

BMTS Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee
Notes from the meeting held on Monday, February 13, 2006
5th Floor Planning Conference Room
Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building

Present: Scott Reigle, Toby Wollin, Luke Davis, Steven Bard, Al Sunderwirth, Greg Patinka, Laurie Kimball, Fred Booth, Kris Gilbert, Dave Cody, Gail Domin, Don Robertson, Mayor Edward Arrington, and Warren Wetzelberg

Absent with Excuse: Erin Duguay and Ruth Levin

1. The meeting was **convened at 1:30 PM**. The **January 9th** minutes were approved with the following corrections:

- Add Greg Patinka to attendance list.
- Write out “New York State Historic Preservation Office” before the abbreviation, SHPO.

2. **Announcements and Status Reports**

- **News articles and announcements** are sent out in a monthly emailing, around the time the Committee Meeting agenda & minutes are sent out. They are also available in .pdf (Acrobat) format on the BMTS website (www.bmtsonline.com) in the REPORTS section. The direct link is http://www.gobroomecounty.com/departments/BMTS_reports.php.
- **Bike Tioga 2006** will take place on **Saturday, August 12th and Sunday, August 13th**. Go to www.biketiooga.com for details and updated information.
- **Craig Thomas** was elected as **President** of the **Southern Tier Bicycling Club**.
CONGRATULATIONS, Craig!

3. **Advisory Committee Refocus**

Scott informed the Committee that it is necessary for him to spend more of his time doing public transportation planning. He should be spending only 50% of his time performing pedestrian & bicycle transportation planning. This will necessitate reducing the frequency of Committee meetings from monthly to bi-monthly.

The following ACTION ITEMS were agreed to by the Committee:

- **Review of Project Design Reports:** Scott will review the projects design reports and comment on them as he normally does. He will then notify Committee members by email that a project design report is available for review, and attach his comments. Committee members, at their convenience, can review the project design report in the BMTS Conference Room, and give Scott their comments.
- **Review BMTS Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan:** Since the purpose of the Committee is to advise and assist BMTS on the implementation of the Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan, it was decided that the Committee should take a look at the Plan, determine the status of its action items, prioritize action items not yet implemented, and determine how the Committee may be able to assist in implementation.
ACTION: Scott will post the Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan in the reports section of the BMTS website. Once posted, Scott will email the Committee members so they can review the plan before the March 13th Committee meeting.
- Greg brought in a Federal Highway Administration document titled, “How to Produce a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan”. One of the appendices dealt with how to create and run an effective Pedestrian Advisory Board. An idea from that section was to invite special speakers to meetings to provide information and guidance on implementing projects. It was recommended to invite appropriate NYSDOT people to meetings to discuss upcoming projects early in the project development process, before draft design reports are completed.

4. **Walk-N-Roll 2006**

DATE: The Committee decided to designate **May 13 – 20** as Walk-N-Roll week. This will keep the tradition of coinciding with May as National Bike Month, and the second week of May as National Bike-to-Work Week. Since school will still be in session, the Committee can plan an educational outreach to one of the area’s schools.

ACTIVITY/EVENT IDEAS:

- **Hold a Bike and/or Pedestrian Safety Event at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School:** Luke stated that he has been in contact with officials from Benjamin Franklin Elementary School, and they are interested in having a program focusing on safety instruction. Luke will work with the school to schedule a program or maybe even an assembly during Walk-N-Roll week about bicycle and pedestrian safety. Possible activities include bike helmet distribution and fitting, bike and pedestrian rodeo, bike checks, etc. Speakers on related subjects, such as how a helmet prevented injury during a crash, will also be needed.

ACTION: *Luke Davis and Scott will lead the organization of an event. Committee members will be needed to assist.*

- **GIANT Bag Ad:** The committee decided to use the same Shared the Road graphic as last year, but to promote the Greater Binghamton Bike Route Map, along with Bike-To-Work Week in the text portion.

