

BMTS Article Digest June – July 2021

BMTS Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee Members:

The following is a compilation of articles that may be of interest to BMTS Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee members. This and past digests can also be accessed from the Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee page at <http://bmtsonline.com/about/committees>.



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See the **Two Rivers Greenway Pedestrian & Bicycle Counting June 2021 Report** at <http://bmtsonline.com/data/bikeped-counts>.



May 2021 Bike/Ped Report

BMTS



New York State Police are investigating a deadly hit-and-run involving a group of bicyclists in Cortland County.

Authorities say four bicyclists were riding on Route 26 in the Town of Cincinnatus at 7:26 p.m. June 15 when two were hit by a vehicle that did not

stop.

A 67-year-old DeRuyter man is dead. A 67-year-old man from McGraw was taken to Upstate University Medical Center in Syracuse with non-life-threatening injuries. His condition and nature of his injuries are unknown.

The other cyclists in the group, a 34-year-old woman from Greene and a 64-year-old Cincinnatus man, were not hurt.

Troopers say the incident happened near the 29-hundred block of Route and closed the road between Telephone Road and Taylor Road for several hours with the road just reopening at around 3 a.m. June 16.

Troopers say the vehicle was located in the Town of Willet but offer no information about the driver and whether anyone has been detained.

State Police say they will release more information to the public when it becomes available.

UPDATE: June 17, 2021

New York State Police are releasing the identities of the bicyclist who was killed and the one who was injured when a group of riders was hit by a driver who left the scene in Cortland County.

Bob Joseph/WNBF News



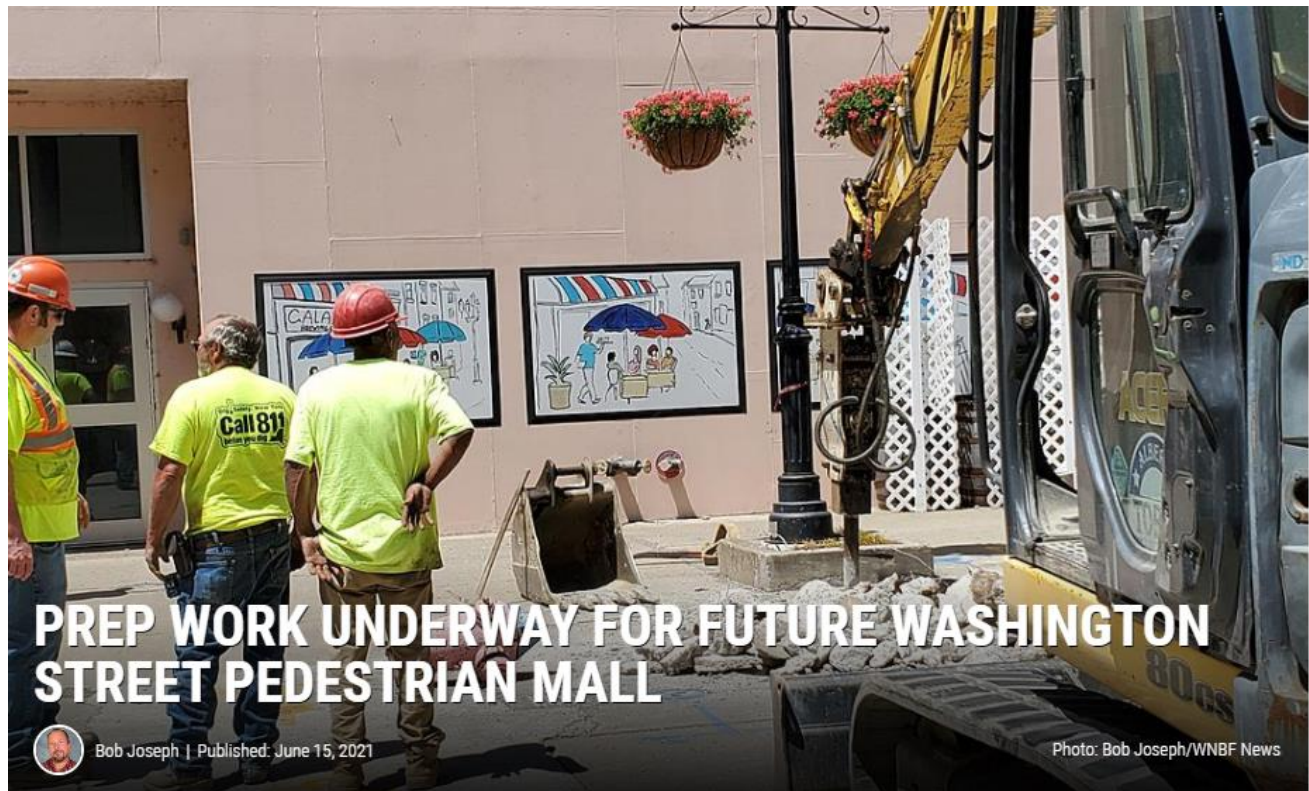
Troopers say 67-year-old Kitt Warren of DeRuyter was killed while 67-year-old John Rutan of McGraw was taken to Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse with non-life-threatening injuries after the group of riders was hit on Route 26 in Cincinnatus shortly before 7:30 p.m. June 15.

