

BMTS Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee
Notes from the meeting held on Monday, November 14, 2005
5th Floor Planning Conference Room
Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building

Present: Scott Reigle, Toby Wollin, Craig Thomas, and Warren Wetzelberg

Absent with Excuse: Erin Duguay, Don Robertson, Ruth Levin, Greg Patinka, and Al Sunderwirth,

1. The meeting was **convened at 1:50 PM**. The **October 17th** minutes were approved with no corrections.

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.

- **MAGAZINE – The Ride – East Coast Bike Culture**

Toby informed the Committee about this magazine. It does a good job dealing with bicycling current events, special bicycling events, and advocacy.

A subscription costs \$18 for eight issues per year. For more information see www.RideZine.com.

3. Binghamton Intermodal Transit Terminal

Discussion of this project was tabled until the December 9th meeting.

4. Court St. (Tompkins St. to Chapman St.) Draft Design Report

Scott reviewed the draft design report for this project with the Committee. This project will consist of milling and repaving the roadway, streetscape improvements (medians with colored & stamped concrete, period street lighting, landscaping with vegetation), signal improvements, at-grade colored & textured bulb-outs/truck aprons, a left-turn lane onto NYS 7 northbound, and pavement markings including bike lanes.

The following are a compilation of Scott and the Committee's comments that were sent to the designers:

Page 31, Ch. III.C.1

1. Traffic signal loops need to be bicycle sensitive.
2. Replace pedestrian signals with countdown pedestrian signals at all intersections.

Page 39, Ch. III.C.2.b.3

1. Bicycle route signs need to be replaced according to the NYS MUTCD hierarchy for bike route signs: Local Route (M6-2) & State Route (M6-4)
2. Replace and upgrade pedestrian signals with countdown pedestrian signals at all intersections.

Page 40, Ch III.C.2.j

1. Ensure that utility poles and hydrants in the sidewalk area are relocated.

Drawing P-1 & PMP-1

1. Provide detailed description of "painted truck apron". Will the apron be ramped, or will it only be painted, at-grade with the roadway?
2. It is doubtful that a painted, at-grade truck apron will be effective reducing the curb radius of the intersection. Cars will likely cut the corner and drive on the apron.
3. A painted, at-grade truck apron will not work to shorten the length of the pedestrian crossings, or make the pedestrian more visible to motorists.
4. Rte. 363 SB Ramps: Move crosswalk slightly southward and extend raised median northward, and provide a cut-through for the crosswalk. This would provide a pedestrian refuge area, and break up the pedestrian crossing into two shorter segments.
5. Straighten (i.e. make less diagonal) the north-south crosswalk, moving it westward. This will shorten the pedestrian crossing distance, and allow for installation of separate curb ramps for each crossing direction, thus conforming to ADA standards.

Drawing P-2 & PMP-2

1. See comments 1 through 3 for Drawing P-1 & PMP-1.

2. Rte. 363 NB Ramps: Move crosswalk slightly southward and extend raised median northward, and provide a cut-through for the crosswalk. This would provide a pedestrian refuge area, and break up the pedestrian crossing into two shorter segments.

Drawing P-3 & PMP-3

1. See comments 1 through 3 for Drawing P-1 & PMP-1.
2. Pedestrian crossings are considerably long, as much as 6 travel lanes with 2 bike lanes (about 23.7 meters or almost 78 feet). Raised pedestrian refuge islands, with a cut-through for the crosswalk, would be beneficial for pedestrians. Especially for pedestrians with physical impairments, that make it difficult to cross the entire distance in one signal cycle.
3. Be sure to replace the Shared Roadway sign for US 11 eastbound, just east of Tompkins Street.
4. Straighten (i.e. make less diagonal) the crosswalks at this intersection. This will shorten the pedestrian crossing distance, and allow for installation of separate curb ramps for each crossing direction, thus conforming to ADA standards.

Drawing P-5

1. Crossing Liberty St. at Pine St. and at Henry St.: Need crosswalks with curb ramps for each crossing direction. Crosswalk at Henry St. should be carried through painted island.
2. Crossing Henry St. at Brandywine Ave./Rte. 7: Need crosswalk with curb ramps.
3. Brandywine Ave (north of Henry St.): For safety under the railroad bridge, make bike lanes 1.8 meters wide, northbound lane 4.3 meters wide, and the southbound lane 4.2 meters wide.
4. Liberty St. and Brandywine Ave.: The *northbound* bike lanes should be continuous for the entire length, and not dropped it at the T-intersections.
5. Replace non-ADA compliant curb ramps.

Drawing P-5

1. Where are the crosswalks?
2. Replace non-ADA compliant curb ramps.

5. Action Items

• BMTS Greenway Study Implementation Efforts

In the October meeting, 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 sent an email to the Committee with information about the Binghamton Metropolitan Greenway Study, and information on benefits of trails so Committee members could write to their County legislator.*

Steve said that he would have to carefully consider the possibility of submitting a resolution to the BMTS Planning & Policy Committees.

• Marian Apartments (Hooper Rd. in Endwell)

In past meetings, 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's Director, Steve, followed-up with Henry Weissmann. There seems to be some question as to whose right-of-way the proposed sidewalk would be on. Steve will keep in contact with Henry, with the objective of setting up a meeting with BMTS, Broome County Public Works, Erin Duguay, and Marian Apartment management & residents.*

• 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 took photographs of the roadway conditions, and showed a printout to the Committee. He will consult with his director on what the next steps should be.*

- **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.*

6. 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.

ACTION: *Toby accepted the nomination for Chairperson. A vote will be taken at the December 12th meeting.*

7. Meeting Dates for the Next Two Months

- Monday, December 12, 2005 at 1:30 PM
- Monday, January 9, 2006 at 1:30 PM

8. Adjourned at 3:15 PM

Scott Reigle, Recorder