

BTF MEETING NOVEMBER 14, 2006

Attendance

Colleen Carboni, Del Sudkamp, David Rathbone, Daisy Blanton, Marty Brown, Billy Tiller, Cheryl Shouse, Philip Pugliese, RC Hoff

BTF Objectives

Due to time constraints at her business, Colleen will not be able to continue serving as chairperson of the BTF. As we have limited activities at this time of year, this will not present a problem, but officer elections will need to be held in January.

Discussion was held regarding the role of the BTF as an advisory committee to the Transportation Planning Organization. The BTF chairperson serves as a voting member of the TPO Executive Staff. Earlier this year, the bicycle coordinator position was also granted a voting seat on the staff. It is very important that our BTF chair is able to participate in the TPO staff and board meetings. The staff meeting is the 2nd Thursday of even months at 1:30 PM and normally lasts about 90 minutes. The board meeting is on the following Tuesday at the same time. While staff members do not normally have an active role at the board meeting, any presentations introduced at the staff meeting would need to be repeated at the board meeting on Tuesday.

RC Hoff was asked how best the BTF should engage the TPO and what our specific activities should include for the next year, especially with regard to adding bicycle projects to the TIP (Transportation Improvement Plan). RC indicated that the TPO and the TIP are fiscally constrained and that without strong political support, adding projects is very difficult.

It was requested that the TPO staff provide additional input in how they view the BTF functioning over the next year. Colleen asked RC to request that a BTF report be included on the agenda for the December TPO meeting.

Safe Routes to School

Philip reported on our latest SRTS activities. Walk to School events were held at Normal Park, Big Ridge, Thrasher and Brown as part of the International Walk to School Campaign. Melissa Taylor is serving on our Statewide SRTS Steering Committee and TDOT is expected to release application information for SRTS funding in December. Chattanooga members have been working to identify potential projects for application at that time.

Lyndhurst Foundation funding is in place to provide BikeEd courses at our nine pilot schools. These classes are scheduled for February, March and April but specific timelines have not been established for each school. In order to train additional BikeEd trainers, a League Cycling Instructor Seminar is scheduled for Chattanooga in late January. We will be inviting PE instructors and others from our pilot schools to become LCI's so that they can begin teaching SRTS programming on their own. David Rathbone suggested that we invite PE teachers from private schools as well so that they can get started working on SRTS for next year.

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.

Our next BTF Meeting is Tuesday, December 12, 12:30 PM.

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