

BTF MEETING JUNE 13, 2006

2. Attendance

Colleen Carboni, Quint Mansell, Philip Pugliese, Billy Tiller, Marty Brown, David Rathbone, Hugh Worthy, Daisy Blanton, Cheryl Shouse, Ben Taylor, Del Sudkamp.

3. Step One

Hamilton County Step One billboards are now up. There are at least 3 that feature Colleen and promote bicycling. Look for them on Broad St, Dayton Blvd and Brainerd Rd.

4. Bike to Riverbend

BTF has partner with Hamilton County StepOne to provide valet bike parking at during every night of Riverbend.

As of this meeting, everything has gone quite smoothly with 40-50 bikes parked each night. We are reaching a new user group and also young teen riders.

With this year's success, this should be a regular feature of Riverbend and should be included in official marketing materials. We will recruit corporate sponsorships and/or corporate volunteers for staffing.

5. Bike2Work

Bike2Work continues each month through October. Colleen, Philip and Melissa were invited on Talk Radio 102.3 with Jeff Styles to discuss Bike2Work on June 8th. It was quite positive and followed an earlier interview with Russell Cliche of StepOne who was promoting our Bike to Riverbend.

With the success of our Bike to Riverbend location, it was suggested that we might want to consider this area at Walnut and First Streets as our Bike2Work meeting point for 2007. Comments?

6. TPO Bicycle Map

Philip has been working with the TPO and UTC to develop our regional bicycle map. Attached is a working copy for your review. RPA graphics people will clean up artwork and layout issues. Your comments on content are most welcomed.

It was recommended that we modify the Bike2Work language in consideration of a change of venue.

Map is designed to be 18x24 inches, folded to a 4x9 panel. Attached document is displayed as map opens from folded position.

The maps represented are sample representations. Maps include Tennessee Riverwalk as 2 panel inset, Central Business District area as 3 panel with safety information below, and Regional Map as full 6 panel.

All of the photos included are primarily placeholders for now. We need suggestions and/or photo submissions especially for the cover shot. We would like something that represents Chattanooga and cycling of course.

Photos of bicycle facilities/routes that represent North Georgia are also needed.

7. Safe Routes to School

Melissa Taylor has met with both our City and County Engineers and they will be evaluating traffic and infrastructure needs at each of our target schools.

Meetings with school leaders and parent representatives will be scheduled soon. Watch the website for updates. SRTS maps and meeting minutes have been posted.

8. Tennessee Riverwalk

David Rathbone introduced proposed changes to signage for the Riverwalk that more clearly outlines user responsibilities on the trail. Please review and we will discuss further at the next meeting.

Located periodically on the Riverwalk is the following sign:

The Riverwalk is intended for use by pedestrians, bicyclists, and in-line skaters. To ensure the enjoyment of all users, please obey these simple rules:

- Bikers maintain a safe speed and distance.
- Pedestrians have right-of-way.
- Slower traffic keep right.
- Bikers alert pedestrians when passing.
- Do not block trail.

This sign was originally placed when the Riverwalk first opened. It was an adequate sign for the amount of traffic on the Riverwalk and the amount of experience we as a community had with a multiuse trail.

Since the rest of the Riverpark has opened issues have arisen with the directions on this sign that affects the safety of park users.

The first issue is the introduction. "To ensure the enjoyment of all users, please obey these simple rules:" should read, "To ensure the enjoyment of all users, all traffic should obey these simple rules:". This would require all users to follow the rules instead of merely asking and leaving it to the individual user. Allowing individual users to determine if they want to follow the rules can endanger other users on the trail.

The second issue is Bikers. They are not allowed on the Riverwalk since they ride motorized vehicles. A Biker rides a motorcycle. The assumption is that this should read Cyclists.

The third issue is the phrase "Slower traffic keep right." It should read, "All traffic keep right except to pass." Cyclists are required to keep right. Pedestrians habitually have walked on the left. This means two users approaching each other can be on the same side of the trail. Many near collisions occur because of this.

Fourth, pictures should be added. Especially on "Do not block trail" have a group of walkers spread across the trail. Pedestrians are not the only offenders, but they are the majority. I have seen a teacher on a Field Trip seat her group of elementary school students in a circle on the walkway for lunch.

Fifth delete the phrase "Pedestrians have right-of-way". It tells many pedestrians that they are not required to follow any of the rules. The rules are designed for everyone else to make them get out of the way.

David suggests the following re-signing guidelines:



1. At each Stop sign and entrance from a parking lot place a new sign. Use a graphic such as that shown at left to show the rules apply to all traffic. Pedestrians keep applying the "Walk on the left facing traffic" rule to the multiuse trail and this causes crashes and near misses.
9. At each Stop sign and entrance from a parking lot place a new sign. Use a graphic such as that shown at left to show all traffic keeps right except to pass. It should be posted on the Stop sign posts and painted on the ground of the path at Stop Signs as it crosses streets.

Suggestion:

The Riverwalk is intended for use by pedestrians, cyclists, and in-line skaters.

To ensure the enjoyment of all users, all traffic should obey these simple rules:

- Cyclists maintain a safe speed and distance.
- Cyclists alert pedestrians when passing.
- All traffic keep right except to pass.
- Do not block trail.

10. Bicycle Traffic Fatality

Ben Taylor shared information regarding the bicyclist killed on Rossville Blvd. this month. There is some discrepancy as to whether the cyclist was actually riding or walking his bike, but apparently was crossing Rossville Blvd mid-block and went directly in the path of of an oncoming vehicle. No charges have been filed.

11. Upcoming Events

Cheryl Shouse, Injury Prevention Coordinator with the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department will be hosting bicycle safety events at the following location. If anyone is available to help with the Mini-Bike Rodeo in Alton Park, please let us know.

6-19 Summer Safety- Shepherd Rec Ctr

6-20 Mini Bike Rodeo for girls-Mt Creek Church of Christ, 5-8 pm

6-28 Summer Safety-Westside Daycare

7-28 Summer Safety-Wallace Smith elem.

8-12 Mini Bike Rodeo-Alton Park

9-28 UTC Health Fair

Next Bike to Work is Friday, July 7!

12. Addendum

1. ***Bicycle Commuter Act***

On April 24, 2006, Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR), Olympia Snowe (R-ME), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), and Susan Collins (R-ME), introduced the Bicycle Commuters Benefits Act of 2006 ([S. 2635](#)) in the Senate.

S. 2635 is scheduled to come before the Senate Finance Committee in June. We urge you to [contact your Senator who is on the Finance Committee by email](#) to voice your support for this important piece of legislation

Thanks again for your support of cycling and the League.

Sarah Stiles

League of American Bicyclists

www.bikeleague.org

2. ***Bike to Riverbend Follow-up***

Bike to Riverbend was a huge success. Over 400 bikes were parked during the event with a record 102 bikes on Saturday, June 17.





Special thanks to Gina Hatler in the County Mayor's Office, Russell Cliche with Hamilton County StepOne, Outdoor Chattanooga and all of our volunteers:

Quint Mansell, Cheryl Shouse, Daisy Blanton, Hugh Worthy, Tom Dubose, Matthew Carboni, Del Sudkamp, Erin Carboni, Tory Bonderton, Brandy Reed, Shay Mayo, Melissa Taylor, Ben Taylor, Art Thompson, Ruthie Cartledge, Lee Gates, Tarbell Patton, Donna Pugliese, Marty Brown.

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