

**BMTS Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee
Notes from the meeting held on Monday, May 8, 2006
5th Floor Planning Conference Room
Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building**

Present: Scott Reigle, Ruth Levin, Steven Bard, Al Sunderwirth, Greg Patinka, Kris Gilbert, and Don Robertson
Absent with Excuse: Erin Duguay, Warren Wetzelberg, Luke Davis, and Toby Wollin

1. The meeting was **convened at 1:45 PM**. The **March 13th** minutes were approved with no changes.

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.
- **Ruth Levin** will be moving to Scottsdale, Arizona, and this Committee meeting is likely her last. On behalf of the Committee, Scott thanked Ruth for her time, dedication, and many contributions to the Committee. Ruth will be missed, and we wish her and her husband the best in their move. Our loss will be Arizona's gain.
- **Don Robertson** has retired from the Region 9 New York State Department of Transportation. On behalf of the Committee, Scott congratulated Don on his retirement, and thanked him for his time and contributions to the Committee as he represented NYSDOT. We look forward to Don's continued participation on the Committee as a community representative.
- **Binghamton River Crawl**
Press Conference on Wednesday, May 10th at 10:30 AM at Confluence Park to announce the beginning of a monthly event to promote awareness and active use of the riverbank trails in the City of Binghamton. **The "River Crawl" will take place on the second Friday of each month, commencing at 6:00 PM.** Meeting locations will be at La Tazza Café on the South Side (May 12), Lost Dog Café (June 9), Park Diner (July 14) and Confluence Park (August 11). Subsequent monthly meeting points will be announced. **A different theme will be followed during each "River Crawl"** including easy strolls, historical tours, family-friendly events, barbecues/picnics and canoe/kayak and bicycle demonstrations. Some Binghamton merchants may offer discounts to "River Crawlers".
The ultimate objective of the "River Crawl" is to get people out on the Trail to enjoy what Binghamton has to offer on a daily, not just monthly basis. Trail users will improve their health, enjoy the scenery, meet and socialize with like-minded people and patronize local merchants. The River Crawl team also hopes to post maps of various businesses, museums and events along the River Trail.
- **3rd Annual Cornell Cooperative Extension Broome County 5K Walk/Run Fundraiser**
Saturday, May 20th at Otsiningo Park
Walk-in Registration at 9:15 AM; Preregistered Walkers/Runners 9:30 AM; Walk/Run begins at 10:00 AM. For more information call (607) 772-8955 extension 132.
- **Bike Tioga 2006** will take place on **Saturday, August 12th and Sunday, August 13th**. Go to www.biketiooga.com for details and updated information.
- **Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) Training** will be provided in Binghamton during early June. The instructor for the training will be **Janet Barlow**, a national expert and principal at Accessible Design for the Blind. The Committee will be informed of the training date and time once it is determined.

3. **Walk-N-Roll 2006 (May 13 – 20)**

ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:

- Hold a Bike and/or Pedestrian Safety Event at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School: Scott reported that Luke Davis informed him that the UHS Trauma Unit Education Team will not be able to give a bicycle safety assembly at Calvin Coolidge Elementary during Walk-N-Roll week.

- GIANT Bag Ad: Scott reported that he was contacted Brian O'Neil of GIANT. Brian apologized for misplacing the request for the bag ad, submitted back in February. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to have the bag ad this May. Scott acknowledged that better follow-up on the ad request should have been done, and will be done next year.
- Coordinate with STEPS to a Healthier NY – Broome County Grant:
 - Becky Gelunas of the Broome County Health Dept. has organized a BC Walks Jr. contest open to all the Broome County School Districts for grades 3-5. The first 20 teachers to register their class receive pedometers for each student. The classroom that records the most steps per student between May 13 – 20 wins \$500 from Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield to use toward health promotion activities of their choice.
 - A pedestrian & bicycle safety display will be held at the Friday, May 19th B-Mets game. The display will include the NYSDOT Pedestrian Crossing display, a bicycle giveaway (bike provided by Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield), plus other handouts such as Greater Binghamton and NYS Bike Route 17 bike route maps, print materials from NYSDOT, and blinking red lights from the Broome County Health Department. Greg Patinka will bring his bean bag toss game to attract kids to the display, and as a method of distributing giveaway items. Volunteers are needed to handout Free Bike Drawing forms at the gates, and to provide information at the display table. Set-up is at 5:00 PM to be ready for the opening of the gates at 6:00 PM. Scott passed around a volunteer sign-up sheet.
- Media
 - The STEPS promotions and activities will be publicized in the May 10th News in Education insert in the Press & Sun-Bulletin, as well as on the WBNG-Channel 12 News STEPS Series (May 15 – 5:00 PM; May 16 – 5:30 AM; and May 18 – 5:00 PM). Scott will also post Walk-N-Roll information on the BMTS website, and send out a media release.

