

**Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study
Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2025**

In attendance:

Scott Reigle (BMTS), Nick Cecconi (Getthere), Devin Link (BCDOH), Stephanie Brewer (BC Planning), Susan Pitely (NYSDOT Region 9), Mark Goodwin (STBC), Carlos Basualdo (Public), Alex Carter (Public)

Convene: 1:34 PM

April 14 minutes accepted as written.

Self-introductions were given by all in attendance. Welcomed Alex as a first-time attendee and participant in the Committee.

Topic	Discussion/Follow Up	Action
Roadway Needs Report: Follow Up to Previous Meeting Items:	Follow-up Items • Scott Reigle reported on the levee project behind Binghamton Plaza, stating that it is expected to be completed by July 1st. Photos were shared that show the barriers removed at the ramp at the north end of Water St., and a crushed stone base at the top of the ramp to the area behind the Serafini Garage. The Noyes Island counter has been showing between 50-100 combined pedestrian and bicycle counts daily since the beginning of April, which indicates the importance of this section of trail. New Needs Reports • Alex discussed the challenges faced while cycling, particularly in downtown areas where vehicle speeds and street parking create unsafe conditions. The fear of being doored was noted and the lack of space when cars are parked on both sides. Mark Goodwin suggested that riding in the middle of the lane can help cyclists be more visible to drivers. Mark Goodwin and Scott Reigle highlighted the positive effects of speed tables on driver behavior in Binghamton. Devin Link mentioned that the City of Binghamton will soon receive new bike racks through a grant, with future projects focusing on locations near schools. Alex and Stephanie Brewer contributed to the conversation by discussing biking experiences in other cities and the importance of community rides for fostering a cycling culture. Alex discussed the impact of speed limits on pedestrian safety, noting that street design plays a crucial role in encouraging safe driving behavior. Scott shared frustrations regarding political resistance to proposed bike lanes and the importance of public input in influencing municipal decisions. He encouraged residents to communicate their experiences to local officials to foster change.	Action Items:
Announcements and	• Newspaper Articles/Notices ○ No new articles or notices.	Action Items:

Status Reports		
Education and Outreach	2025 Binghamton Bridge Pedal –Saturday, August 9th, 9am-12:30pm. Scott shared his screen showing the updated ride route map that Stephanie created. The ride route is about 11-miles long with four stops: Cutler Gardens, the Lee Barta Community Center, the VINES building, and the MacArthur Park Trail Head. More information is available on the Binghamton Bridge Pedal page of the BMTS website (https://bmtsonline.com/bikeped/bridge-pedal) and on the Binghamton Bridge Pedal Facebook page. Devin confirmed that the BC Health Dept. will be able to table and hand out sunscreen and the water supplied by Techworks. The Lee Barta Community Center will be the location for the Health Dept. table. Scott concluded by stating promotions for the Binghamton Bridge Pedal will begin after Memorial Day and after we get our permits all approved and finalized. So probably during June, you'll be seeing more and more promotion going out and we'll ask everyone to help in spreading the word for this event.	Action Items:
Projects/ Reports	Pedestrian and Bicycle Counter Report: Scott shared with the Committee that in-person maintenance by Eco-Counter took place April 28-May 1. There were a few counters that had some issues, but on the whole, they're all working well. The MacArthur Park one is still giving us some problems as well as the US 11 over 81 bridge with it counting some cars. We are looking to try to see if we can figure out a system to make a correction for those until the visual barriers that were planted there have a chance to grow and fill in and hopefully become 100% effective. There were also a couple counters, including the MacArthur one where there appears to be a malfunctioning happening, but our representative will be getting in touch with me this week and hopefully we'll be able to replace that one under warranty and get it working accurately. Scott shared that Susan Pitely mentioned to him that DOT Region 9 is going to have a couple interns this summer. There is an opportunity to do some manual counts where some of the counter locations are just to check on their accuracy. It's also a possibility that the interns can work on a formula to assess the percentage of cars that are being counted, and then see if a formula can be used to rectify the count. Friends of the Two Rivers Greenway (TRG) Group – - Scott shared a photo of the April 25 Binghamton University Alumni's Days of Caring trail cleanup effort at the 434 Greenway. Litter was collected, tree posts were removed, the area along the highway railing was weeded, and some trees were fertilized. - Scott provided reports from outreach presentations given to groups since the Tuesday, March 18 meeting held with municipality representatives and stakeholders in the Legislative Conference Room. Mark Bowers & Mike Haas presented to the Susquehanna Group of Sierra Club an April 15: It went well, with a lot of good questions/comments. The two things that stood out most were trail etiquette, i.e. speeds, and E-Bikes. This led to discussions of signing and how best to educate the	Action Items:

public. The second thing was “connectivity” specifically connecting the western end of the Rte. 434 Greenway element with the eastern end of the Vestal Rail Trail. They were all in favor and were glad to find out that the County is pursuing funds to study the feasibility of making these connections with their Build Grant application.

