

# **BTF Meeting January 9, 2007**

## **Attendance**

Colleen Carboni, Del Sudkamp, David Rathbone, Daisy Blanton, Billy Tiller, Cheryl Shouse, Philip Pugliese, Andy Jones, Melissa Taylor, Ben Taylor, Ron Priddy, Lee Greene.

## **Enterprise South Passive Park**

A special presentation was made by Ron Priddy, Director, and Lee Greene, Facilities Superintendent, with Hamilton County Parks & Recreation to explain construction plans for Enterprise South with funds provided by the Tennessee Local Parks and Recreation Fund.

See <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/news/release/2006/Aug/parksrecgrants.shtml>

Hamilton County has been granted \$200,000 with 50% local matching funds required. Ron and Lee presented an overview of the initial construction project that is authorized by the scope of the grant funds. Specifically, this will include construction of two restroom facilities - basic, no running water, improvement and clean-up of existing internal roadways within park and the construction of short connectors as necessary to provide a vehicular loop roadway, and the construction of 7.5 miles of trail. Trail construction will include some mix to accommodate walker, cyclists and equestrian users.

Interest group organizations will be encouraged to provide volunteer labor for trailbuilding activities.

Lee Greene said that leaders of interest groups would be invited to tour the site and provide input where appropriate on design features and elements. However, the current grant allocation must be used as specified in the original request and will not be subject to change. This input can be used to explore future development needs and funding opportunities.

Development in some areas of the park is contingent on needs associated with a potential user of the industrial park. This could impact the location and construction of some roadways and trails.

At present, traffic will be directed through the main entrance. There are some security concerns with unauthorized hunting and ATV use, especially along the northeast section of the park that will be addressed.

A public meeting to present the grant funded construction plan is scheduled for Thursday, January 11, at the Hamilton County Board of Education office on Hickory Valley Road at Enterprise South, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. First complex on right entering from Bonny Oaks Drive.

## **Officer Elections**

The following slate of officers for 2007 was presented to the group and approved:

Chairperson: David Rathbone

Vice-Chairperson: Del Sudkamp

Bike2Work Coordinator: Colleen Carboni

Secretary: Philip Pugliese

We would still wish to have a designated Bike Valet Coordinator to manage our valet parking efforts at the Tour de Georgia on April 18, and during our Bike to Riverbend campaign in June. If you are interested in directing these efforts, please let us know.

Thanks to Colleen for all of the work she has done!

## Grant Opportunities

TDOT Enhancement Grant funding: Funds originally designated to provide for a North Chickamauga Greenway and Pedestrian bridge, proposed as a suspension bridge associated with the CB Robinson Bridge, have been redirected to another project at this time. Due to engineering and waterway clearance issues, the suspension bridge concept was not feasible. Alternatives are under consideration and funding will continue to be sought for this important bike/ped river crossing.

TDOT Commuter Transportation Assistance Program (CTAP) Grant: CARTA is looking at proposals for projects to promote alternative transportation that would be eligible for funding under this program. Suggestions under consideration include "Guaranteed Ride Home" for mass transit and bicycle commuters. This would provide free taxi vouchers for use in emergency situations on days that you ride your bike to work.

Another suggestion was perhaps for an afternoon van/bike shuttle to Signal Mountain. Would there be significant demand from bicycle commuters on the mountain who aren't comfortable with the heavy afternoon traffic?

## Priority Construction Items

Traffic Engineering has submitted our request for tunnel warning lights at Missionary Ridge and Stringer's Ridge. Hopefully material will be available soon for the work to move forward. Other road projects are pending warmer weather.

## Education

David Rathbone has been forced to cancel a Road I course scheduled in Dalton due to lack of registrations. A course is moving ahead in Cleveland on January 18/21 if anyone is interested.

A discussion was held regarding how best to reach our target market for Road I and other courses. It seems that regular road cyclists consider themselves "experienced" and do not feel that training is needed. Newer, greenway focused riders, seem to feel that no amount of training will provide the necessary protection and comfort level to ride in traffic. How do we move forward?

Should we allocate funds for radio/newspaper type coverage? Suggestion was made to ensure that we are publicized in the Weekend section. It was also suggested to add BikeEd course information with all of our Bike2Work promotions.

Riverwalk Bicycle Day was a positive opportunity to interact with newer riders and will be scheduled again soon.

## National Bike Summit

The National Bike Summit, sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists will be held in Washington, D.C., on March 14-16, 2007. In addition to educational workshops, one day of the summit is spent on Capitol Hill meeting with all of our Tennessee legislators. More information at <http://www.bikeleague.org/conferences/summit07/index.php>

This is a great opportunity to learn about grass roots advocacy. Currently scheduled to attend from Chattanooga are David Rathbone, Philip Pugliese and Melissa Taylor.

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