ACTION: *Scott will make the necessary changes to the bag ad and submit it to Brian O'Neil of GIANT Markets. Luke will find out if we can submit a bag ad to Price Chopper.*

- **Coordinate with STEP Grant:** Possibly work with STEPS to utilize the media do some type of pedestrian and bike safety message.

ACTION: *Scott will contact Mary McFadden about this possibility.*

- **Bridge Ride:** Steven shared progress made on his idea to organize a bike ride using the downtown Binghamton bridges, modeled after Portland, Oregon's "Providence Bridge Pedal". The proposed ride originates at MacArthur School (Binghamton Southside) then follows a route that uses multiple bridges downtown, then finishing back at MacArthur School. At the January meeting, it was suggested to work with an organization, such as Gorgeous Washington, to sponsor, plan, and help conduct the event. Liability will likely be an issue as well. It was also noted that this ride may involve closing at least one lane of traffic on some roads or bridges. Dave Cody spoke with Dan Correll, the City's traffic sergeant, about the bridge ride idea. It sounded workable to him. He suggested that the necessary committee members meet with him to work out the details.

ACTION: *The Committee will continue to pursue this.*

5. Action Items

• **Marian Apartments (Hooper Rd. in Endwell)**

In past meetings, Scott reported that his Director, Steve Gayle, contacted the Broome County Dept. of Public Works Commissioner, Henry Weissmann, to inform him of the unsafe pedestrian situation along Hooper Rd. at and in the adjacent area of the Marian Apartments. It was agreed that a sidewalk along the frontage of the Marian Apartments was a good idea. Mr. Weissmann is checking with others at the County to see if it was agreeable to meet with Marian Apartment management, residents, Erin (AVRE), and BMTS.

ACTION: *Scott is currently setting up a meeting with Steve, Henry, and Marian Apartment management.*

- **Vestal Rd. (Jensen Rd. to African Rd.):** Warren stated that this segment of Vestal Rd. is the only unsafe portion for bicyclists and needs to be upgraded.

ACTION: *Scott will talk with his Director to see if a meeting can be arranged with Broome County Dept. of Public Works, Warren, and BMTS to address this issue.*

- **Riverside Dr. (JC Roundabout to Lourdes Hospital):** Erin stated that there are no opportunities for pedestrians, particularly those with vision impairments, to cross the road in designated crosswalks in this segment of Riverside Drive.

ACTION: *Erin is in contact the NYSDOT officials since the recommend crosswalks locations are in Johnson City. She will report when there is more progress made.*

- **Bike Racks:** Laurie Kimball asked if there was any guidance for the best types of bicycle parking racks to use. Scott stated that the inverted-U racks are very popular and inexpensive. "Lollipop" bike racks are also a good design and used in Toronto. The bike parking racks at Confluence Park are designed very similarly to the "lollipop" style rack. Warren noted that the racks Confluence Park were incorrectly oriented when they were installed. They should be rotated ninety-degrees from their current position. Laurie will see if this correction has been made.

ACTION: *Scott will give Laurie a copy of the Association of Pedestrian & Bicycle Professionals Bicycle Parking Guide, which lists preferred bike rack designs, and provides information on how to best install bike parking.*

6. Other

- **Neighborhood Assemblies – Binghamton:** Laurie Kimball informed the Committee that the City of Binghamton will be conducting a series of Neighborhood Meetings. They are basically “town meetings” that allow City residents to provide input on what they think will improve the City, and then strongly encourages citizens to volunteer, get involved, and work to make things happen.

These meetings are a good opportunity to express support for continued development of pedestrian and bicycle amenities in the City, and to develop a way to implement projects to improve the City’s walkability & bikeability.

For Neighborhood Assembly meeting information see

<http://www.cityofbinghamton.com/neighborhoodassemblies.htm>.

7. Meeting Dates for the Next Two Months

- Monday, March 13, 2006 at 1:30 PM
- Monday, May 8, 2006 at 1:30 PM

8. Adjourned at 2:50 PM

Scott Reigle, Recorder