

**BMTS Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee
Notes from the meeting held on Monday, July 11, 2005
5th Floor Planning Conference Room
Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building**

Present: Scott Reigle, Don Robertson, Toby Wollin, Greg Patinka, Charlie Walker, Ruth Levin, and Warren Wetzelsberg

Absent with Excuse: Al Sunderwirth, and Luke Davis

1. The meeting was **convened at 1:36 PM**. The **June 13th** minutes were approved with the following corrections: numbering for agenda items 6-9, “Lois” incorrectly spelled, and “route” incorrectly spelled.
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.
 - **REPORT – Bike Tioga, August 13-14**
For details see www.biketiooga.com.
 - **ANNOUNCEMENT – Transportation Tomorrow: 2030 (BMTS Long Range Transportation Plan) Public Informational Meetings**
 - **Wednesday, July 20 at 7:00 PM at Vestal Town Hall**
 - **Thursday, July 21 at 2:00 PM at the Broome County Library**
 - **Thursday, July 21 at 7:00 PM at Cornell Cooperative Extension (Front St., Binghamton)**
 - **ANNOUNCEMENT – Chris Thater Memorial Bike Rodeo**
Saturday, August 27th from 2:00 – 4:00 PM
Recreation Park, Binghamton (Parking lot near Laurel Ave.)
★ **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** – Contact Scott at sreigle@co.broome.ny.us or 778-6147 if you can volunteer
3. **NYS 201 Bridge over NYS 434 (near BU)**

Charlie Walker, Project Manager with NYSDOT Region 9 attended the Committee meeting and gave an overview of the project. The project is behind schedule. NYSDOT is still doing scoping-type work. They are also looking at costs of project design alternatives. The priority is the bridge replacement, then DOT will see how much can be done to better accommodate pedestrian and bicycle modes in the Bunn Hill Rd./Vestal Rd./Murray Hill Rd./ Binghamton University area and possibly further east to Vestal Park and the Binghamton City Line. Charlie took notes from discussion about various aspects of the project relating to pedestrian and bicyclist needs. He will compile the comments and recommendations, and DOT will consider them. There will be more opportunities for input at future project meetings, and public informational meetings. Regarding a possible pathway from Vestal Rd. to BU through the medical building site, a letter needs to be sent to DOT requesting them to pursue investigation of feasibility.
4. **Bike Route Map**

The printed maps have been delivered to BMTS!
Scott would like to send out a press release announcing the new map in a week or two. Bike shops, libraries, and tourism/chambers of commerce are the priorities for map distribution. Committee members volunteered to deliver maps these sites.
Just a reminder that the bike route map is also online at http://www.gobroomecounty.com/bmts/BMTS_bike.php.

5. Action Items

- a. Community Night Out Events – Scott will email municipal officials to get details and information about these events, and find out if it would be possible to conduct bike rodeos at them.
- b. Bike Route Map – Scott to check into promoting the map in through the STEPS Program. He will also contact the City about putting a map in the kiosk at the north side of the S. Washington St. Bridge.

6. Walk-N-Roll 2005 (May 14-21): RECAP

- Message on GIANT Grocery Bag: The “Share the Road” and “Bike to Work Week” message on the GIANT bags were in the stores during Walk-N-Roll week.
- Public Service Announcements (PSA’s): A letter requesting the TV-PSA to be broadcast was sent out to the area television stations, however, there have been no responses. Next year, we will work with the Broome County Health Dept. to try to have some PSA’s run on TV & radio
- Newspaper Feature Articles/Media –
 - Scott sent out a media release announcing Walk-N-Roll 2005 and directing people to the BMTS website to view a calendar of events. Scott also sent Committee members a copy of the calendar of events for them to distribute.
 - Scott participated in Channel 34’s “Where is Wilmarth?” segment. This was arranged by Mary McFadden of the Broome County Health Dept. who directs the STEPS to a Healthier NY Program. The segment theme was walking or biking to work. It stressed that even if one lives too far away to walk or bike to work, an alternative would be to drive to a public parking lot or take the bus part of the way to work, then walk or bike the rest of the way. A demonstration of the bike rack on BC Transit buses was also be taped. The segment ran during the week of May 15.
- BC Walks: Becky Gelunas of the Broome County Health Dept. contacted schools to encourage students, faculty and staff to sign-up for the BC Walks Program. A Dance Party with Louie G. of STAR 105 FM was awarded to the school with the most enrolling in BC Walks. A total of 1,825 youth walking logs and 420 adult walking logs were requested across eight schools.
- Bike Rodeo Training: Lois Chaplin, Bicycle Safety Specialist at Cornell, provided bike rodeo training on: **Thursday, May 19th from 4:00 – 6:00 PM** at the large cafeteria in **Johnson City High School**. Only about ten people attended. More were interested in attending, but had conflicts that evening. The training was very informative, and concentrated on how we can improve what we are already doing for bike rodeos. A period of time was also dedicated to getting outside on bikes and actually performing some of the bike rodeo skills.
- Owego Rotary:
 - The Owego Rotary hosted a workshop about making Owego more bicycle and pedestrian friendly. Their focus is on Fifth Ave. /NYS 17C in the Village & Town of Owego. The workshop was held at **The Treadway Inn** in Owego on **Saturday, May 14th**, and was the “kickoff” for Walk-N-Roll week. The workshop format closely followed that of the Walkable Communities Workshops held during May 2003. The following is a copy of the Owego workshop agenda.

8:30 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast & Registration
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Elements of Walkable & Bikeable Communities Presentation
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Walking Audit (rain or shine)
12:00 – 12:30 PM	Hickories Park - Compile Audit Results, Develop Solutions, Next Steps
12:30 PM	LUNCH

The workshop generated much interest, with thirty enthusiastic participants. The key segment of the workshop was the walking audit, when the workshop participants walked along NYS 17C/5th Ave./Front St. and assessed the present conditions from a pedestrian’s point of view. After the audit walk, the group gathered at Hickories Park, reviewed their findings, discussed possible solutions to pedestrian and bicycle accommodation problems and safety issues, and planned their next steps toward implementation. The Bikeable and Walkable Owego (BAWO) committee, formed from the Owego Rotary’s subcommittee for a walkable & bikeable Owego, and meets monthly. A draft pedestrian and bicycle plan has been drafted by BAWO with recommended treatments for pedestrian & bicycle traffic, and the group is now gathering business and community support take to the Town and Village

Boards when they request the municipalities to officially adopt the plan. The Plan is intended to be a “living” document that other areas in the Town & Village will be added to piece-by-piece.

- Broome County Library:

Mike Kennelly stated that the Library was happy to participate in the Walk-N-Roll week activities. The Library set up a table to display bicycling and walking books in the colonnade section and put up a sign announcing the observance of Walk-N-Roll. The storytime scheduled for May 14th (@3:00 P.M.) featured two books on cycling (*Bike Rider* and *Bike Trip*). They also provided space at the book table display for pedestrian and bicycle materials that BMTS provides for distribution.

7. Meeting Dates for the Next Two Months

- ***NO AUGUST MEETING***
- Monday, September 12, 2005 at 1:30 PM

8. Adjourned at 3:00 PM

Scott Reigle, Recorder