They also indicated that they wanted to be in the loop when there were opportunities to volunteer or if there were planned events on the TRG.

So, all in all it was a good opportunity for everyone. I (Mark) really think our next focus should be on engaging individual municipalities, to get a better handle on what they are doing with the greenway sections in their jurisdiction.

Mark Bowers provided a presentation at the **Trinity Forum** on **May 4**. A couple of take-aways: First, they were very receptive to the presentation and wanted to know where they could find more information, including the 1999 report. This points up again, the idea we have been kicking around about having some sort of web presence. Mark directed them to the BMTS website for information on the count program.

The only other thing that came up was from Rick Shoemaker about river access for canoers / kayakers. He also directed me to this website <https://paddle607.com/> for information on the New York, Susquehanna Basin Water Trails. Rick seemed to feel there were opportunities for us with this group.

Scott Reigle presented to **Binghamton University’s Parking & Transportation Stakeholder Group** meeting during the morning of **May 6th**. Scott spoke about what’s going on in our area for walking & biking and ended with a pitch for involvement with the Friends of the Two Rivers Greenway.

Nick Cocoran, BU Landscape Architect, was there among about 15 others. Our efforts to expand and further connect the greenway segments was well received and there was much interest in helping us spread the word for Friends Group meetings and volunteer events, not to mention helping us publicize the Binghamton Bridge Pedal. Scott will ask Jennifer Bobzien (formerly Bishop) if he can add her to the Friends email group and any others from the Parking & Transportation Stakeholder Group.

[Editors Note: Including this report of presentation taking place after the Committee Meeting.]

Mark Bowers presented to the **Southside Neighborhood Assembly** on **May 20th** about the efforts to create a Friends of the Two Rivers Greenway (TRG) at the monthly Southside Neighborhood Assembly meeting. Mark reported that “one recurring theme from the three recent presentations I’ve done is “Where can I go to find out more, or volunteer?”. This points up the issue we’ve discussed about having some sort of “web” presence. I think we should put this at the top of our list and see what we can come up with. Someone last night suggested even a Facebook page.”

- o Scott will be scheduling a Friends of the Two Rivers Greenway meeting for June or July.

Agency/ Dept. Updates	NYSDOT Region 9 - Susan responded to Stephanie’s question about the status of the 363 Gateway Project stating that NYSDOT does not have design approval from FHWA yet, so NYSDOT cannot provide any updates on this project at this time. Broome County Health Dept. - Devin reported that the CHSC Grant funded materials for the raised crosswalk by the Oak Street entrance to the Binghamton High School, the benches for the 434 Greenway, and possibly bike racks are supposed to be all purchased. The end of the grant term is next Friday, so they'll all be 100% finalized by then. - The next grant year starts on the following week, so June 1st. Devin will be sending out the mini grant applications but are currently working on the scoring rubric before they can put it live. Devin will be sending that out to the Committee and also to all the eligible municipalities. Broome County Planning Department - Stephanie shared that the Chugnut Trail west extension project construction is still underway. Completion is anticipated during September or sometime during the Fall 2025. - The first public meeting for the Brandywine BOA (Brownfield Opportunity Area) project is on June 5th at the Centenary Chenango United Methodist Church on Chenango Street starting at 6 p.m. Transportation isn't the sole focus of the project, but it is an important aspect of the planning for that area of the city. For anyone who's not familiar with the Brandywine area, it is on the northeast side of Binghamton. It's kind of where the Brandywine Highway and the interstates intersect. It's an industrial district with some commercial and residential area, but there's a lot of safety and access concerns over there.	Action Items:
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Adjourn: 2:33 PM

Next Meeting: Monday, June 16 at 1:30PM *(NOTE: The third Monday of the month.)*