

**BMTS Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee
Notes from the meeting held on Monday, October 17, 2005
5th Floor Planning Conference Room
Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building**

Present: Scott Reigle, Don Robertson, Toby Wollin, Greg Patinka, Ruth Levin, Erin Duguay, Al Sunderwirth, and Warren Wetzelsberg

Absent with Excuse:

1. The meeting was **convened at 1:35 PM**. The **September 12th** minutes were approved with corrections to a couple of typographical errors.

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.

- **ANNOUNCEMENT – Creating Quality Communities: Tools and Strategies for Municipalities**

Free Local Government Training opportunity presented by the New York State Department of State, and sponsored by the Broome County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Wednesday, November 2, 2005, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Broome County Public Library, 185 Court St., Binghamton, NY - Decker Community Room, 1st Floor

Mail, phone, or fax registration to:

Broome County Department of Planning and Economic Development
Broome County Office Building
PO Box 1766
Binghamton, NY 13902-1766
Phone: (607) 778-2114
Fax: (607) 778-6051

- **ARTICLE – Monday, October 17, 205 Press & Sun-Bulletin – “Pedestrian Killed in Hit-and-Run Accident”**

A Binghamton man was jailed Sunday in connection with an early-morning hit-and-run accident that killed a pedestrian along a rain-slicked road.

Thomas Michael Casey, 23, was charged with leaving the scene of an incident without reporting, a felony. Casey, of Sherwood Avenue, was arraigned in Town of Union Court and sent without bail to the Broome County Jail. A police investigation led to Casey's arrest, said Lt. James Land of the New York State Police. Casey was driving his 1992 Ford Crown Victoria along state Route 17C near the Route 17 interchange when the car struck and killed 26-year-old Fareed Lash, state police said. The road was dark and slick with rain when the crash happened at about 3:30 a.m., Land said.

Lash, whose last known address was on Arthur Avenue in Endicott, was wearing a blue jacket, tan turtleneck sweater and light brown slacks, troopers said.

"You'd need a reflective vest out there," Land said. "It would be tough to see."

The crash closed the Westover exit ramp off eastbound Route 17 to Route 17C, and Route 17C from Hooper Road to Westover for nearly seven hours.

Authorities are continuing an investigation into Sunday's crash. Anyone with information is asked to call state police at 775-1241.

3. Safe Routes to School / Walk Your Child to School Day

Scott reported on the Walk Your Child to School Day event that Luke Davis organized with the CF Johnson Elementary School in Endicott that took place on **Wednesday, October 5th** in the morning. There was a significant amount of participation by students as school officials and parents led “walking school buses”, walking throughout surrounding neighborhoods, “picking-up” school students along the way as they made their way toward the school. Scott noted that the other purpose of this event was to have it serve to initiate dialogue with CF Johnson School officials about creating a Safe Routes to School Plan. The Plan will address safety concerns for all modes children use to come to and leave school, but will emphasize increasing the number of students choosing to walk or bicycle to school. Photos of the event were passed around for the Committee to view.

The next steps will be to meet with school officials & parents, present to them the safe routes to school concept, conduct a walking audit and a school drop-off and pick-up observation, use the results to identify needed changes and develop a plan to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety around the school area, which would include capital projects (e.g. sidewalk installation, installation of pedestrian crosswalks or crossing improvements). Projects would be eligible for the federal Safe Routes to School Program funding. Once this school’s plan is complete, evaluation of the process to create the Safe Routes to School Plan will be used to create Plans for the remainder of the schools in the U-E School District, and ultimately, for the schools in the other school districts in the BMTS planning area.

The Committee discussed other ideas to encourage safe walking to school. Suggestions included older children helping younger ones cross streets, walking in groups, and educating students on walking (e.g. pedestrian rodeos).