Two other riders, a 34-year-old woman from Greene and a 64-year-old man from Cincinnatus were not hurt.

A portion of Route 26 in Cortland County was closed for about eight hours during the initial part of the investigation.

State Police say the vehicle was found in the Town of Willet and authorities were talking with someone they believed to have been the driver.

The investigation is continuing.



Utility crews have been working along a crumbling pedestrian mall in downtown Binghamton.

Long-delayed efforts to improve the section of Washington Street north of Court Street near the MetroCenter are moving forward.

NYSEG workers have installed new electric lines under the mall in recent weeks.

Employees from Albert Torto Construction Corporation and the city have been making preparations for work on water lines, along with the installation of new fire hydrants.



An old fire hydrant was removed from the Washington Street pedestrian mall on June 14, 2021. (Photo: Bob Joseph/WNBF News)

Temporary water service interruptions are possible in the area as work continues this week.

The first efforts to redevelop the pedestrian mall started in 2014 with the removal of the city's

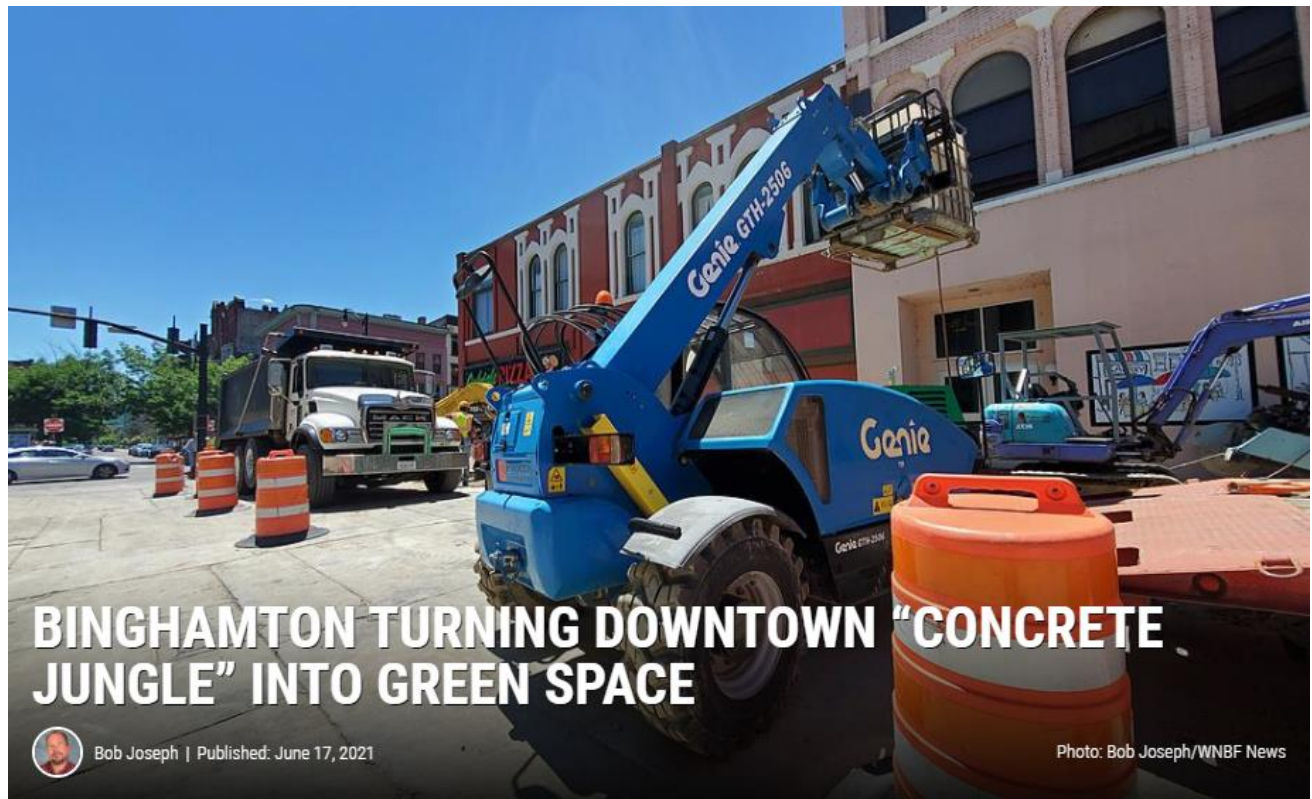
popular "Sidewalk of Stars." The in-ground exhibit honored dozens of beloved Southern Tier residents.

