



SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER MEETING #1

MARCH 29, 2018, 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY ELECTIONS CENTER, 150 S. GASTON STREET, BREVARD, NC 28712

Participants

- Travis Book, Resident
- Mark Burrows, Transylvania County Planning and Community Development
- Steve Bzomowski, Alta Planning + Design
- David Carter, Transylvania County Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
- Daniel Cobb, City of Brevard Planning & Zoning
- Bob Cole, Resident
- Gary Daniel, City of Brevard Council
- Vicki Eastland, Land of Sky RPO Economic and Community Development
- Joy Fields, Transylvania County Planning and Community Development
- Tad Fogel, Blue Ridge Bicycle Club; Friends of the Ecusta Trail
- Jonathan Griffin, Transylvania County
- Phil Harris, City of Brevard Police Department
- Mike Hawkins, Transylvania County Board of Commissioners
- David Joyce, Brevard College President
- Alan Justice, Transylvania County Schools
- Sarah Knox, Resident
- Nick Kroncke, Land of Sky RPO Economic and Community Development
- Robert Lawson, Resident
- Suzanne Lawson, Cedar Mountain Community Center
- Clark Lovelace, Brevard/Transylvania County Chamber of Commerce
- Ray Miller, Resident
- Daniel Sapp, Resident/Bicycle industry
- Nick Scheuer, NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation
- Heather Seagle, Alta Planning + Design
- Paula Stone, Resident
- Mark Tooley, Transylvania County TAC
- Jim Whitcomb, Resident
- Jimmy Whitmire, Transylvania County Agricultural Advisory Board/TAC
- Steve Williams, NCDOT Division 14



Overview Presentation

Mark Burrows introduced the project and Steve Bzomowski led an overview presentation of benefits related to bicycling as well as the overall planning process. A copy of the presentation will be posted to the Transylvania County website and topics covered in the presentation are listed below:

- Welcome and Introductions
- Vision and Goals
- Benefits of Bicycling
 - » Economy
 - » Health
 - » Safety
 - » Transportation Efficiency
- Small Town and Rural MultiModal Networks Guide (FHWA, Dec 2016)
- Transylvania County Bicycle Plan Process
 - » Stakeholder Meetings
 - » Data Collection/Assessment
 - » Public Involvement
 - » Draft Bicycle Plan
 - » Review
 - » Final Plan and Presentation
 - » Bicycle Benefit Brochure

Vision, Goals, Opportunities and Challenges Discussion

Beginning with introductions, each attendee shared their vision and/or goals for this planning process as well as opportunities and challenges specific to Transylvania County. Topics discussed include the following:

- 8-80 group (all ages and abilities):
 - » Desire for bicycle facilities that are safe for children, safe for your average adult.
 - » Implement bicycle infrastructure that is separated from automobile traffic - shared use paths (greenways) as well as bike lanes.
- Brevard College:
 - » Improve bicycle connectivity through and to campus.
 - » Bicycle access - consider providing bicycles to freshman that do not have a car.
 - » Spring 2018 undergraduate class currently assembling a survey and other existing conditions information, to be coordinated with this planning process.
- Connect Dupont State Park and Pisgah National Forest:
 - » Explore potential partnerships with land management agencies for implementation.
- Regional Connectivity:
 - » Hendersonville, Asheville, Mills River, etc
- General desire to ride bicycle on-road more, along with desire for greenways (explore riparian corridors):
 - » A general lack of comfort for riding on roads with cars was reiterated by multiple attendees, and this was cited as one of the main reasons many people do not ride bikes.
- Many bicyclists seek the on-road experience currently in Transylvania County - beautiful, challenging terrain, pavement maintained, relatively lower traffic volumes compared to higher population density areas - significant numbers of road-bicycling tourists are already coming to Transylvania County.
- Several attendees have traveled to other countries (such as Germany) that have



developed bicycle infrastructure as part of their transportation system for decades - desire reiterated to build bicycle infrastructure into transportation system in Transylvania County.