4. BMTS Greenway Study Implementation Efforts

Scott reported that he, as BMTS’ representative on the NYSDOT Region 9 Pedestrian & Bicycle Committee is working with Mark Bowers, Region 9 Bike/Pedestrian Coordinator to organize municipal officials and build partnerships to work cooperatively to implement and construct the entire regional greenway trail system recommended in BMTS’ *Binghamton Metropolitan Greenway Study* completed during 1999. The initial meeting of this group was held on Friday, September 30th. Turnout was good and attendees were enthusiastic about implementing the trail system. The main purpose of the meeting was to inform and re-introduce municipal leaders to the *Binghamton Metropolitan Greenway Study*, and to present the new focus of implementing the system regionally with a cooperative effort, rather than having each municipality work alone to create their pieces of the trail.

Volunteers from the group formed a Working Committee that will develop an implementation plan, and report to the overall Committee.

The BMTS Pedestrian & Bicycle Committee began to discuss Broome County plans for using Tobacco Settlement funds, and how trail construction would be a perfect use and be in-line with the intended use for the funds to encourage healthy living. Ruth made a motion, Erin seconded, and the Committee, with Don & Scott abstaining, agreed 1) to advise BMTS to create a resolution to support using the Tobacco Settlement funds to promote the health of the community by spending it on health related projects including the construction of the regional greenway trail system, and 2) for Scott to email a form letter to the Committee and include County Legislature contact information, BMTS *Binghamton Metropolitan Greenway Study* information, and information on benefits of trails so Committee members can write to their legislator.

ACTION: Scott stated that he would bring this motion to his Director, Steven Gayle and see how BMTS can respond.

5. Marian Apartments (Hooper Rd. in Endwell)

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 will ask his Director to follow-up with Henry Weissmann.

6. Bike Route 1 – River St. & Canal St. (Village of Owego)

In past meetings, Warren brought to the Committee's attention that these roads, especially Canal St. are in very poor condition, and are unsatisfactory for bicyclists. The Committee discussed options for addressing the situation with the Village of Owego so it can be remedied. It is recognized that the Village's funds are limited, so low volume neighborhood roads are unlikely to be a priority.

ACTION: Scott will take photographs of the roadway conditions, and will consult with his director on what the next steps should be.

7. Other

- Erin: October 15th was National White Cane Safety Day.

Erin also reported on the Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS) Forum held on Thursday, September 22nd at the Association for Vision Rehabilitation and Employment (AVRE). The forum went well with key people attending. The next step is for the community to decide what it wants to do for APS, and then action can be taken to pursue that decision. The Court St. Gateway Project is an opportunity to implement APS technology. The advanced plan should be out in a couple of weeks. BMTS should receive a copy for comment.

ACTION: Erin and anyone else interested are invited to come to BMTS to review and provide comments on the Court St. Gateway Project plans, as well as any other project plans.

- Binghamton Intermodal Transit Terminal: The Committee requested an opportunity to hear a presentation on plans for the Terminal, and provide comments.

ACTION: Scott will put this on the agenda for the November 14th Committee meeting and ask Steven Gayle and Rita Petkash (Broome County Planning Commissioner) to come and give a presentation.

- 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: The appropriate officials should be contacted with a request to install striped crosswalks at appropriate places along this stretch. Recommend specific intersections where crosswalks should be installed. The Johnson City portion of Riverside Dr. is maintained by the NYSDOT. John Mancuso would be the contact person at NYSDOT. The City of Binghamton maintains their portion. The City Public Works Department or its Engineering Dept. should be contacted.

8. Election of Committee Chairperson

During the September 12th Committee meeting, Warren expressed that he would like someone else to be elected as Chairperson for the upcoming year. The main responsibility of the Chairperson is to preside over the Committee meetings, and to assist Scott in developing meeting agendas, as well as assisting the Committee in carrying-out action items.

Scott asked the Committee for any Chairperson nominations. A couple of Committee members recommended Toby.

ACTION: Scott agreed to ask Toby, who had to leave the meeting early, if she was interested in being Chairperson.

Acceptance of nominations will be extended to November 14th, and a vote will be taken at the December 12th meeting.

9. Meeting Dates for the Next Two Months

- Monday, November 14, 2005 at 1:30 PM
- Monday, December 12, 2005 at 1:30 PM

10. Adjourned at 3:00 PM

Scott Reigle, Recorder