

BMTS Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee
Notes from the meeting held on Monday, January 8, 2007
5th Floor Planning Conference Room
Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building

Present: Scott Reigle, Steven Bard, Don Robertson, Greg Patinka, Al Sunderwirth, Erin Duguay, Warren Wetzberg, Gail Domin, Kara Grippen, Kris Gilbert, Laurie Kimball, and Christine Muss

Absent with Excuse: Toby Wollin

1. The meeting was **convened at 1:35 PM**. The **November 13th** 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.
- **Press & Sun-Bulletin ARTICLE – Visually Impaired Get New Help In Crossing Some City Streets (January 5, 2007)**
Scott passed around the article about the recent Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS) installation at the Court St./Hawley St/Water St. intersection. A photo slideshow regarding this article is also available on the Press' website, www.pressconnects.com.
- **ANNOUNCEMENT – Public Information Meeting for NYS Rt. 96 Bridge Project in Owego**
Tuesday, January 9th at 6:45 PM in the Tioga County Office Building Auditorium (56 Main St., Owego)

3. **Binghamton Historic Bridge Pedal (Sunday, July 8, 2007 from 9 to 11 AM)**

Steven reported that the permit process with the City is underway, and should receive approval in a few weeks. There is an opportunity to promote the event via I LOVE NY through the NYS Heritage Area program. The necessary event information is being submitted to have the Bridge Pedal put on the statewide event list. BMTS will provide space on its website to host Bridge Pedal information. Links to the Bridge Pedal page should be on the BMTS homepage and the Broome County website's homepage.

The Committee also discussed what historical information to share along the ride and how best to share it. Gail stated that PAST could provide historical information for sites along the ride route. They could also help with designing a map.

It was decided to create a Bridge Pedal Subcommittee to work on this project, and to have the initial meeting during February. Those that indicated their interest in being part of the Subcommittee were: Steven Bard, Scott Reigle, Gail Domin, Kara Grippen, Laurie Kimball, Kris Gilbert, and Warren Wetzberg. A PAST member will also be included on the Subcommittee.

ACTION: *Scott will set up a Subcommittee meeting for a date in February.*

4. **Walk N Roll 2007**

The Committee decided that they would like to shift Walk N Roll Week to the second week of June, rather than having it during National Bike Week in May (May 13-19) as was done in past years. However, the Committee felt that we should still submit a bicycle & pedestrian safety message for the GIANT bags to be run during May. Another message could be submitted for June.

Some ideas for Walk N Roll events in June included: Information display at B-Mets game (games, give-aways, etc.), coordinate with Binghamton's River Crawl event to promote APS, and work with STEPS to a Healthier NY to use media to run video PSA's about pedestrian safety.

Details for Walk N Roll week will need to be determined at the March 12th Committee meeting.

ACTION: *Scott will submit bike and pedestrian safety message to the GIANT. Greg will check with NYSDOT Main Office regarding give-away items and materials. Laurie will see if she can find a source for pedestrian safety strobe lights.*

5. Bike Rodeo Kit

Discussion took place regarding ideas for putting together a bike rodeo kit to lend to organizations for them to conduct their own rodeos.

***ACTION:** Christine will look into funding possibilities through the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. Scott will provide information of what to include in the kit. Laurie will investigate possible sources of materials for the kit, such as stop signs and orange cones.*

6. 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:** Warren has surveyed this stretch of Vestal Road and has determined recommended treatments. He will draft a letter to be sent to the Town of Vestal, the County, and Cc NYSDOT Region 9.*

- 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.

BMTS will be investigating 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. He will also be conducting 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 will contact Danielle at NYSDOT Region 9 to see when striping will be done on this section of Riverside Drive. If striping is scheduled, it could be an opportunity to make some needed pedestrian safety improvements.*

- **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:** A meeting with Erin, Mark Bowers (NYSDOT Reg. 9), Doug Carrier (NYSDOT Reg. 6), other NYSDOT Reg. 6 representatives, and Scott (BMTS) is scheduled for January 11th to address this issue.*

- **Passenger drop-off at Forum in Binghamton** can be problematic. 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 their 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.

The Committee suggested looking into a shuttle bus service from the State St. Parking Ramp. Another idea is installing a bus pull-in area and designate a car & bus drop off area.

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, and will contact BC Transit to inquire about their ability to provide a shuttle from the State St. Parking Ramp.*

7. Chairperson Nominations

- The Committee elected **Erin Duguay** and **Don Robertson** as co-chairpersons for 2007.

8. Other

- **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: *Laurie will obtain a set of plans for this project to review at a future Committee meeting.*

9. Meeting Dates for the Next Two Months

- Monday, March 12, 2007 at 1:30 PM
- Monday, May 14, 2007 at 1:30 PM

10. Adjourned at 3:10 PM

Scott Reigle, Recorder