BMA APPEARS AT OPEN SPACE BOARD MEETING ASKING FOR TRAIL ACCESS IN WESTERN CITY TRAILS

December 9, 2010

BMA advocacy team including president Jason Vogel and advocacy director, Mike Barrow, showed up to the Open Space Board of Trustees (OSBT) meeting to ask the board to have a conversation about bikes in the contentious West TSA area of Boulder's City Open Space. West TSA is the City's designation for the open space area that includes the lands from Mount Sanitas on the north to Eldorado Springs Drive on the south - on which bikes have been banned by the city since the late '80s.

To date, a publicly chosen group of citizens has worked for the last year to make recommendations as to what the city should do with these open space areas. They could not agree on a whether or not bikes should be granted access and so pushed the decision into the "non-consernsus process" where staff will make a recommendation to the OSBT and the City Council. Last night's meeting was specifically targeted at allowing the public to comment on what had been proposed by the original citizen's group. Since mountain bikes were not agreed upon by that group, the meeting was intended to focus largely on other topics.

Our hope at BMA is that by opening a dialogue now, we may be able to prepare for coming discussion with OSBT and City Council on this topic. Last night Vogel stated, "I come to you today, as most mountain bikers in this room, not because you're talking about our issue, but because nobody is talking about our issue. We've got a lot of ideas on how to make bike access work." Check out an article here in the Daily Camera about how it went down.

In the next few months, we'll be working hard to find a way for access to happen in this critical part of our open space so that, if nothing else people can commute to work or to the trails south of town like people do in the north on the Foothills Trail. As usual, if you want to get involved, we can really use your help. Please get in touch with the advocacy director and he'll help you get plugged in.