

BTF MEETING SEPTEMBER 12, 2006

Attendance

Colleen Carboni, Philip Pugliese, Marty Brown, Daisy Blanton, Ben Taylor, Hugh Worthy, Ruthie Cartlidge, Joe McPherson, Cheryl Shouse, Del Sudkamp, RC Hoff, David Rathbone.

BikeEd

Our next Road I - Bicycle Driving class is scheduled in two parts with the classroom session on Thursday evening, September 28, and the on-road portion on Saturday, September 30.

Chattanooga will be hosting a League Cycling Instructor certification seminar scheduled for January 26-28, 2007. You too can become a LCI instructor and help with our Safe Routes to School education campaign. Road I is a pre-requisite to attend.

Facilities Update

Ben Taylor has materials on order to fulfill work orders for additional bicycle facility improvements. He is still reviewing suppliers for our proposed tunnel warning light system planned for the Missionary Ridge and Stringer's Ridge tunnels. A question was raised about bicycle volume through the East Ridge Tunnel which is owned by TDOT. We will see about verifying counts and perhaps adding lights here as well.

We need to revisit our Bicycle Plan amendments for this year with the TPO. Several changes were presented to the TPO staff and board this spring but have not been formally adopted as of yet.

ProWalk/ProBike National Conference

"What to Do When You're Not Madison or Portland: Creating Bike/Ped-Friendly Places in East Tennessee" was a session hosted by Melissa Taylor, Philip Pugliese and Kelley Segars and Ellen Zavisca from Knoxville at the 2006 ProWalk/ProBike Conference held this month in Madison, Wisconsin, which had over 650 attendees.

Philip Pugliese presented "Chattanooga - Pedal Pushing Partnerships" and Melissa Taylor presented "Activate Chattanooga: Creating Safe Routes to Reverse Childhood Inactivity in Hamilton County."

Madison is a Gold Level Bicycle Friendly Community and it definitely shows. There are bike racks in front of every building that are being used. Most traffic early morning is bicycle, pedestrian or public transit with very few single occupant motor vehicles.

TPO Bicycle Map

RC Hoff reported that the TPO is finalizing our bicycle facilities map. They have been working to accurately incorporate elements in our neighboring north Georgia counties and GDOT's statewide bicycle routes.

Chattanooga Market

Memorial Hospital will be hosting the Chattanooga Market on Sunday, October 1, from 12:00 - 5:00 pm. As part of their event, they will be hosting a bike fitting table. Cheryl Shouse has asked if anyone would be interested in manning a table to promote some of our activities such as Safe Routes to School, BikeEd courses, etc.

Bike2Work

David Eargle and others at Unum Provident are working to create a Bicycle Users Group (BUG). David initiated a meeting with Summer Thomas who manages the Fitness and Wellness Center with Colleen and Philip. We hope to be hosting informational events at Unum in the near future. However, the corporate office still seems a bit reluctant to consider additional infrastructure such as new bicycle racks and expanded locker facilities for cyclists.

Bicycle Solidarity Day

Our special Bike2Work will be on Friday, 9/22, at the Walnut Street Bridge to celebrate Bicycle Solidarity Day. At 8:00 am there will be a special presentation to recognize the efforts of the Chattanooga- Hamilton County Health Department and the County's StepOne Program in promoting bicycling this past year. Cheryl Shouse has done a great job in integrating bicycling into a daily routine for their employees. StepOne was instrumental in creating and supporting the Bike to Riverbend parking program which was a huge success. Ruth Cartlidge will coordinate securing appropriate trophies for our program. Owen Cyclery has donated a Light & Motion Vega headlight for a special giveaway.

Chattanooga Bicycle Rentals

Joe McPherson was present and informed everyone of his new bicycle rental business which is currently staged at the south end of the Walnut Street Bridge. Joe rents a variety of bicycles and trailers. He primarily has been renting to out of town visitors from Knoxville and Atlanta. This is a great addition to our bicycling community, so please spread the word.

Safe Routes to School

The Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency received a \$10,000 grant from the Lyndhurst Foundation for encouragement and education of Safe Routes to School (SRTS). The money will be used to conduct pedestrian and bicycle safety classes, provide promotional materials and modest incentives, and create awareness at local, state, and national levels.

Hamilton County has over 120,000 households caring for more than 55,000 children under the age of 15 (2000 Census). There are 47 elementary and 22 middle schools serving those children. The objective of SRTS is to encourage and improve conditions for walking and biking to school for all Hamilton County elementary and middle school students within an appropriate distance (approximately half a mile or less). Lyndhurst Vice-President Bruce Clark announced "we appreciate the opportunity to assist our community in positioning itself as a leader of the Safe Routes to School movement".

Chattanooga-Hamilton County SRTS Program Director Melissa Taylor says "given that nine schools are willing to participate this year, the program has the potential to affect over 1,500 students and their parents (2004 School Enrollment & Zoning Report RPA). Students and parents are expected to be healthier from the increase in physical activity." Some SRTS programs have cited that students are more focused in the classroom and social skills appear improved because of this increased activity level. Community benefits include reduced traffic congestion, reduced air pollution, reduced fuel consumption, and reduced traffic accidents.

SRTS is a national and international movement to create safe, convenient, and fun opportunities for children to bicycle and walk to school. SRTS is a solution for the alarming nationwide trend toward child obesity and inactivity. For more information on the national partnership, please visit www.bikesbelong.org or www.saferoutesinfo.org for information on the federal funding available for infrastructure and programming projects.

Upcoming Events

Bicycle Solidarity Day/Bike2Work

Friday, 9/22, 7:00 am - 9:00 am

Walnut Street Square - South End of Bridge

Raccoon Mountain Trail System Grand Opening

TVA Raccoon Mountain Pumped Storage Facility

Friday, 9/29, 1:00 pm EDT - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Saturday, 9/30, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm - Trail Rides - Picnic

Sunday, 10/01, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm - Trailbuilding Work Day

International Walk (Bike) to School Day

Wednesday, October 4

Watch for events to encourage students all week to walk or bike to school.

Next BTF meeting will be Tuesday, October 10.

Go Silver 2007! - Chattanooga will be making application for a Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Community Award. We need your help.

Thanks,

Colleen Carboni, Chairperson

pilateschattanooga@gmail.com

423 280-1764

Philip Pugliese

Bicycle Coordinator

Outdoor Chattanooga

1250 Market Street, Suite 1006

Chattanooga, TN 37402

423 643-6887 423 643-6885 fax

ppugliese@outdoorchattanooga.com

www.outdoorchattanooga.com

www.bikechattanooga.org

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