City councilmembers blocked a plan to construct a dozen parking spots in place of the pedestrian mall.

A new project was developed as part of the city's planned downtown Arts District. Construction is expected to start this summer.



These new fire hydrants are to be installed in downtown Binghamton. (Photo: Bob Joseph/WNBF News)



BINGHAMTON TURNING DOWNTOWN "CONCRETE JUNGLE" INTO GREEN SPACE



Bob Joseph | Published: June 17, 2021

Photo: Bob Joseph/WNBF News

New landscaping, lighting and decorative pavers are about to be installed in a rundown area in the heart of downtown Binghamton.

The Washington Street pedestrian mall has languished for several years. In July 2014, the "Sidewalk of Stars" near the MetroCenter was removed in preparation for a project that would have created 11 parking spaces.



Markers honoring 44 Binghamton-area residents were removed from the "Sidewalk of Stars" in July 2014. (Photo: Bob Joseph/WNBF News)

City council blocked work on that \$336,000 project. The new initiative is expected to cost \$636,000.

Mayor Richard David said the city is "transforming a concrete jungle with new green space and amenities."



A preliminary site plan rendering of the Washington Street Mall project. (Image: Binghamton City Government)

David said the area has a long history of being "a problem spot" with "illegal and undesirable activity."

Procon Contracting of Vestal is the contractor for the pedestrian mall upgrade project. It is scheduled to be completed this fall.

Construction work on the Washington Street Pedestrian Mall on June 17, 2021. (Photo: Bob Joseph/WNBF News)



British Drivers Baffled by Bizarre Roundabout Painted on Road

By Gary Gastelu

Published June 16, 2021

Fox News



As if the crop circles weren't puzzling enough!

A roundabout comprised of concentric ovals has drivers in Douglas on the Isle of Man puzzled. (SWNS)

Drivers on the Isle of Man are being baffled by a new roundabout comprised of a series of concentric ovals in the middle of the British Crown dependency's capital of Douglas.

The feature doesn't have a physical island or clearly defined lanes and locals aren't sure what to make of it.

"It makes no sense to me, why not just put a regular roundabout in there? It's just confusing for everyone," islander Craig Goffin told SWNS.



The Douglas roundabout replaces a triangular intersection. (Google Street View)

It replaces a triangular intersection on the seaside promenade. The lines are meant as a visual indicator to slow down and drivers are expected to drive generally around the inner oval in a clockwise direction.

"I'm at a loss as to who thought this was a good idea, you can see the gradient from certain angles and not from others," Julie Charlton wrote on Facebook. "This design is for pages in a 'mind puzzle' book... shocking!"



(SWNS)

"The Department of Infrastructure would like to reassure motorists that the two roundels being installed... are to be driven in the same way as any other roundabout," the department stated in a press release.



