


**Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study
Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2023**

In attendance:

Scott Reigle (BMTS), Nick Cecconi (Getthere), Susan Pitely (NYSDOT R-9), Stephanie Brewer (BC Planning), Mark Goodwin (STBC), Margaret Opalka (AVRE), Brian Cohen (BMTS)

Convene: 1:32 PM

September 11 minutes accepted as is.

Topic	Discussion/Follow Up	Action
Introductions	Scott introduced Brain Cohen, BMTS's new Transportation Analyst to the Committee.	
Roadway Needs Report: Follow Up to Previous Meeting Items:	<p>Follow-up Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The broken pedestrian signal head at the southwest corner of Lester Ave. and Harry L. Drive has been replaced. Scott has not contacted the City of Binghamton regarding the Chenango St. & Henry St. southwest corner pedestrian buttons not working. Margaret confirmed that several push buttons at the intersection were not working. Scott will follow-up on this with the Binghamton DPW & Engineering. <p>New Needs Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decorative Crosswalks at State St. & Henry St. and State St. & Lewis St. – Scott showed a photo of one of the decorative crosswalks and asked the committee if they had any safety issues with the design of the crosswalk. Scott stated that BMTS's main concern is that such crosswalks are clearly identified as crosswalks from the motorist and pedestrian perspectives. The parallel white stripes on both sides of the crosswalk provides such clarity. Margaret stated that the white zig-zag line in the middle of the crosswalk also helps to indication that it is a crosswalk. She added that the textured paint is helpful for the sight impaired using canes. The slightly raised paint for the striping would not be a vibration issue for 	<p>Action Items:</p> <p>Scott will contact Binghamton DPW & Engineering officials to inform them of the nonfunctioning pedestrian signal push buttons and request them to be fixed.</p>

wheelchair users. All on the Committee like the crosswalk design with the splash of color and would like to see more installed.

- Stephanie added that there is **no good pedestrian access to the Guitar Center or Oakdale Commons** from the Wegman's pedestrian crossing of Harry L. Drive.
- **Rt. 434 Greenway/SE Corner at Murray Hill Rd.** – Scott shared that he received an email from Mark Bowers and a BU student who bikes to campus using the Rt. 434 Greenway who noted a potential safety issue regarding the southeast corner being flush with the pavement to the right and left of a drainage grate that is straight inline with the shoulder on the south side of Rt. 434, which she uses to access the BU Campus at Glenn Bartle Drive. Scott informed the Committee that this issue was brought to the NYSDOT Region 9 Bike/Ped Committee to consider. Scott shared the following response he provided to the student that resulted from the meeting:

It is acknowledged that the curb design is atypical, but was necessary to accommodate drainage, directing runoff to the drainage grate. Susan Pitely visited the site and shared photos of the corner with us to enable us to see the corner from multiple vantage points. The following conclusion were made:

- *There were no recommended treatments that would effectively prevent bicyclists from continuing straight and going over the grate. Bicyclists typically try to avoid drainage grates, which should deter most cyclists from going straight and draw them to the curb ramp and crosswalk, which is where all crossings should take place. As you also noted, slowing down at the intersection is also important.*
- *NYS Vehicle & Traffic Law says that bicyclists are to travel in the same direction as motorists on roadways. Although the most direct route is desirable, cyclists are discouraged from riding against traffic (i.e. westbound) on the south side shoulder of Rt. 434 to access the BU Campus.*
 - o *You may already be aware that there is access to the BU Campus on Murray Hill Rd., about 0.15 miles south of the Rt. 434 intersection.*
 - o *With the Rt. 434 Greenway now in operation, it may be an opportunity for students and faculty to meet with the BU Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS) team to discuss the need for a more direct pedestrian and bicycle access to the BU Campus.*

The BMTS Ped/Bike Committee recommended that the response be sent to the BU Traffic & Parking officials for their information and to show the need for better access from the Rt. 434 Greenway to the main Campus. It would also be good to inquire about plans for pedestrian and bike access from the Rt. 434 Greenway to Bunn Hill Road.

Susan also followed up regarding the question of making the Rt. 434 shoulders formal bike lanes. She said this was not possible because pedestrians also need to use the shoulders on most of Rt. 434.

Scott will provide the information recommended in the **Rt. 434 Greenway/SE Corner at Murray Hill Rd.** to Tanya Husick, Exec. Dir. Of Transportation and Parking Services at BU, as well invite her or a representative to participate on the BMTS Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Announcements and Status Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper Articles/Notices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Status of the Removal of the Old Pedestrian Bridge over I-81 – Susan shared that the deconstruction would likely start in the following week (i.e. Week of October 23). The approaches to the bridge will remain, but the asphalt will be removed, and they will be blocked by right-of-way fencing 	Action Items:
Education and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Binghamton Bridge Pedal – Possible dates include Saturday, August 10th or 17th, 9am-12pm. 	Action Items:
Project/Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian and Bicycle Counter Reports are available on the BMTS website. Scott shared that BMTS has successfully tested visual barriers by using a 4-foot by 3-foot white foam board for the MacArthur Park and US11 over I-81 counters that were counting motor vehicles. BMTS will work with the City of Binghamton and Town of Dickinson to install interim visual barriers using plastic corrugated sheets. The City’s Parks Commissioner informed BMTS that he has instructed the Engineering Dept. not to sign-off on the Rt. 434 Greenway construction inspection until NYSDOT or the contractor remedies the car counting issue. BMTS looks forward to working with them for a permanent fix. • Chugnut Trail West Extension to Grippen Park. - Stephanie provided an overview of what this project will look like and the likely route of the trail from Mercereau Park to Roundtop Park to Grippen Park. The project is being led by Broome County in cooperation with the Town of Union and the Village of Endicott. She also asked the Committee for input on the potential use of a splitter island at the Grippen Park end of the trail to block vehicular access to the trail and if there were other ideas. Scott said that the splitter island may work though he hasn’t seen one used on any trails he’s been on. Concern was raised for maintenance and emergency vehicle being able to access the trail. 	Action Items: Download Counter Reports at: https://bmtsonline.com/data/bikeped-counts
Agency/Dept. Updates	NYSDOT Region 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan shared that the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) applications are due on January 9th. Award announcements are estimated to be 6-7 months after the application submission deadline. Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	Action Items:
Other	None	Action Items:

Adjourn: 2:45 PM

Next Meeting: Monday, November 13, 2023 at 1:30PM