

**Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study
Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2023**

In attendance:

Scott Reigle, Nick Cecconi, Carlos Basualdo, Susan Pitely, Isabella Paullay

Convene: 1:34 PM

February 13 minutes accepted as is.

Topic	Discussion/Follow Up	Action
<p>Roadway Needs Report:</p> <p>Follow Up to Previous Meeting Items:</p>	<p>Follow-up Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does NYSDOT Region 9 have plans to study the possibility of installing a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) to cross Upper Front St. to the south of Elizabeth manor driveway? Employees from the surrounding businesses need the crossing to get to the bus stop, without having to walk to the signal some distance away. <p>Susan said that NYSDOT waits at least one year to do any studies after a significant change to a roadway or intersection. She will check with NYSDOT Traffic & Safety if a PHB signal study will be undertaken, maybe next summer.</p> <p>New Needs Reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new reports. 	<p>Action Items:</p> <p>Susan to follow-up with Reg. 9 Traffic & Safety about the possible PHB study on Upper Front Street.</p>
<p>Announcements and Status Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper Articles/Notices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>NYBC New Leadership</u>: Scott informed the Committee that the New York Bicycling Coalition announced new leadership. See the announcements below: <i>Anne Savage joined the NYBC in late February as Interim Executive Director. Anne's non-profit management skills and her dedication to walking and biking advocacy are just what we need to grow our membership and build our organization so we can strengthen the voices of cyclists across New York. If you are going to the National Bike Summit later this month, you will get to meet Anne because she is coordinating New York's Lobby Day visits.</i> <i>Tom Benware joined us in early January as our Bicycle Safety Director. You may have known Tom through his work as the Pedestrian and Bicycle Program Manager for NYS Department of Transportation. We are lucky to have Tom managing our grant with the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC), where he and his team of contractors will be distributing safety material including our updated pocket guide and new e-bike educational rack cards and partnering with groups across the state to provide safety tips to all road and street users!</i> 	<p>Action Items:</p>

<p>Education and Outreach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2023 Binghamton Bridge Pedal is scheduled to take place on Saturday, August 12th 9am-12pm. A Bridge Pedal Planning Meeting was held on January 26th and the next one is scheduled for March 16th. Price structure will be the same – Adults \$15/60 & Over \$10/18 & under FREE. Scott reported that the shirt color will be neon orange with white or navy blue text. The bike ride route with stops is finished, though changes can be made as needed. Event and parks permits are being completed for submission toward the end of April. • Broome County Health Dept. Creating Healthy Schools & Communities (CHSC) Grant: Scott reported that he, Aimee Chalusant (BC Health Dept.), and Stephanie Brewer (BC Planning Dept.) met with City of Binghamton officials on March 2 to discuss how the City could use the grant funds. The City will update its Complete Streets Plan, beginning with assessing the current plan using a self-assessment tool. Ideas for low-cost complete streets improvements were also discussed, focusing on locations near the Rt. 434 Greenway and MacArthur School. Initial ideas were building a sidewalk from Brookfield Rd. into MacArthur Park, and crosswalks & signing at Veterans Drive near the pool and baseball field. There may be an opportunity for this Committee to review any future projects. • Broome County Health Dept. Community Health Assessment (CHA) & Community Health Implementation Plan (CHIP): Scott will be the BMTS representative on the Broome County CHA & CHIP Advisory Committee. Healthy lifestyles through active living through active transportation will be one focus that BMTS can promote. 	<p>Action Items:</p>
<p>Project/Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian and Bicycle Counter Reports are available on the BMTS website. For January, we are seeing the effects of longer daylight and continued milder weather as counts for each counter have increased since December. <u>US11 over I-81 Counter:</u> Continuing to see strong count levels as high as the 400's. Need to go on-site to confirm counts soon. <u>Court St. Bridge Counter:</u> BMTS has not heard from the City or DEC about any need to move the counter yet. <u>Noyes Island Counter:</u> The counter post was knocked over and the induction loop wires were cut. The post was thrown into some trees along a fence at the top of the railed ramp. A man fishing at the river alerted Scott to the location of the post. Scott took the post & counter back to the office and is arranging with the City of Binghamton to try to install a cement footer on which to secure the counter post. 	<p>Action Items:</p> <p>Download Counter Reports at: https://bmtsonline.com/data/bikeped-counts</p>

- **Watson Blvd. Complete Streets Implementation Project** – Scott reported that the consultants are now working on the inventory and analysis of existing conditions. Based on the February 9 field visit, the following are preliminary findings:

Opportunities:

- o North side of Watson Boulevard might make the most sense for a sidewalk.
- o New development at the former golf course will bring 75 new housing units on-line, with construction starting in 2023.
- o Former golf course owners had previously approached the Town of Union to donate the lower parking lot as park space. If this lot was acquired, the trail in this area could be pulled slightly off the road and there may be an opportunity to create a “rest area.”
- o East end of the corridor may be the priority area because the highest pedestrian activity occurs here (e.g., around the Pour House), there is new development going on (i.e., golf course property), and there are potentially friendly property owners in the area.
- o Potential to create a mid-block crossing near the Pour House to connect people from parking lot to business.
- o Potential to tie into ongoing BC Transit work, including installation of new bus shelters and development of new signage plan. Transit stops along the corridor should be designed to be ADA-accessible (e.g., 5’ by 8’ with turning area).
- o If ROW along west end of Watson Boulevard is too narrow, could potentially pull trail up onto Hoover Avenue or Country Club Road, although slopes along these roads are steep

Constraints:

- o Watson Boulevard is very narrow in some areas.
- o Cars travel fast along the corridor.
- o Does not feel safe to run or bike when busy (i.e., past 7am).
- o Frequent flooding near the Pour House. Underpass to Route 17C also floods quickly.
- o The flood walls act as pinch points and DEC has stringent requirements for bringing a trail/sidewalk up and over flood control structures.
- o Broome County does not own or maintain any sidewalks or trails. Sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner and trails are the responsibility of the municipality.
- o Steep topography along the western section of the corridor.
- o A transmission tower is located at the eastern terminus of the study area corridor, approximately 11 feet north of the westbound shoulder. There are also Buckeye pipeline sampling/access points on both sides of the road at the eastern terminus.
- o A waterbody exists just west of the Traditions property.

Concept recommendations for Complete Streets improvements are expected during July & August. Scott will involve the Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee in reviewing the recommendations.

- **Vestal Rail-Trail East Extension Update** – The Town of Vestal was awarded \$2.3 million in funding from the 2021 Transportation Alternative Program toward the \$2.9 M project of extending the Vestal Rail Trail eastward from African Road to Sycamore Road. Scott shared that a public meeting for the project was anticipated

	<p>during April of 2023. Design approval was estimated for June 2023, and project letting expected during March 2024 with construction soon afterward.</p> <p>Starting at African Rd., a midblock crosswalk will be installed on African Rd. to connect the original Rail Trail to the new east extension. The new trail will split to access the parking lot on Vestal Rd. as well as to connect to Harold Moore Park. This part of the trail will be 10-feet wide. The main trail will be along the former rail corridor and will be 12-feet wide. The trail will terminate at the east end at Sycamore Rd. and a 5-foot sidewalk will be constructed to connect the trail to the Town Square Mall at Sam's Club.</p>	
Agency/Dept. Updates	<p>NYS DOT Region 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates. 	
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	

Adjourn: 2:30 PM

Next Meeting:

Monday, April 10, 2023 at 1:30PM