- » Examples of other places cited for inspiration:
 - Germany
 - Wisconsin (especially Madison)
 - Durango, Colorado
 - Park City, Utah
- » Uninspiring places mentioned:
 - Chicago
 - Tuscon
- Public feedback from past planning processes to-note:
 - » Review survey results from the Transylvania Comprehensive Planning process as well as the Parks and Recreation Advisory group supporting greenways and bikeways.
- Policy:
 - » NCDOT Complete Streets policy in place.
 - » A bicycle plan creates leverage for including bicycle facilities alongside roadway projects.
 - » Currently, there is a large local cost match for NCDOT roadway projects to include bicycle/pedestrian facilities - other transportation projects don't require a local match.
 - Contact your state representative to let them know your view on this current policy.
 - » Build bicycle programming and infrastructure into public policy.
- Safety:
 - » Connections to schools - separated bicycle facilities (from motorists) should link schools.
 - Connect elementary, middle, and high school; connect Hap Simpson River Access to Brevard Elementary School (0.5 miles).
 - » Car drop-off logistics can be challenging - long lines form with idling cars for significant amounts of time - opportunities to improve transportation efficiency can include bicycle connectivity.
 - » Bicycle connectivity to schools - important component to overall quality of life.
- Economy, tourism opportunities:
 - » Maximize and promote bicycle tourism opportunities, capture dollars.
 - » Connect incredible outdoor opportunities across the county.
 - » Implementation - other places have used tourism money to fund greenways.
- Education and dialogue needed - both for bicyclists and motorists.
- Enforcement - Motorists and bicyclists both have laws to follow, both poor and good behavior reported on both motorists and bicyclists.
 - » 2016 - State law update - motorists can pass bicyclists along a double yellow line as long as there is four feet of clearance between the automobile and bicyclist.
 - For additional bicycle laws and policies, see - <https://www.ncdot.gov/bikeped/lawspolicies/>.
- Transportation needs - many people don't have drivers licenses or access to a car:
 - » 5.8% of households do not have access to a car in Transylvania County.
 - » Approximately 30% of North Carolinians do not have a drivers license.
- Environmental considerations - reduce carbon footprint.
- Evaluation - consider striving for Platinum (or Diamond) bicycle friendly community standard (League of American Bicyclists - <http://bikeleague.org/sites/default/files/BFC%20infographic.pdf>).



Map Mark-Up Notes

- Cedar Mountain highlighted as a destination
- Dupont State Forest highlighted as a destination with connectivity across various trailheads.
- Dollar General highlighted as a destination along Greenville Hwy between See Off Mountain Road and East Fork Road (also highlighted as a route from Brevard to Headwaters State Forest, and to Rosman).
- Consider pull-outs for bicycles going up US 276, as well as NC 215 and uphill routes if no space for bike lanes.
- Wilson Road highlighted.
- Hannah Ford Rd highlighted as better route for bicyclists (as opposed to Whitmire Rd).
- Better signage/wayfinding needed along the Brevard Greenway at the Poplar St/Fisher Rd intersection in Brevard.
- Brevard - South Broad Park to Probart St - route connection indicated along Oakdale St, Carver St, Mills Ave, and Hillview St/Ave.
- Brevard - connect back side of high school to Gallimore Rd sidepath/greenway.
- Improvements currently programmed along US 276 from NC 280/US 64 north toward the Avery Creek Trailhead.
- Several projects highlighted that were submitted in the SPOT 5.0 - <http://www.landofsky.org/rpo.html#spot>:
 - » Rosman
 - Rosman Main Street Multi-Use Path from Depot St. to existing path on Main St.
 - Old Rosman Hwy Multi-Use Path to Rosman Community Park
 - » Brevard
 - Railroad Ave. (SR 1351) Multi-Use Path from McLean Rd. (SR 1356) to W. Main St. (SR 1349) (connection to Brevard Greenway)
 - Multi-Use Path between Main Street and intersection of Hillview Street and Cashiers Valley Roads (continued connection to Brevard Greenway)
 - Multi-Use Path from Tannary Park to Brevard High School
 - Multi-Use Path from Neely Rd. to N. Broad St. (Brevard College)
 - Hillview Circle and Norton Creek Multi-Use Path (connection toward Bracken Preserve)
 - Music Camp Rd. Multi-Use Path (connection to Bracken Preserve)
- Brevard to Rosman - US 64 Multi-Use Path

Next Steps

- Data collection continued
- Identify existing plans and programs
- Schedule public open house workshops
- Schedule next Stakeholder Meeting (June)
- Add stakeholder meeting notes, powerpoint presentation, and draft base map to Transylvania County website

