

# **BTF Meeting April 10, 2007**

## **Attendance**

Billy Tiller, Alan Brinkworth, Andy Jones, Colleen Carboni, Marty Brown, Justin Ray, Del Sudkamp, David Rathbone, Daisy Blanton, Hugh Worthy, Cheryl Shouse, Melissa Taylor

## **National Bike Summit**

Colleen gave an overview of the National Bike Summit. She attended a discussion by the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) and learned that Chattanooga has gotten IMBA's attention. They are interested in supporting projects in the Chattanooga area. In particular, the Raccoon Mountain Project garnered a great deal of attention with IMBA as well as Tennessee's congressional representatives. After the summit Colleen had an epiphany and is working on organizing a bike shop owners/bike industry meeting to discuss advocacy issues.

## **Tennessee Safe Passing law**

David Rathbone gave a brief report on the pending legislation regarding bicycle safe passing distance. To review, the Tennessee House passed an amended bill requiring motorists to leave a minimum 3 foot passing distance between a motor vehicle and bicycle when passing. The Senate version does not stipulate a minimum passing distance but simply requires motorists to leave a safe passing distance between a motor vehicle and bicycle when passing. The Senate version was scheduled for a vote on April 9 the outcome of the vote was not known at the BTF meeting. Since the House and Senate versions differ, it will have to go to committee for reconciliation.

**\*\*Note\*\*** The TN Senate has indeed passed this bill as amended as the "Jeff Roth and Brian Brown Bicycle Protection Act of 2007." This bill adds to the present law "rules of the road" by requiring the operator of any motor vehicle to leave a safe distance of not less than three feet between the vehicle and a bicycle when passing a bicycle that is proceeding in the same direction. Any violation of this bill is a Class C misdemeanor. Will confirm once signed into law by the Governor

## **Safe Routes to School**

Melissa provided an update on the Safe Routes To School (SRTS) program. School officials have been generally positive in their response but had concerns about lack of infrastructure and resulting safety issues. Currently there are 8 schools participating and applications for 3 grants have been submitted to cover all 8 schools. These grants would fund infrastructure improvements such as sidewalks, cross walks, signage, bike racks and a bicycle safety educational tool kit. The three grants if approved would provide about \$320,000 in funding. Work is progressing on the prioritizing the next group of schools for the SRTS 2007-2008 year to expand the program beyond the original 8 schools. Certain requirements have to be met such as the number of children attending from neighborhoods within a 2 mile radius of the school, existing infrastructure, and administrative support.

Melissa is to supply Del Sudkamp with information on the upcoming Summer Bicycle Camps for inclusion in the CBC newsletter. The Camps will teach the League of American Bicyclists Kids II curriculum to children in 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade and will be held June 4-8 and July 16-20.

## **Other Items**

Tuesday April 17, Melissa will be in Philadelphia to accept the American Planning Association National Planning Award on behalf of The City of Chattanooga and Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency.

A reminder that May 4<sup>th</sup> is the First Bike To Work Friday. Presently Owen Cyclery, Out of The Blue Café, and Grey Fryers are on board as sponsors. Smoothie King may also sponsor but they have not yet given a firm commitment. Del is to get with Colleen to work out changes to the flyer and Marty is looking into getting the flyers printed. Remember the location has moved to the South end of the Walnut Street Bridge.

## **Cycledelic 2007**

Outdoor Chattanooga is hosting "Cycledelic", a special event on Saturday, April 14, at the Hunter Museum of American Art, at 6:00 PM. This reception and party will recognize the 40th anniversary of the Chattanooga Bicycle Club, our success in bicycle advocacy that has been recognized by the League of American Bicyclists and our recent National Excellence award by the American Planning Association which Melissa Taylor will be accepting in Philadelphia on April 17, and also serve to kick-off an exciting time for bicycling in Chattanooga. The Tour de Georgia returns to Chattanooga for two days of excitement: a Waterfront finish on Wednesday, April 18, followed by the time trial finish on Lookout Mountain on Thursday.

SORBA Chattanooga is hosting a regional Raccoon Mountain Work Party for mountain bikers from around the southeast that weekend and Scenic City Velo is hosting its Raccoon Mountain Road Race on Sunday, April 15, which will bring about 400 racers to the area.

The 20th Annual 3 State 3 Mountain Challenge begins with an Expo on Friday, May 4, with the 2500 rider event on Saturday, May 5.

We need to celebrate! There will be no admission charge with food and cash bar, special guests and media presentations. Save the date and watch for the official invitation.

<mailto:rsvp@outdoorchattanooga.com> for more information. All members of the BTF and cycling community are invited, so please come!

**David Rathbone, Chairperson**

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Minutes prepared by Del Sudkamp.

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