

## **BMTS Article Digest December 2021 – January 2022**

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>.



---

## **Pedestrian & Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) Messenger e-Newsletter**

Go to <http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/newsroom/newsletters.cfm>.

Subscribe to the new monthly PBIC Messenger. Send news for future issues to editorial team member Linda Tracy.

---

### **Come out and play in Broome County**

Go All Out Broome County is your simple guide to hundreds of places and thousands of acres in your own backyard or just down the road. Easily locate hidden gems and local favorites then map your next outdoor adventure in Broome County. Go to [www.GoAllOutBroome.com](http://www.GoAllOutBroome.com).

Explore more than a dozen state forests, 78 parks or 77 miles of paddle friendly waters. Give our antique carousels a go-round or enjoy a round of golf on courses worthy of professional competition. From challenging trails to hike or bike to riverside strolls or picnics, you can go all out in any way, in every season, in Broome County.

Now you're just a few clicks away from an awesome day.

---



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



P L A N E T

P O S S I B L E

[THE BIG TOPIC:](#)  
**A BOOMING TWO-WHEELED  
ELECTRIC REVOLUTION**

Tuesday, December 21, 2021





PHOTOGRAPH BY SVEN SIMON, PICTURE-ALLIANCE/DPA/AP IMAGES

By **David Beard**, *Executive Editor, Newsletters*

So far, the U.S. government has handed out \$10 billion in subsidies [to purchase electric vehicles](#) using tax credits.

The EV's tinier, dramatically greener cousin, the e-bike, [hasn't gotten squat](#)—although there's a chance that Americans might get e-bike rebates if the Senate approves the Build Back Better Act, already passed by the House.

Before we go there, why an e-bike? Doesn't that just help you chug up a hill? Proponents say sales have jumped in recent years because of improvements in [pricing, power, and lithium-ion battery technology](#). About that battery: [It's 1/90th the size of its EV cousin](#), a much more efficient use of cobalt and other rare earths, and much quicker to charge.