Roundabouts are typically defined with a physical central island or marker. (George Clerk/iStock)

The department described it as a roundel, and noted that it is located in a 20 mph zone and that similar designs have been used in other cities as traffic calming features. However,

they are often designated with paving stones, but Douglas used the painted lines as a money-saving measure.

The city of Poynton outside of Manchester has employed roundels as part of a larger shared-space road management project, where cars and pedestrians are expected to co-exist on largely unmarked roads.



The Douglas roundel is only currently open between two of the three intersecting roads, but is scheduled to fully open to traffic on July 15. A second one is planned to be installed nearby.

"I feel, once the overall area is complete, motorists will soon get used to them," Infrastructure Minister Tim Baker said.

The rural Isle of Man is famous for not having a national speed limit outside of its towns and is host of annual motorcycle races on its public roads that have [claimed the lives of 259 people over the years.](#)



Congresswoman Claudia Tenney says Broome County is getting millions of dollars in funding for more electric and other clean-energy public transit vehicles.



Photo: Bob Joseph/WNBF News (file)

The Republican says \$3.2-million is coming through the Low and No-Emission Vehicle Grant Program.

Tenney says the funding allows local transit authorities to buy or lease low or no-emission buses and other transit vehicles that rely on battery electric and fuel-cell power to provide cleaner travel options in communities.

Broome County's grant totals \$3,225, 276.

Broome County Transit gets \$3.25 million to add 6 electric buses with BAE components

Neal Simon

Binghamton Press & Sun-Bulletin

A \$3.25 million federal grant will allow Broome County Transit to replace six of its older, diesel-fueled mass transit vehicles with six long-range battery electric, zero-emission buses in 2023.

The funding, which was secured through a U.S. Department of Transportation Low and No Emission Vehicle Grant Program, was announced by New York Sens. Charles E. Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand.

The lawmakers said the new green vehicles will feature powertrain components made by BAE Systems of Endicott.



“Transit service is a lifeline for many Broome County residents, and this new vital funding will allow BC Transit to purchase brand spanking new, efficient, non-polluting electric buses to provide riders with a safe ride while helping the environment at every stop along the way,” said Schumer, a Democrat and the Senate Majority Leader.

BC Transit currently has 14 BAE hybrid drive-powered buses in service and have two more on order for delivery late this year, according to Greg Kilmer, commissioner of Broome County Public Transportation. BAE builds the powertrain and management systems that the bus manufacturer installs in their chassis.

Kilmer said the six new buses represent the first step toward implementing full battery electric buses, which will require new charging infrastructure, resulting in longer than normal lead times.

BC Transit is targeting October 2023 for delivery and implementation. The buses will be manufactured by NOVA Bus in Plattsburgh, using BAE's latest battery electric propulsion.

Officials said the new zero-emissions buses will reduce BC Transit's annual emissions by about 416 tons.

"With this investment, Broome County Transit will be able to move from using diesel-fueled buses that pollute the region's air quality to new, electric buses that offer zero and low emissions and create local jobs," said Gillibrand, a Democrat.

Broome County Executive Jason Garnar praised "our essential workers at BC Transit who have continued to operate throughout the COVID-19 pandemic."

Garnar added, "This funding is a win for the environment, a win for local jobs, and tremendous step forward in advancing public transit infrastructure in Broome County."

BC Transit previously received \$10.7 million in CARES Act funding and \$2.3 million from the American Rescue Plan to keep the transit system operating during the COVID-19 pandemic and to help stave off fare hikes for riders.

In 2014, the federal Transportation Administration provided \$4 million in funding for BC Transit to purchase 10 environmental-friendly buses.

Kilmer called the new buses "a collaboration" of New York manufacturers, researchers and public transportation providers including BC Transit, NOVA Bus and BAE Propulsion Systems."

"As part of this grant, BC Transit and BAE have agreed to extend our 'Living Laboratory' agreement allowing open data sharing with NOVA Bus and Binghamton University for research purposes," Kilmer added.

Broome County has a long history of supporting mass transit, operating the first electric trolley in New York state in 1887. B.C. Transit was created in 1968.
