

**Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study
Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2023**

In attendance:

Scott Reigle, Nick Cecconi, Stephanie Brewer, Carlos Basualdo, Susan Pitely, Mark Goodwin, Lonni Rawston, Steven Bard

Convene: 1:33 PM

November 14 minutes accepted as is.

Topic	Discussion/Follow Up	Action
<p>Roadway Needs Report:</p> <p>Follow Up to Previous Meeting Items:</p>	<p>Follow-up Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington St., Binghamton – Scott shared that the missing stay-right-of-the-divide sign at the Susquehanna St. intersection has been replaced. Using Google Streetview, it can be seen that there were two of these signs originally. One sign on its own post was knocked over during a car crash. We’re not sure if the other sign on the light post behind the original signpost was also knocked-off during the same crash. • Chenango St., Binghamton under the I-81 overpass is open to all traffic again. • State St. reconstruction between Henry St. & Lewis St. is almost complete. Another layer of asphalt will be laid when construction season commences. There will also be a raised mid-block crosswalk, and artistic crosswalks were planned. It was asked if there are best practice documents for decorative crosswalks. It was noted that the guidelines are being developed for the federal Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). NYSDOT does not allow decorative crosswalks on state roads, but municipalities can install them on their roads. Lonni mentioned that Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) are being updated, too. <p>New Needs Reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about how NO TURN ON RED determinations are made. Visibility and significant pedestrian presence are likely factors. NYSDOT Traffic & Safety may have a checklist with criteria. 	<p>Action Items:</p>
<p>Announcements and Status Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper Articles/Notices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No new articles or notices. 	<p>Action Items:</p>
<p>Education and Outreach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott shared with the Committee that the 2023 Binghamton Bridge Pedal is scheduled to take place on Saturday, August 12th 9am-12pm. It is desired for the bike ride route to feature the Rt. 434 Greenway and the US11/Front St Bridge over 	<p>Action Items:</p>

	<p>I81 trail. Photos were shown of the US 11 Bridge trail parklet and new pedestrian & bike counter. The parklet has a wide-open area that would work well for all the cyclists to congregate for a ride stop. A potential conflict may be when the existing pedestrian bridge removal will take place. Susan P. will inquire at NYSDOT about the timing of the removal and the expected completion of the Rt. 434 Greenway. Stephanie asked if the US 11 bridge stop would mean not riding into Otsiningo Park. Scott thought that it would be good to still go into Otsiningo Park, but to do a small loop, perhaps around the pond.</p> <p>Scott mentioned the need to be careful about going outside the City of Binghamton with the ride since the Binghamton Police are providing the escort. It was noted that other events like the Bridge Run cross municipal boundaries. Contacting its organizers may provide some insight into what's involved in multi-municipal events. Another potential ride stop could be Confluence Park where a Binghamton official could talk about the status of the Memorial Bridge Transformation Project.</p>	<p>EDITOR'S NOTE: Susan P. inquired with NYSDOT officials regarding potential Bridge Pedal ride conflicts and found the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The engineer in charge said he is very confident that the 434 greenway between Penn Ave and Murray Hill will be open to the public by August 12. • The letting for the ped bridge removal project is scheduled for August 10th – so unless that schedule compresses a lot (which is not expected), no worries for US Route 11 over I-81 looking like a construction zone still.
<p>Project/Reports</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian and Bicycle Counter Reports are available on the BMTS website. BMTS is looking into creating reports that are more meaningful, since counters that are not working properly throw-off total numbers & trends. For November, we are seeing typical seasonal trends of counts that are down in comparison with October with cooler temperatures and less hours of daylight. In comparison with November 2022, total counts were mostly higher with the exception of counters at Confluence Tunnel, Noyes Island, and Vestal Rail Trail – Shoppes. The same is true for pedestrian only counts with the addition Vestal Rail-Trail – Shoppes and the Owego Riverwalk also showing declines. For bike only counts compared to November 2022, counts are all up except for Noyes Island. A mild Fall & Winter may have contributed to more bicyclists. • The new counter at the US11 Bridge over I81 was activated on December 14th afternoon. So far counts have been averaging just over 100 total per day. Bike counts range from around 10 – 20 per day. Scott showed photos of the new counter. Three more counters will be added to the BMTS system later this year when the Rt. 434 Greenway is completed. • Chugnut Trail West Extension – Stephanie stated that funds were secure to extend the Chugnut trail westward to Grippen Park. A sidewalk will be installed from the west end of the existing Chugnut Trail to Vestal Ave. The intersection pedestrian crossings will be improved with high visibility crosswalks and Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons (RRFBs) to cross Vestal Ave. at the River Terrace intersection. Sharrows will be added to River Terrace and a pedestrian crosswalk and RRFBs to 	<p>Action Items: Download Counter Reports at: https://bmtsonline.com/data/bikeped-counts</p>

	<p>cross to the new trail segment beginning near Mersereau Ave. On-street pedestrian & bike improvements will be made on S. Liberty Ave. to Davis Ave. A boardwalk will be constructed and then multi-use trail to access Grippen Park. Trail access to Roundtop Park will also be constructed.</p> <p>The following improvements will also be made to Grippen Park: the former ice rink will be converted to a multi-use recreation facility; trailhead parking lot; accessible playground; seating & picnic tables; Two Rivers Greenway signage including interpretive signs highlighting the archeological significance of the site.</p> <p>Schedule: The project is designed and ready to be bid for construction. There are some environmental permits that are being waited on. The funding is through a 5-year grant. Project needs to be completed by 2027-2028.</p>	
<p>Agency/Dept. Updates</p>	<p>NYSDOT Region 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Editor’s Note above regarding the Route 434 Greenway and US 11/Front St. Bridge over I-81. • Susan said that though Chenango St. is re-opened under the highway overpass, sidewalk repairs will be taking place during the Spring. • Susan didn’t know any specifics about the Route 363 Gateway Project status but believes the City of Binghamton and NYSDOT Region 9 are in communication about the City’s Memorial Bridge Transformation Project. 	
<p>Other</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick shared that to create new opportunities for those experiencing poverty the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) today announced a new Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to help improve transit in areas experiencing long-term economic distress. <p>The \$20 million in competitive grant funding through FTA’s Areas of Persistent Poverty (AoPP) Program provides more resources to underserved and disadvantaged communities seeking to expand or improve transit systems.</p> <p>The AoPP program supports planning and technical studies to improve public transportation in areas experiencing long-term economic hardship -- in rural and urban communities alike. The AoPP program also funds planning for transit agencies to transition to low- and no-emission vehicles and associated charging equipment. Projects will be evaluated by criteria outlined in the NOFO. This NOFO will utilize Fiscal Year 2021 and 2022 funding. Apply by 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time on March 10, 2023.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

Adjourn: 2:55 PM

Next Meeting:

Monday, February 13, 2023 at 1:30PM