEERING & SAFETY BRANCH	IN CHARGE DATE: 12/28/09 BY: JON HERRARDSON PHONE: 728 4875