

**Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study
Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2020**

In attendance:

Scott Reigle, Susan Pitely, Nick Cecconi, Stephanie Brewer, Ashley Seyfried, Gay Canough

Convened at 1:34 p.m.

October 19th minutes accepted as is.

Topic	Discussion/Follow Up	Action
<p>Roadway Needs Report:</p> <p>Follow Up to Previous Meeting Items:</p>	<p><u>Follow Up:</u> On October 22, edge lines were painted on Plaza Drive and Oxford Place, creating a defined space for pedestrians. Scott reported that nobody is taking credit for this getting done, but the Vestal Engineering and Highway Departments were able to get it done without too much support and a little angst from “above”. Photos were shown of the roadways with the new striping. The pedestrian space averages about 4-feet wide. Pedestrians in the photos fit well within the space and were even able to walk side-by-side. On-street parking on Oxford Pl. is still permitted. Scott was requested by a Town official to remind him about the desired crosswalks early next year, and they will likely be able to “sneak those in”.</p> <p>The Committee also asked Scott to contact the BU student and see if there are any plans for survey of students who use the roadway to see if they feel safer & more comfortable.</p> <p><u>Needs:</u> Stephanie recommended investigating if the edge line treatment would be beneficial on Morgan Rd. in Binghamton. Traffic speeding is an issue, it is a bus route, and there are only one small section of sidewalk on the north side. Morgan Rd. accesses the Ross Park Zoo and the Discovery Center. Lower Ross Park improvements are expected in a few years.</p>	<p>Scott will follow-up with Vestal regarding crosswalks during the first quarter of 2021.</p> <p>Scott will also talk with the BU student to ask if a survey can be done with the student who will use the roadway to walk</p> <p>BMTS will</p>

		<p>work with Binghamton to determine if edge stripes can be installed on Morgan Road.</p>
<p>Newspaper Articles/Notices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing in addition to the Article Digest. 	
<p>Educational & Outreach</p>	<p><u>Pedestrian Safety Campaign</u> Scott shared a news report of a Pedestrian Safety Campaign carried-out by the Albany Police Department on October 28. See https://www.news10.com/news/albany-county/police-urge-drivers-to-stop-for-pedestrians/. It was funded through the NYS Governors Traffic Safety Committee. BMTS would like to work with the Broome County Traffic Committee to do this locally, possibly with BU Police, a local Police Dept. or the Broome County Sheriff.</p> <p><u>Binghamton Bridge Pedal</u> Planning for 2021 will begin during January or February when, hopefully, there will be a better understanding of what is going to happen with COVID. Stephanie shared her quick search to see what is going on with group rides during COVID. She saw a number of events were canceled this year, but there is guidance that can help plan for future events. Whether the event ends up happening or not a lot of these items will need to be considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USA Cycling, Group Ride Guidance: https://s3.amazonaws.com/usac-craft-uploads-production/documents/COVID-19-Event-Resources/Group_Ride_Recommendations_061220.pdf • USA Cycling, Group Ride Scenarios: https://s3.amazonaws.com/usac-craft-uploads-production/documents/COVID-19-Event-Resources/Cycling-Group-Ride-Scenarios-COVID-19-21May20.pdf <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reach out to BC Health Dept and Emergency Services to see if they have any thoughts on if it is safe to have the event and if they have any guidance ○ Risk Factors: right now we are limited to gathering of 10 people or less – this will impact if we can have the event or not, whether or not we are in a yellow/orange/red zone at the time of the event, will people be traveling from other regions, are there at-risk populations i.e. over 65 that typically participate, proximity of cyclists for this ride, indoor after-event and shared food/drinks, a set of protocols/guidelines will need to be developed for riders to follow i.e. wearing mask the entire length of the ride, mass gathering at start and stops along the way 	<p>Scott to ask Cyndi Paddock to follow-up on this with the BC Traffic Safety Committee</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expense Factors: will PPE and sanitation materials be provided, will we need health checks on the day of the event, do we have a refund policy, will there be enough riders to balance the costs of the event, is there any special training volunteers need to have, limit participation to pre-registered riders only <p>During Committee discussion, it was also questioned whether insurance cost for the event would increase due to COVID, and whether the City of Binghamton would issue an event permit and whether the City Police Dept. would participate. A decision of whether to hold the 2021 event will need to be made during April/May. It was suggested to email past participants to survey them later in the first quarter of 2021 to see their interest and comfort in doing a 2021 event.</p>	
<p>Project/Events</p>	<p>Ashely gave the October update on the Pedestrian & Bike Counters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Like in September, counts are down from previous months, but that is likely due to seasonal fluctuation. ● The Owego counter was re-installed using flex tape, glue, and paste to waterproof the manhole. <p>The Committee would like to hear more details on Endicott’s Chugnut Trail west extension.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A section of trail from the corner of River Terrace & Mersereau Ave. through Mercereau Park to S. Loder Ave. is under construction. ● Stephanie thought the County had funds to extend it further west to Roundtop Park and Grippen Park. Scott will see if we can have the Chugnut Trail west extension added to the January or February agenda. 	<p>Scott will talk to Beth Lucas about presenting more details on Endicott’s Chugnut Trail west extension at the January or February meeting.</p>
<p>Agency/Dept. Updates</p>	<p><u>NYSDOT Region 9</u> – Susan reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Route 434 Greenway – Construction is underway with the main work for the end of this year being utilities and cutting trees ● Route 363 Project – Nothing new to report. ● Route 11/Front St. Bridge over I-81 – Work will begin during 2021. The existing pedestrian bridge will not be addressed with this project. ● No word on the schedule for the next round of Transportation Alternatives (TAP) funding. <p><u>Broome County Office for Aging</u> – Scott shared that the Broome Age-Friendly Action Plan was approved by AARP and share action plan items that were pertinent to this Committee. OFA is looking at a 3-5 year time period to implement the Plan. The link to the Broome Age-Friendly Action Plan is below: https://gobroomecounty.com/sites/default/files/dept/senior/OFA%20Administration/Age%20Friendly%20Action%20Plan%202020.pdf</p>	

<p>Other</p>	<p><u>BC Planning Dept.</u> – Stephanie shared the concept designs from the consultant performing the Vestal Road Study that is looking for feasible ways to add pedestrian and bicycle facilities on Vestal Rd. from Bunn Hill Rd. to African Rd. Initial concepts recommend a multi-use trail using the abandoned rail from African Rd. to the gas station where the former rail bridge over Vestal Rd. was. Going further east would be shared roadway travel for bicycles and sidewalks on one side of the road.</p> <p>Susan noted that BU has committed to build a multi-use trail from the Rt. 434 Greenway Trail end at Murray Hill Rd. to Bunn Hill Rd.</p> <p>Ashley asked if they would consider two-way buffered bike lanes?</p> <p>The study will be finished in February. Ask for a report for the February or March Committee meeting.</p> <p><u>Rural Health Network (RHN)</u> – Nick shared that the RHN has an intern majoring in Environmental Studies. The student is working on a project to promote community health by encouraging people to go outside for activities during the winter. The student can contact Stephanie about ways to use GoAllOut Broome.</p>	<p>Scott will ask Leigh McCullen or Jenn Yonkoski to present the Study at the February or March meeting.</p>
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Adjourn: 3:00 PM

Next Meeting: *NO DECEMBER MEETING*
Monday, January 11, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.