

## **Notes for August 25, 2008 meeting of Bike and Pedestrian Access Working Group of Transportation Solutions**

**Present:** Diane Mitsch Bush-RCBCC, Joe Cashen, Butch Boucher, Sandi Gibson, John Eastman-city of Steamboat springs Planning Department, Janet Hruby-city Engineer-Public works, Robin Craigen-RCR

**Overall general goal as discussed throughout the meeting** (this is a **rough, first draft**-we can work on it later):

Create and maintain safe, convenient pedestrian and bicycle access throughout the City of Steamboat springs with connections to the Core Trail and connections to unincorporated Routt County. Such safe, convenient pedestrian and bicycle access would enable safe routes to school, to work, for play and for errands and shopping. Having safe, convenient alternatives would promote more use of non-motorized modes of transportation and improve both our quality of life and the visitor experience. It is one piece of a potential set of solutions for traffic congestion.

We talked about the importance of **linking our efforts to the Bike Friendly Community Status** and building on the hard work done by many people to get that BFC status for Steamboat springs. We also discussed **partnerships with businesses** and sharing ideas with businesses, such as encouraging bike racks and Moots's practice of paying workers a\$1.00 per day to commute via bike .We noted the Chamber's Sustainable business program and that businesses could get points for encouraging multiple modes of transportation.

We discussed **both short term and longer term projects/solutions**, noting that **phasing** will be an important part of solutions. John noted that every trip begins as a pedestrian trip.

**Much of our discussion was in the context of particular, short term available funding and time lines for that funding: Safe Routes to School Grants and the city's 2009 budget, especially CIP (Capital Improvement Project) items.**

Here are the **6 ideas we discussed**. Under each one I have put some highlights:

### **1. extension of the Core Trail west of its current end point to Steamboat II-Heritage park-Riverbend**

This is an action item in the WSSAP

Tie to 700; safety and community support not just from West neighborhoods (e.g. soccer field users) regional nature of such an extension; similar to Summit County Discussion of tunnels and separated grades

ROW

Safe Routes to School

**2. bike –ped friendly improvements on Elk river road/RCR 129, starting at the Hwy 40 intersection**

We noted the importance of this intersection and route for the growing number of businesses in this area and for links to popular recreation destinations (trailhead access).

Incremental nature of improvements in keeping with City CIP: Phase 1. From US 40 to downhill Drive (special emphasis on area from US 40 to existing trail-lane on East side of 129)  
Phase 2: from Downhill Drive to Airport

Relationship to RC plans for shoulders from Airport to Mad Creek (but note this is on hold due to budget issues)

Noted the link between this solution and the soon to be started US 40 Categorical Exclusion Study-EA. It will be important for us to get concerned residents to either submit written comments or attend meetings or both so that this project stays in the spotlight.

**3. Safe Routes to School, starting with ped/bike crossing on Amethysts near: “Church Hill” Trail to connect with Butcherknife Trail system (others?)**

WE focused on the Safe Routes to Schools grant application process. Janet will get us more info on this. Key items discussed: marked crossings, signage, marked lanes, bike racks. We discussed idea of neighborhood pods for routes to school. Robin, Sandi, Butch, and Joe will each come up with “pod routes”. Next time we can have John or Janet bring a map and we can locate routes on it.

**4. park n rides at the edges of town and in unincorporated Routt County along 129 and 131 or 14**

Minimal discussion due to time constraints, but we did note the importance of this.

**5. ped/bike signage, marked crossings, and marked bike-ped lanes on shoulders in downtown and the mountain**

WE discussed in relation to numbers 1-4 above

**6. education and PR**

WE noted the importance of a “from letter” that we could get people to sign and send to City Council for budget-CIP hearings and to Routt County BCC. We did not discuss specifics, but noted the importance.

Meeting times: We agreed that Monday at 5 pm was a good time, as long as we stick to a 45-50 minute schedule. We can do much of our work via e-mail.

**Does September 22, Monday at 5pm, same place work?**

**Tasks/Assignments**

1. Janet will get out info on Safe Routes to School grants and on CIP
2. Diane will do notes and get e-mails out
3. Robin, Sandi, Joe and Butch will note routes; next time we can locate them on the map
4. Butch will get contacts for 129 businesses and he will begin talking to them

**Potential agenda items for our next meeting:**

1. see if we can put help staff put together a Safe Routes to School grant Application

2. letter for people to send to City Council re: CIP and alternative Modes
3. get schedule for public meetings; city CIP, county Budget, US 40 Cat Ex-EA study
4. feedback from 129 businesses
5. Other?