

**Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study
Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2024**

In attendance:

Scott Reigle (BMTS), Nick Cecconi (Getthere), Susan Pitely (NYSDOT R-9), Brian Cohen (BMTS), Stephanie Brewer (BC Planning), Tanya Husick (Binghamton University), Cyndi Paddick (Public), Devin Link (BCDOH)

Convene: 1:35 PM

January 8 minutes accepted with correction noting Binghamton University is updating its Bicycle & Pedestrian Infrastructure Plan.

Topic	Discussion/Follow Up	Action
Projects/ Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian presented the 2023 Two Rivers Greenway Trail Rating Report, which is available at https://bmtsonline.com/data/pavement-ratings. Brian walked the Committee through the process and methodology used to collect data and make trail ratings for the entire Two Rivers Greenway system. Ratings consisted of two scores: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pavement: Scores range from 1-4. 1: Poor, 2: Fair, 3: Good, 4: Excellent. When assessing pavement, collectors looked at the frequency and depth of cracking. ○ Maintenance: Scores range from 1-3: 1: Poorly Maintained, 2: Maintained, 3: Well Maintained. When assessing maintenance, collectors analyzed the trail and surrounding conditions; whether there was trash, overgrown vegetation, encroachment on to the trail, etc <p>The Trail Rating Report also included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Events: When traversing the trails, collectors looked at any major hazards or items to note that should be addressed. Examples of these could be large potholes in the pavement that could cause a hazard for pedestrians. ○ Signage: When traversing the trail, collectors looked at the signage along the trails to see if any damage is noted. These signs are included in the report for municipalities to address. <p>Lastly, Brian demonstrated the interactive map available on the same webpage as the report.</p>	Action Items:
Roadway Needs Report: Follow Up to Previous Meeting Items:	<p>Follow-up Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian Signals at Henry St. & Chenango St. Intersection – Margaret Opalka (AVRE) reported via email that she is still working on getting the pedestrian signals working on Chenango and Henry. A client of hers is now advocating with city council. She further added that the route from the Junction to anywhere is terrible for pedestrians, but especially for her visually impaired/blind clients and coworkers that use public transit daily. 	Action Items:

	<p>Scott asked Margaret if any of the visually impaired community has commented on the decorative crosswalks at the State & Henry and State & Lewis intersections. She replied that one client mentioned the decorative crosswalks. The client felt that they were confusing. Margaret also said that all her clients appreciate the Audible Pedestrian Signal (APS) systems that are installed in the downtown area. They cannot all hear them due to ambient noise or distance from the actual curb.</p> <p>It was noted that the parallel white lines on the decorative crosswalks are already fading.</p> <p>New Needs Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<p>Scott will notify the City of Binghamton about the fading parallel white lines on the decorative crosswalks</p>
<p>Announcements and Status Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper Articles/Notices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2024 Walk, Bike, & Roll NY Symposium will be hosted at the Double Tree Hotel-Downtown Binghamton on September 16-18. Registration is \$75 for entire Symposium. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conference Information: https://www.itsmr.org/event/2024-walk-bike-roll-new-york-symposium/ ▪ Call for Abstracts – Submissions still being accepted and reviewed: Go to bit.ly/wbr-abstracts to submit your presentation abstract. <p>Scott is organizing a walking and bike tour that will feature the new greenway trails. For the walking tour, Greg Kilmer, BC Transit Commissioner was contacted to see if using the BC Transit trolley or bus is possible to take the group to a few stops. For the biking tour, Scott will ask Mark Goodwin, STBC President, if he or another STBC member will lead a ride. Scott asked Tanya if the BU Bike Share bikes can be made available for riders to borrow. She will contact the bike share company to ask about that possibility.</p> <p>NYS DOT Region 9 submitted a presentation proposal that would share how NYS DOT has worked to include multi-use trails as part of their transportation projects. Scott will be part of the presentation to provide context for the trail projects within the overall Two Rivers Greenway.</p>	<p>Action Items:</p> <p>Committee is asked to help spread the word about Walk, Bike, & Roll NY Symposium and encourage submission of presentation abstracts.</p>
<p>Education and Outreach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Binghamton Bridge Pedal –Saturday, August 10th, 9am-12pm. A planning meeting is scheduled for March 21 at 10am via zoom. Anyone on the Committee is invited to participate in the Bridge Pedal planning. Scott reviewed the planned bike ride route with the Committee using Google Maps. 	<p>Action Items:</p>
<p>Projects/ Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian and Bicycle Counter Reports are available on the BMTS website. Scott provided a quick overview of the monthly counter reports and gave a more detailed presentation of the <i>Two Rivers Greenway 2023 in Review</i> document, also available at https://bmtsonline.com/data/bikeped-counts. This web-based reports provides a 	<p>Action Items:</p> <p>Download Counter Reports at: https://bmtsonline.com/data/bikeped-counts</p>