4. Action Items

- **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)**: Currently, there are no opportunities for pedestrians, particularly those with vision impairments, to cross the road in designated crosswalks in this segment of Riverside Drive. Erin Duguay contacted Danielle Besso of the NYSDOT Region 9 Traffic & Safety Department. Erin showed the Committee photos provided by Danielle of this section of Riverside Drive, which exhibited gaps in the sidewalk system, lack of ADA compliant crossings, consistent traffic speeds higher than the posted 30 mph, and that there are no striped crosswalks either. Danielle provided the following recommendations: install a marked crosswalk at Margaret St. near the CVS, supplemented by black on yellow pedestrian warning signs or black on white State Law Yield to Pedestrians sign, and to complete the sidewalk system. She also noted that the corridor was ripe for traffic calming treatments.
ACTION: Erin is continuing to work on arranging a meeting with NYSDOT, the appropriate Village of Johnson City officials, BMTS, and other stakeholders.
- **Village of Owego – NYS 434 at NYS 96 (South end of the Court St. Bridge)**
Erin informed Scott that she was contacted by an Association for Vision Rehabilitation Employment consumer with a complaint that there are no pedestrian facilities at this area of NYS 434, and thus, no safe way walk along or to cross the roadway.
ACTION: Scott gave Erin contact information for the NYSDOT Region 6 Owego Residence Engineer – Cathy Woodward, and the Region 6 Bike/Ped. Coordinator – Doug Carrier. Don also stated that she should contact Gary Funk, also of NYSDOT Region 6.

5. Other

- **Binghamton Historic Bridge Ride**: Steven shared that the chosen date for the ride is **Sunday morning, July 9th** (9 – 11:00 AM). Insurance arrangements are being made. The City police, Clerk, and Parks Dept. concur and all are OK with the ride. The police are only concerned that the numbers participating aren't too many this first year. It is felt that it is better to keep the event relatively small, learn what works and

what needs adjusting, and then expand the event in the future. The Southern Tier Bicycle Club will publicize the event in its newsletter, and a notice & map will be given to the local bike shops. Steve also noted that the PAST historical preservation organization may participate in the event.

ACTION: *Steven and interested Committee members will continue to organize this.*

- **Review of BMTS' TEP Project Scoring Sheet:** BMTS scores and ranks Transportation Enhancements Program applications for projects within the Binghamton Urban Area. BMTS is using a scoring sheet modeled after the NYSDOT sheet, but has added two more factors: 1) Project Implementation: Consider whether applicant team has the understanding and capability to produce the project on schedule; and 2) Project Longevity: Recognition of need for ongoing maintenance & life-cycle replacement? Capability & willingness to accept this responsibility?

The Committee agreed that both factors were important and should be given a value accordingly on the score sheet. Greg stated that the ability to keep a project on schedule in an environmental sensitive manner is also important to consider when scoring a project. Don noted that in the past, the Capital District Transportation Council (BMTS' equivalent in Albany area) had added a safety improvement factor to their rating criteria.

- **Passenger drop-off at Forum in Binghamton** is a problem that Ruth brought-up for discussion. Currently, large buses stop in front of the Forum to drop-off passengers. Sometimes they are double parked. There is no place left for car drivers to drop off there passengers, which is a problem for the handicapped. It is believed this area is signed to allow standing for up to 10 minutes, but this is regularly violated. The vehicle congestion also makes the area unsafe for pedestrians. Furthermore, when events are on Sundays, the church parking lot across the street is not available so people need to park further away. One thought was, when the new transit terminal is built, buses can drop-off passengers for the forum there since it will be adjacent to the back of the Forum.

The immediate concerns may be able to be addressed by the City's Traffic Board.

ACTION: *Scott will share this issue with Cyndi Paddick who is on the City's Traffic Board.*

6. Meeting Dates for the Next Two Months

- Monday, July 10, 2006 at 1:30 PM
- Monday, September 11, 2006 at 1:30 PM

7. Adjourned at 2:50 PM

Scott Reigle, Recorder