

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

Present: Scott Reigle, Steven Bard, Don Robertson, Greg Patinka, Erin Duguay, Warren Wetzelberg, and Toby Wollin

Absent with Excuse: Christine Muss and Al Sunderwirth

1. The meeting was **convened at 1:35 PM**. The **September 11th** minutes were approved as written.

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 – Transportation Enhancements Program (TEP) Awards**
The following projects in the Binghamton Urban Area were awarded funding:
 - **Broome County/Town of Conklin** – Conklin Multi-use Trail (Phase 1)
This project consists of a trail adjacent to Corporate Park Road heading west from the entrance of the Conklin Wetlands Park to Powers Rd., then adjacent to Powers Rd. to NYS Route 7/Conklin Rd., opposite Schnurbusch Park. The length is a total of 1.5 miles.
 - **City of Binghamton** – Susquehanna River North Bank Trail Development (S. Washington St. Bridge to Exchange St. Bridge/Rockbottom Dam Area)
This project consists of a trail behind the flood wall, next to the river between the S. Washington St. Bridge and Exchange St. Bridge. The length is a total of 0.4 miles.
 - **Town of Vestal** – Vestal Trail-Section 3 (Castle Gardens Rd. to Tracy Creek)
This trail project will consist of an on-road portion for 0.65 miles along Castle Gardens Road. There will be a 5-foot shoulder for bikes on the south side of the road, and an 8-foot shoulder for bikes & pedestrians on the north side of the road. The remaining 0.85 miles of off-road trail will be 12-foot wide with an adjacent 8-foot wide grass walking surface, similar to the current Rail Trail design. The length is a total of 1.5 miles. A 60 car parking lot will also be built on existing Town property along Castle Gardens Road.
- **REPORT – Safe Routes to School Program (SR2S)**
Scott reported that NYSDOT Main Office is administering the federal Safe Routes to School program, and that they have been meeting with the NYSDOT Regions and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's), such as BMTS, to give a status report on the program, and gather input on how to administer it. The current plan is to train NYSDOT Regions and MPO's during January to be able to go out to school districts & municipalities to inform them of the SR2S program and prepare them to apply for funding to improve walking opportunities, safety, and increase the number of students walking to school. For more information on the SR2S Program see www.saferoutesinfo.org.

3. **Binghamton Historic Bridge Pedal**

Steven reported that the date for the next Historic Bridge Pedal will be **Sunday, July 8, 2007**. As was the case last year, this will be on the tail-end of the July Fest, which will be on July 6th & 7th. Steve is applying for the necessary permit from the City.

The Committee discussed what historical information to share along the ride and how best to share it. One idea was to have reenactments of historical events at “stations” along the ride route. Another suggestion was to have a “History of Bicycles” display at the ride starting area. A Mr. Struebell (spelling?) of Johnson City has old bicycles and may be able to help with such a display. It was also suggested to provide information about future greenway trail projects, too.

Promoting the event was also discussed. The question of who to target for participation was raised. Should we target cyclists, children/families, particular communities, etc.? This will need to be determined in future meetings.

ACTION: *Scott will ask Gail Domin about the role she and PAST can play in this event, as well as find out about the scheduled completion of construction on the Tompkins St. Bridge.*

4. Bike Rodeo Kit

Discussion on this subject was put on hold until the January 8th meeting. In past meetings, the Committee discussed ideas for putting together a bike rodeo kit. The idea of creating a kit to lend to organization to conduct their own rodeos was seen as a possibility.

ACTION: *Committee to research what is needed for a bike rodeo kit. Will need to work with Christine Muss (Broome County Health Dept.) to create the kit. Lois Chaplin is another person to consult with.*

5. Action Items

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

Warren also stated that there is an opportunity for improvements on **Vestal Rd. from NYS 201 to Bunn Hill Rd.** as a part of the project to replace the NYS 201 Bridge over Vestal Rd. & NYS 434. Comments on desired accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians should be sent to the Town of Vestal, and the Town will forward them to NYSDOT.

It is believed that there is a document listing “the reasons for shoulders” on roadways that was created by Michael Ronkin of Oregon DOT. Scott may have a copy of the document, but if not, will ask Eric Ophardt or Jim Ercolano (NYSDOT Main Office) for a copy.

ACTION: *The Committee recommended taking an inventory of what is desired to be fixed and recommend how to fix it. Then send the inventory with a letter to the Broome County Public Works, asking for a response. Warren will take the lead on this, possibly with help from The Southern Tier Bicycle Club. Scott will obtain a copy of the document, “reasons for shoulders”.*

- During the September 11th Committee meeting, it was noted that **Fifth Avenue/NYS 17C** in Owego has been repaved. Bike lanes and a crosswalk near The Treadway were installed in addition to some pedestrian crossing and bike lane signs.

Discussion took place on the potential for further improvements on NYS 17C/Fifth Ave. in Owego. Scott stated that it is in the BMTS Work Program to investigate the options and costs for more significant pedestrian & bicycle improvements on this section of roadway, from the Village of Owego line, east to the access for Hickories Park.

ACTION: *Scott will try to walk this area as soon as possible, and when weather conditions are favorable to take “after” photos, and lead the BMTS study.*

- **Riverside Dr. (JC Roundabout to Lourdes Hospital):** No change in the status of this issue. 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: *In past meetings, Erin reported that a letter from the AVRE consumer was sent to NYSDOT Region 6, and the appropriate contact was made with Gary Funk of NYSDOT. There is no word yet on what will be done. Will need to find out if this can and needs to be discussed with NYSDOT Region 9 since*

they now have "jurisdiction". Will try to get this onto the agenda of the next NYSDOT Region 9 Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee.

- **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. Chairperson Nominations

The Committee decided to have co-chairpersons. During the **January 8, 2007** meeting, the Committee will vote for two people from this list of nominees:

- Toby Wollin
- Erin Duguay
- Don Robertson

7. Other

- Warren noted that Junction signs for Bike Rt. 7 are missing in both directions on NYS Bike Rt. 17 near Glendale Drive. Also, NYS Bike Route 17 signs need to be removed from Riverside Dr. in the Brewster St. area.

ACTION: Scott will contact Mark Bowers (NYSDOT Region 9).

- **Trail on Water St.**

There are concerns about the design and construction of the multi-use trail on Water Street. Driveways run through the trail, and there is textured brick patterns though portions of the trail. It is a concern that the NW & SW corners will be designed properly for trail users

ACTION: Scott will contact Mark Bowers (NYSDOT Region 9) and the proper City officials.

8. Meeting Dates for the Next Two Months

- Monday, January 8, 2007 at 1:30 PM
- Monday, March 12, 2007 at 1:30 PM

9. Adjourned at 2:38 PM

Scott Reigle, Recorder