

**Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia**  
**November 5 & 12, 2009**  
**Minutes**

**Attending (November 5 – Dalton):** Bill Moll, David Kenemer, David Howerin, Brad Kotrba, Ty Ross, David Baird, Catherine Edgemon, Benny Dunn

**Attending (November 12 – Rome):** Bill Moll, David Kenemer, Joe Anderson, Peter Cervelli, John Johnston, Charles Jones, J. P. Jones, Jim Henry, Sammy Rich, Linda Sloan, Irwin Bagwell, Rochelle Howard, Betty Sue Hickman, Bob Moore, Rob Ware, Sue Hiller

**Rail Banking and Action Plan**

- The rail segment under discussion is the section from the GDOT bypass construction at US 411 & 27, through the NW corner of Cave Spring into Polk county about one mile
  - The section is to be abandoned, since GDOT built the bypass on the RR right-of-way
  - When the abandonment was announced, Rome, Cave Spring and Floyd county sent a letter of interest to the Surface Transportation Board to railbank the section for use as part of the local trail system
  - Rome has sent a Public Use Condition request to initiate a time period to negotiate with Norfolk Southern for the property for railbanking
- Discussion was animated and extensive – key points included:
  - The section would fill a key gap in the network of hiking trails (Pinhoti Trail) in NW Georgia
  - The section would substantially connect Rome with the Silver Comet
  - Adjacent landowners are apprehensive about the affect on their properties of the conversion or the RR ROW to a bike trail
  - The source of the required funds has not been determined
  - The development of this trail (and the larger network of trails) could have a significant positive impact on the NWGARC
- A group was assigned to take a tour of the RR section on Friday, November 20

**Spring Workshops – Based on Dalton Bike-Ped Plan**

- Dalton is scheduled for development of a bike-ped plan in FY2010
- The spring program will be based on a national planner providing assistance to this plan, with participation/observation by other communities
- This is subject to meetings with Dalton to arrange details of the workshops
- The League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Community Program might be part of that effort

**Walking Lunches**

- Tentative locations include LaFayette, Trenton, Dalton, Rome and Cave Spring
- BWNWGA provides up to \$500 for promotion, t-shirts, etc. – but NO food (GDOT regulations) for the event

**Trail Map Printing Funding**

- There are no current formal requests
- Funds (up to \$1,000 usually) are available to help publish maps of walking trails

**League of American Bicyclists Cycling Classes**

- The local sponsoring organization has to provide a suitable location and assist in enrolling students (a maximum of 8 per class)
- The cost per person is \$25, with a \$25 match by BWNWGA

**Winter Speaker Series**

- Bill Moll will arrange the speakers in the next month

**Bike Route Network**

- The contract with Andy Carroll (UTC GIS Dept.) has been signed and the map data is being transferred to him

**Meeting was adjourned**

**Next meeting:** January 7 (Calhoun)