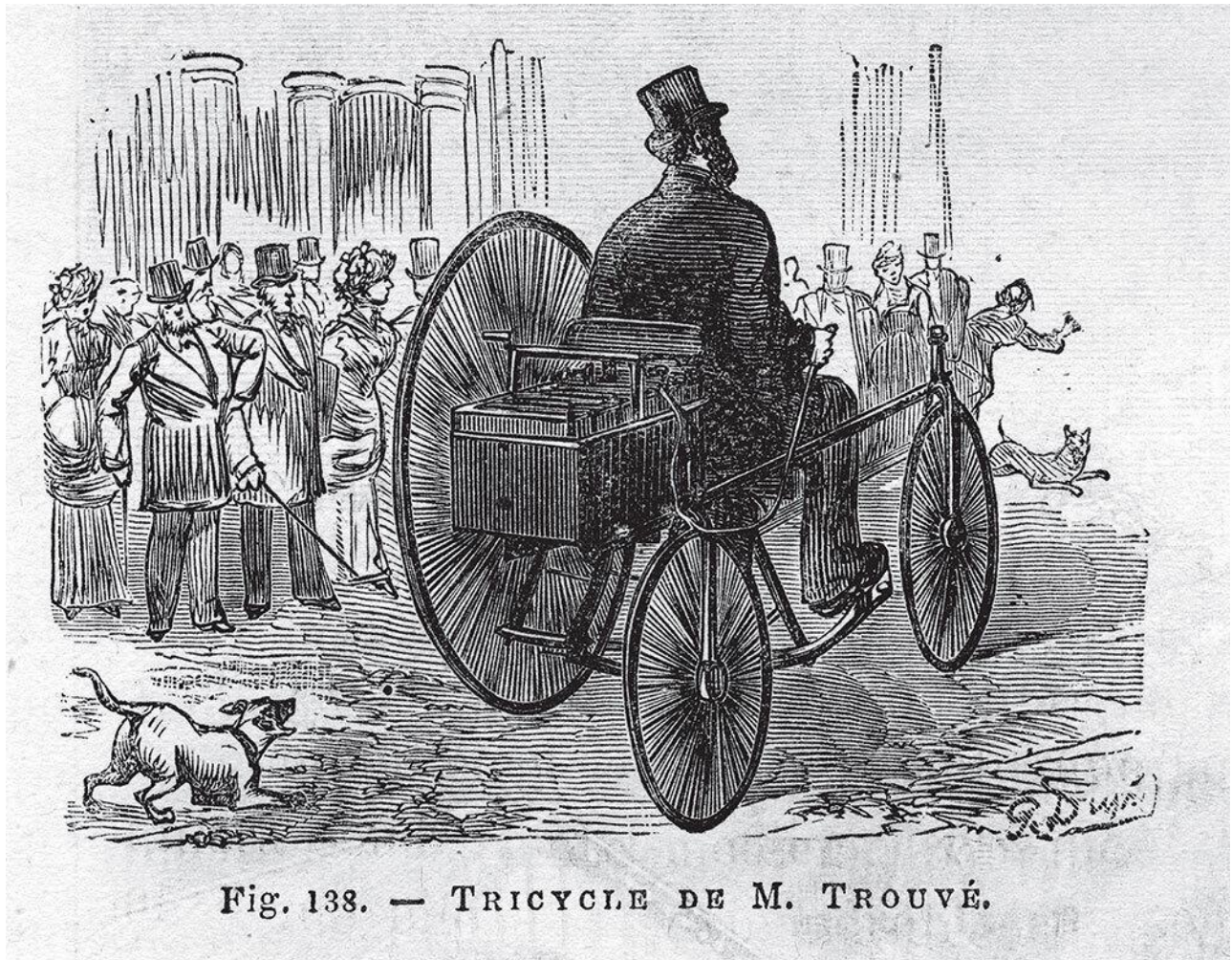


Fig. 138. — TRICYCLE DE M. TROUVÉ.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MUSÉE ELECTROPOLIS, MULHOUSE

E-bikes begin at about \$500 and can go up 10 times or so higher. The House-passed bill would give a credit of 30 percent for up to \$3,000 spent on a new e-bike, excluding bikes that cost more than \$4,000. The goal is to put more fannies in e-bike seats, *Bloomberg's* **Ira Boudway** [explains](#).

Back in September, a Nat Geo story proclaimed [the future was electric](#). Writer **Craig Welch** was referring to EVs, but the new year may prove interesting for its spunky two-wheeled cousin, too.

*(Pictured at top, German national soccer player **Robin Koch** rides an e-bike after morning training in the Alps in May 2021; above, a drawing of a Trouvé electric tricycle on the streets of Paris in 1881.)*

---

# The PBIC Messenger

E-News from the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center



## Webinar Announcement

### Upcoming Webinar on Addressing Child Pedestrian Safety

**Child and youth pedestrian crashes deserve another look: Why and how to do it**  
**Thursday, January 27, 2022**

1:00 - 2:30 pm Eastern Time

[Register Here](#)

In most cities children don't comprise a large share of pedestrian crashes yet there are good reasons and real benefits for a deliberate approach to give this age group the special protection they need. Starting with a focus on youth also can build momentum to address road safety for all. Presenters will offer an overview of Vision Zero for Youth and the results of a two-year demonstration project with the city of Philadelphia using policy change and testing a systemic process to identify high risk roads for children and youth in combination with an equity analysis.

Presenters include:

- Nancy Pullen-Seufert, PBIC/National Center for Safe Routes to School
- Diane Lambert, Toole Design Group
- Lily Reynolds, City of Philadelphia Office of Transportation, Infrastructure and Sustainability

---

PBIC offers free, public webinars approximately every month. To register for upcoming webinars and to access archived presentations, please visit [www.pedbikeinfo.org/webinars](http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/webinars).

