

Present: Eric, Charlene, Steve, Mary, Stu, Phil, Jared Wood, from DPW Commission, Barbara, Damon, Wayne, Abby Matera, and Jason Van Driesche from Local Motion

Jason Van Driesche, from Local Motion was asked to start a discussion with BWBC regarding the recent vehicle/pedestrian accidents in Burlington and in the rest of the state. He feels that are 2 main solutions: education and physical infrastructure. Jason stated:

- Statistics are scanty—if a vehicle isn't involved, there is no traffic report
- Emergency rooms report an upswing in longboard accidents on the road.
- Distracted driving is a growing factor.

Jared feels that BWBC focuses on 2/3—he feels BWBC needs to be more about cars.

Phil feels we need to be more political.

Review of the incidents: Two accidents in Burlington with pedestrians being hit by a car with 1 fatality.

- Study is being done of Colchester Avenue from the Winooski Bridge to Prospect Street.
- There needs to be more viable ways as alternates to moving people around the city.
- Jason encouraged people to urge the Public Works Commission to initiate a corridor study of South Winooski Avenue

Discussion of how BWBC get involved—work with the new mayor, and the new heads of UVM and FAHC.

There is a disproportionate amount of older people being hit. Jason suggested bringing Cathedral Square, AARP, Housing Authority and Senior Housing people on board to discussions. Maybe have senior people have reflective leg bands to wear. Jason wants ideas for a draft letter.

Phil asked why these accidents not being considered violent crimes. Wayne said that the police treat other crimes more seriously than bike/ ped accidents. Jason is trying to work with the police towards taking these accidents more seriously. Phil suggested talking with Bill Ward, now with Code Enforcement, for direction.

Jason distributed a Safe Streets Collaborative draft—regarding outreach with police—Tickets get people angry rather than working towards a cultural change. Phil feels this is “too little, too late”—Police should be on bikes in order to see what its really like (to ‘get it”)

Jason said that Nicole wants to gather different departments together to identify ways to collaborate on bike/ped safety and have BWBC involved. Stu said that the Federal Highway & Transportation Safety campaign on line has some creative educational ad campaigns

- Ideas generated: Jason: Draft a letter for My Turn in the Free Press
- Put out a press release after a plan for this spring is developed.
- Stu suggested a tie-in with the Summit on March 31
- Barbara suggested getting Joel Banner Baird, from the Free Press involved, as he is a strong supporter of BWBC
- Eric said that getting a letter from AARP will help show a different perspective than the BWBC.
- Jared suggested that the head of the Free Press be approached regarding the concerns about the increased fatalities and have them do some community service about this.

Plan: Jason will draft a joint letter from Local Motion and BWBC and Charlene will send it to the Steering Committee for review.

Summit on March 31 at Main Street Landing-The Regional Planning Commission is paying for it and for the speaker

Janes Walk on Saturday, May 12th--Plan to have Janes Walk start with a few coffee houses with some discussion of problem intersections as the walk travels to the coffee houses. Then, most likely at the Fletcher Free Library, a film on the urban Renewal project in Burlington will be shown then we will walk around this area. We are hoping to have some people from the Italian-American club "lead" the walk.

Stu will look into any liability issues and get back to us

Meeting adjourned.