

**BMTS Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee
Notes from the meeting held on Monday, July 10, 2006
5th Floor Planning Conference Room
Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building**

Present: Scott Reigle, Al Sunderwirth, Erin Duguay, Greg Patinka, Kris Gilbert, and Don Robertson

Absent with Excuse: Steven Bard, Warren Wetzelberg, Fred Booth, and Toby Wollin

1. The meeting was **convened at 1:40 PM**. The **May 8th** minutes were approved with one change. Ruth Levin is moving to Chandler, Arizona.

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.

- **Binghamton River Crawl**

Friday, July 14th at 6:00 PM at the Park Diner

This month's River Crawl will feature naturalist, Rick Marsi who will speak about the flora and fauna along the Binghamton riverside trails.

The "River Crawl" takes place on the second Friday of each month, commencing at 6:00 PM. Meeting locations will be at the 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.

ACTION: Scott was asked to obtain a copy of the Riverwalk stairway design plans, so the Committee could review them and send comments to the City to recommend retrofitting it. The current design does not work well, in that it is difficult to keep the bike tires in the ramp's trough.

- **Bike Tioga 2006** will take place on **Saturday, August 12th and Sunday, August 13th**. Go to www.biketiooga.com for details and updated information.

- **REPORT – Binghamton Historic Bridge Pedal**

This event was held on Sunday, July 9th from 9 – 11:00 AM. Steven Bard submitted the following report via email. Successful aspects of the event include that it went off without any incidents, that we got full cooperation with Binghamton Police, the weather was perfect, and that some attendees had a thrilling experience. Aspects of the event that need improving include getting more to attend, bike service prior to the event, and a little longer route. Things seemed to go well enough to justify trying it again next year.

The Committee discussed the event further. The police provided a rolling escort, and stopped auto traffic at intersections to allow cyclists the right of way. Augie Mueller provided some historical commentary along the way. He mainly used historical plaques that were already in certain locations. There is a need for more historical information on the bridges and for the length of the route. It was suggested that the Preservation Association of the Southern Tier (PAST) or other historical organizations can have its people participate in the ride, or provide scripts with historical information for the ride leader to read. It was also discussed about when to do the next ride. Options considered were the same time in July, or during Walk-N-Roll week.

- **REPORT – Marian Apartments Sidewalk**

Scott reported that the sidewalk has been installed along the frontage of the Marian Apartments, from driveway to driveway. The sidewalk also accesses the bus stop. There is also an asphalt path from the apartment's parking lot to the bus stop and the sidewalk. Installing a sidewalk from the main door to the sidewalk may be a problem. According to a response Scott received from apartment owner SEPP, Inc., "the elevation of the land where the sidewalk would be placed is too high. Last year we (SEPP) attempted to

install a piece of sidewalk at another SEPP building to connect the parking area with the entrance. We were not able to install the sidewalk because of ADA laws. The amount of work that had to be done to create the proper elevation made the project not feasible. We will have our architects take a look and advise.”

- **REPORT – Walk-N Roll 2006**

Scott reported on the main events for Walk-N-Roll 2006

- **The pedestrian & bicycle safety display at the May 19th B-Mets game** went very well, despite the rain-out after only a few innings. The event was publicized on WBNG-TV and the Press & Sun-Bulletin’s Education in the Press Series. The game date was perfect also, since it was a special night for Boy Scouts, Honors Students, and the Endwell Little League meaning lots of children. It was also a fireworks night. Much information was distributed. Greg’s beanbag game was a hit. Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield donated two bikes (1 girl’s & 1 boy’s) for the free raffle giveaway.
- **The BC Walks Jr. Contest in the School Districts** went very well, too. Becky Gelunas of the Broome County Health Department organized and carried-out this activity. The winning class with the highest average steps per student for the contest time period was Lisa Anderson’s class from Deposit Elementary. The class received \$500 from Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield toward a health promotion activity of their choice.

3. Chris Thater Memorial Bike Rodeo - Saturday, August 26, 2006

BMTS will need to take the lead on the bike rodeo, due to Lucas Davis’ change in work responsibilities to the Bio-terror grant. A replacement for Lucas’ position will begin next week (7/17), but that will be too late to be able to get “up to speed” about coordinating a bike rodeo.

The Committee has discussed in the past about whether it is worth doing the rodeo at this event due to the lack of kids participating, the time put into organizing it, and the need for a good number of volunteers. The possibility of changing the date or event for the bike rodeo was also discussed.

It was also felt that in order to do quality bike rodeos, a quality reusable bike rodeo kit is needed. Examples of some items the kit should include are: signs for each rodeo station made from corrugated plastic, standard size STOP sign, orange cones, traffic light, realistic looking sponge-rocks, and other needed props. It is believed that \$500 would be sufficient to put a rodeo kit together. Greg said he would take the lead in putting together the kit once funds are available. It was also noted that a bike rodeo kit could be loaned out to organizations to conduct their own rodeos, so the Committee, the Health Department, or BMTS would not have to provide volunteers.

ACTION: Scott will contact Jim May and ask him about cancelling the bike rodeo for this year, and perhaps doing a bike rodeo at the Danielle 5-K Run/Walk, as well as ask about STOP-DWI funding a reusable bike rodeo kit. An email will be sent to the Committee indicating whether the rodeo is cancelled, the possibility of changing the rodeo date, and what the response is about the bike rodeo kit.

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: *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.*

- **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: 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.

- **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.

5. Other

- An update was requested regarding the Binghamton Intermodal Transit Terminal.

ACTION: Scott will arrange for an update for September's meeting.

6. Meeting Dates for the Next Two Months

- Monday, September 11, 2006 at 1:30 PM
- Monday, November 13, 2006 at 1:30 PM

7. Adjourned at 2:54 PM

Scott Reigle, Recorder