Follow the PBIC on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) and join the discussion





# Newman Development Donates Land for Vestal Rail Trail

Rosemary B. West

The last regular Vestal Town Board meeting of the year 2021 on Dec. 15 began with a Vestal resident asking Town Supervisor W. John Schaffer about the Health Insurance Amendment item that was on the evening's agenda. The Supervisor asked Human Resources Director Nancy Olmstead, who was at the meeting to assist with answering the resident's question as to what type of spending study went into this decision and how much of the taxpayers' contributions would end up going towards this change in retirement funds.

Olmstead explained that beginning January 1, 2022, all full and part-time elected officials and the appointed Town Attorney must serve a minimum of ten (10) consecutive years with the Town to be eligible for Health Insurance coverage in retirement. Starting January 1, 2022, all full and part-time Elected Officials and the appointed Town Attorney are eligible for spousal Health Insurance coverage in retirement. For those who were hired or took office prior to January 1, 2009, Medicare Part B reimbursement for the retiree and spouse are frozen at \$88.50 per month. For those who took office or were hired on or after January 1, 2009, there will be no Medicare Part B reimbursement for the retiree or spouse. (NOTE: retirees and spouses are still required to sign up for Medicare Part B coverage). These changes will be placed into the Employee Handbook when it is updated.

Schaffer added, "This affects a small amount of employees. There should be no significant impact to the Town of Vestal taxpayer community."

Town Board authorization was given for amending health insurance coverage.

The Board of Fire Commissioners voted and adopted the Bond Resolution authorizing the construction of the proposed new Town of Vestal Fire Station #4. The estimated cause is expected to be \$7,500,000. Authorization for the issuance of the serial bonds to cover the cost was also completed. The Board of Fire Commissioners scheduled a Special Election to be held on January 25, 2022, from 12 pm to 9pm at Vestal Fire Station #1 concerning the construction of the new Vestal No. 4 Fire Station.

A resolution was passed approving the following residents to be election inspectors for the Special Election on January 25 at Vestal Fire Station #1: Janet Cole was appointed as permanent chairman of the Special Election. She will be receiving \$13.50 per hour. The following were appointed to act as Inspectors of the Special Election. It was noted there will be at least two inspectors for each ballot box or voting machine used. Cora Walter, Joyce Ellis, Ilene Pinsker, Sharon Roberts, and Diane Zavada (Alternate) were assigned to be inspectors. They will receive \$12.50 per hour. A training meeting was scheduled for January 11 at the Vestal Town Hall for the Special Election Inspectors.

The Board unanimously approved a resolution accepting the donation of two parcels at 250 Sycamore Road and 3014 Vestal Road. It was noted that the Town of Vestal accepts the conveyance of Newco Services, Inc. property, as a donation in as-is condition. The Town agrees to erect signs at the east and west end of each segment which state that the trail was donated by Newman Development Group—one at African Road and Sycamore Road and when completed, one at the easterly end near the former RR bridge over Old Vestal Road and one at the westerly end of that segment. Town Supervisor Schaffer was authorized to execute the conveyance documents for the recording of the Deed.

Water Superintendent Scott Groat will fill a vacant Laborer position by hiring Seaborn Kelley to start January 3, at the rate of \$16.34 per hour. This is the 2021 rate of pay, which will be adjusted as required when the new Collective Bargaining Agreement is finalized. The appointment is contingent on the successful completion of all pre-employment requirements.

An application for a Vehicle Service Station and Aquifer Special Use Permit for the property located at 305 Vestal Parkway East was discussed by the Town Board. Nitty Gritty Details plans to operate an auto detailing business at this location. The previous tenant had a similar business at this location. The Board agreed to schedule a public hearing for January 26, concerning this application.