photo, total annual count of bikes & pedestrians, annual count comparisons, and 2023 monthly counts compared to average temperature for each counter location. The report also states that in 2023, 1,607,672 pedestrian and bicycle counts were taken along the Two Rivers Greenway at the 15 active counter locations. 6,855,164 total counts have been taken since the initial installation of counters in the summer of 2019. A graphic in the report shows the amount of activity at each counter locations, with the busiest counter locations being the South Washington St. Bridge, followed by the Vestal Rail-Trail counters. It will be interesting to see the activity at the Rt. 434 Greenway counters over the following years, especially with them only being activated since August of 2023. Finally, the report showed that the modal split for the combined counters indicated 13% bicyclists. The Rt. 434 counters, however, have shown a much higher percentage of bicyclists with a percentage closer to 50%. It will be interesting to see if this trend changes much in future years.

Scott also updated the Committee to inform them that NYSDOT has contacted him to ask for cone of site diameter information to help determine the type of planting needed to create a visual barrier to remedy car counting at the MacArthur Park counter. Hopefully we'll see something planted soon this Spring, and be able to emulate the planting with the Town of Dickinson at the US11 over I-81 counter.

- **Binghamton Levee Repair Project** – Scott informed the Committee that BMTS became aware from viewing the recording of the February 5th Binghamton City Council Work Session meeting that the City is required to repair a levee by bringing it to the proper height starting from the Chenango Riverwalk Trail ramp at the north end of Water St. northward through Cheri Lindsey Park, continuing under the highway interchange, and ending just south of Deforest Street. The project entails the removal of the existing multi-use trail along with some of the trail lighting and signage. BMTS met with City Engineering and Planning Department officials to discuss the importance of rebuilding the trail and possibly extending it further north to Bevier Street. Rebuilding the trail will necessitate a Dept. of Environmental Conservation permitting process. BMTS is drafting a letter to the City that expresses the importance of this segment of trail and offering its technical assistance to the City to make rebuilding and possibly extending the trail a priority.
- **Update - Formation of a Friends of the Two Rivers Greenway (TRG) Group** – Scott shared that an initial meeting with BMTS (Brian & Scott), Cyndi Paddick; Susan Pitely, Kris Gilbert, and Mike Haas took place on February 8th. It was decided that an initial step would be to create a contact list for each municipality with trail segments comprising the Two Rivers Greenway. BMTS would then reach out to them to ask if they are currently working with groups to maintain trails, what the municipality requires for volunteer groups to maintain the trails such as signing a waiver, what materials would the municipality supply for maintenance efforts, do they coordinate and promote

Scott will arrange a meeting with BMTS staff, Mark B., Cyndi P., Susan P., Mike Haas, and other interested individuals to establish initial priorities for the Friends group, and work on preparing for a public meeting during the Spring.

	<p>events on their respective trails, and would they be interested in working with a Friends of the Two Rivers Greenway (TRG) initially for maintenance activities. These questions have been sent out to the contacts. Broome County parks responded, have worked with volunteer groups before, and would be interested in working with a Friends of the TRG. The Town of Dickinson also responded with an interest in working with a Friends group. No responses yet from Endicott, Vestal or Binghamton. Stephanie will provide Scott with a new Binghamton Parks contact since Pat McGinnis is on leave.</p> <p>Brian showed his GIS-based map of the Two Rivers Greenway to the Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for March 25 at 1:30pm via zoom or in-person at the County Planning Dept. 5th floor Conference Room. All welcome to join!</p>	Stephanie will provide Scott with a new Binghamton Parks contact since Pat McGinnis is on leave.
Agency/ Dept. Updates	<p>NYSDOT Region 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p>Binghamton University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tanya Husick shared that the E-Transportation Device Registration Requirement (See https://www.binghamton.edu/offices/environmental-health-safety/fire-prevention/battery-fire-safety.html) went into effect on February 14 as a part of BUS Policy & Safety Rules that are based on NYS law. Registrations are coming in. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	Action Items:
Other	None	Action Items:

Adjourn: 2:25 PM

Next Meeting: Monday, April 8, 2024 at 1:30PM