

**NW Georgia Regional Commission
Bike! Walk! Northwest Georgia Commission Meeting
Thursday, July 17 2014
Rome Office**

MINUTES

Introductions: Call in's, John Johnston, Cave Spring, David Kenemer, past Bike/Ped Director
In person: Connie Forester, Ron Underwood, Larry Madden, Jim Hunter, Lisa Stone, Kevin Howard, Missy Phillips, Tom Sills, Julie Smith, Charlie Jones, Alicia Hatcher

-FY 2015 GDOT Contract-Charlie Jones-GDOT is "working on the contract" and we hope to have an answer soon regarding the approval or any changes. The money requested is the same but has been allocated slightly differently. GDOT wants to focus on a new program, Teen Safe Driving, with safety programs at various schools. There is a new GDOT Bike/Ped Coordinator whom Charlie and Julie have met, who seems very intent on helping RC's but the contracts are still going through the prior Bike/Ped Coordinator, Emmanuella Myrthil.

-John Johnston reported on the meeting to be held tonight at the Cave Spring Visitor's Center that will focus on the future of Cave Spring as it relates to bikes, trails, and tourism. He will report on the meeting at the August BW meeting.

-Charlie Jones updated the group on the progress that Jim Johnson, owner of Bike Tours Direct, and Chattanooga resident, is making on connecting Chattanooga with the Silver Comet Trail. Charlie and David Howerin from the RC will be having a phone meeting with Jim on Friday, July 18.

-Ron and Connie reported on the success of the Battle of LaFayette walking tour. 70 shirts that were funded by a BW micro-grant were given out and there were almost 200 people at the event.

-Rome/Floyd Bike-Ped Update-Kevin Howard updated the group on the first Town Hall meeting held in June at the Civic Center regarding the Bike/Ped Plan. Brad Davis, from ALTA Consulting, was the speaker and garnered suggestions from participants on what they would like to see in Rome/Floyd Co regarding bike/ped infrastructure. The next workshop will be August 4 from 5:30-7 in the Berry Shorter room at the Forum in Rome.

-MAP 21 Training-Julie reported on the Advocacy Advance (Alliance for Biking and Walking and the League of American Bicyclists) MAP 21 funding training held in Chattanooga early July that Charlie and Julie attended. There is money for bike/ped initiatives under MAP 21 but it can be very specific and difficult to find. Julie will send out the PowerPoint presentation from the workshop. For more resources, visit the Alliance's website: www.peoplepoweredmovement.org

-Photos of the new Health Dept bike racks-Lisa Stone passed around several pictures of the bike racks that were installed at most of the 10 NW GA health departments. All of them are up, with the exception of Bartow, Paulding, Walker, and Rockmart.

New Business-Julie mentioned the concept of "Walk with a Doc" that she heard about from a friend at Decatur Active Living. The premise is to have a group of seniors walk with a doctor once a week and ask

him/her questions about health. There was an article in the AJC that she gave to Lisa Stone to pass along to people at the NWGPH offices.

-Charlie announced that there will be a slight edit to the micro-grant procedure. Multiple vendors on a grant created a lot of confusion and delay in the process. He reminded everyone that multi-jurisdictional projects are always wonderful for the micro-grants.

-Alicia reported on the first Safe Routes to School Statewide Forum, held in Decatur in early June. Over 100 people attended and they hope to have another forum next year. She is working on a SRTS RC webinar soon.

-The next meeting will be Thursday, August 14 at 9am, location TBD.