Minutes September 24, 2015
Asheville NC Bike /Pedestrian Task Force

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.

Introductions:
- Barb Mee, Till Dohse (facilitating), Janet Barlow (taking notes), Billie Lofland, Officer Meg Pigman, Imke Durre, Inge Durre, Tristan Winkler

Business:
- Minutes ok
- Multimodal Commission – Till
  o Approved new Greenway Committee members
  o Reviewed issues with drivers and city transit system and discussed possibility of requesting a new RFP for new management group; will put out RFP in March for a new contract; meanwhile, MMTC will also look into the concerns brought to them
- French Broad River MPO – Tristan
  o 25 year transportation plan adopted;
  o DOT presentation on I-26 today; may be open to greenways; no change in how many properties taken; no plans to available at this point
  o Applications soon available for 5310 funds for organizations to provide transportation services for seniors or people with disabilities
- Asheville Police/Fire/Rescue – Meg
  o Conference call with Watch for Me NC, discussed issues with bad spin from media on campaign; planning for two pedestrian decoy operations a week;
  o Barb noted that Officer Lisa Taube set up a bicycle agility course at UNCA Bulldog Bike Bonanza yesterday
- Asheville/Buncombe – Barb
Lot of public meetings, were listed on the agenda email;

Retiming pedestrian signals downtown to give as long as possible to peds; concerns expressed by attendees about the long vehicular cycles on various streets (College, Lexington, Biltmore) that mean peds and vehicles have to wait too long; possibly to switch to shorter cycles overall?

League of American Bicyclists sent someone for assistance visit who will provide some recommendations for next year’s application which will be submitted in February

DISCUSSION - ACTION ITEM: This task force needs to try to develop and suggest some council goals related to pedestrian and bicycling issues at next month’s meeting; please email to suggestions to Till till.dohse@gmail.com and he’ll put them together for discussion next month

- Buncombe Bike Ed – no report

Open Discussion/Project Work

- Pedestrian and Bicycle Counts
  - Tues – Thurs and Saturday – counts are provided;
  - Till has put together a spreadsheet covering all the intersections counted and will start tracking every year and see how changes affect bicycle and pedestrian flow; handed out summary sheet (file: 2015_Bike_and_Pedestrian_Count.docx)
  - Comment from Inge that pedestrian traffic has increased tremendously on Coxe Ave at Hilliard, Banks, and Buxton, particularly after 7 pm; discussion that these counts are part of a national project intended to count at during an “average week” at standardized times, but city may do counts at other times
  - Till is ready to manage the data again next year with Laurie and Mike Sule working on recruiting

- Bike Friendly Application renewal
  - League of American Bicyclists Assistance Visit – Barb talked about it earlier

- Walk Friendly Follow-up
  - Meeting was postponed, but Billie had gotten information about a grant available through the Everybody Walk! Collaborative and small group met to look possible programs; discussed issues with mistaken understanding of amount of grant available (thought it was $250,000, but it was actually $2500.); did bring out some issues that
would have to be addressed to consider something of this sort, such as starting a pedestrian advocacy group

- **Task Force Website (abptaskforce.org)**
  - Billie, Lee Pirtle, and Liz met last week about the web site; Lee’s soon going out of town for several weeks and won’t be able to work on it right away
  - Billie will take notes and summarize them and get details to him regarding the changes needed; Billie will send suggested changes that were discussed to those attending this meeting; (file: B&P TaskForce Website.docx)
  - Question to group: Do past agendas need to be posted? Answer was no

- **Next Bike/Ped Task Force meeting – Thursday, October 22, at 5:30 pm - Billie will facilitate**
  - October meeting (Till and Janet will be out of town)

- **Agenda Items for next month?**
  - Suggested council goals (for next year) related to pedestrian and bicycling issues at next month’s