Police Chief John Butler was authorized to transfer \$11,900 from the Canine line back into the Police Budget's Asset forfeiture line. It was noted this transfer amount was made from the Police Budget asset Forfeiture line earlier in the year to assist the K-9 Budget to cover start up costs for the new K-9 program. The start up expenses were \$14,381.37. The Police Department raised \$15,077 to cover expenses for the Department's new canine, Griz, and the Canine Fund. Thanks to donations from various community organizations and area residents, this transfer of \$11,900 can be put back into the Police Budget Asset line. Chief Butler noted the remaining balance would stay in the Canine Fund to be carried on into 2022.

The Town Board agreed to consider Police Captain Stace Kintner's suggestion that the Town consider participating in the Cordico Shield, Health and Wellness App for Law Enforcement. He said this would be a two-year contract with Lexipol. The Police Department has recently received grant funding via PERMA for this program that would cover the entire cost of the first year. The Town would be obligated to pay the cost initially and reimbursement would follow shortly after PERMA

receives the invoice. He said, "The second year would not be covered but we believe funding can be identified through the 2023 budget process or use of asset forfeiture monies."

Schaffer signed the 2021 Youth Bureau Funding Program Annual Assessment agreement.

Vestal Museum Director Chere Weisner-Rosales, received approval to accept a \$100 donation from the Oct. 9th Synergy Pump and Run and \$90 donation from the First Annual Vestival held on Dec. 4th. Chere said the \$190 will be used to fund activities at the Vestal Museum and Vestal Coal House.

Supervisor Schaffer thanked Town Board Councilman John Fletcher for his service on the Board and to the community. He added, "John Fletcher has been a great asset to the Town Board. He has been a part of many great improvements. He will be missed. I encourage him to run again, if the opportunity presents itself."

Councilwoman Suzanne Messina also thanked Councilman Fletcher for all of his work serving on the Vestal Town Board.

Councilman Ellis told Fletcher, "The past two years have been a pleasure. I look forward to continue collaborating with you on Vestal's 200th Anniversary party."

Councilwoman Patty Fitzgerald added, "Councilman Fletcher has been a great asset and will be missed."

Councilman Fletcher thanked everyone. He noted, "I've been a resident in the Town of Vestal for 55 plus years. I was privileged to be a member of the Vestal Town Board. I hope more Vestal residents will participate in the Town Board meetings. The work that goes into maintaining and growing the great Town of Vestal is complex, especially during the budget process. Sometimes, it takes community input to be part of the solution to getting it right. I want to thank the members of the Town Board. I've learned a lot in my time serving the community on the Town Board."



## HEATING CONTRACTORS

### FURNACES • BOILERS • DUCTLESS H.P. • PLUMBING

For High Efficient Home  
Comfort Systems

LENNY



CALL FOR  
COURTEOUS  
ESTIMATE

7 DAY  
EMERGENCY  
SERVICE



A complicated project designed to stabilize a sinking Interstate 81 bridge in Binghamton has yet to be finished.

Work on the \$3.5 million repair job has been underway for months. Chenango Street has been closed to through traffic since September. Traffic on I-81 is not affected by the project.

The state Department of Transportation had expected the street to reopen in December but that didn't happen. Pedestrians and bicyclists are able to use the street as construction work continues.



A view of the I-81 bridge over Chenango Street on January 4, 2022. (Photo: Bob Joseph/WNBF News)

An agency spokesman was unable to provide an updated target date for completion of the project. He said as of now, there are no plans to stop work during the winter and restart it in the spring.

The DOT installed special monitoring equipment under the bridge after it



became clear there was an ongoing problem with "uncharacteristic settlement" of the structure.

The bridge was constructed in 2013 as part of the massive Prospect Mountain project to redesign the Interstate 81/Route 17 interchange.

The DOT has said the work now underway is being done "out of an abundance of caution to preserve the structure's 75-year design life."

The state has been reviewing options to recover the costs associated with the effort to fix the troubled bridge.

---



NYC Sanitation   
@NYCSanitation

...

Did you know? We are excited to be piloting a program to test new small vehicles to help keep bike lanes clear of snow and ice. These vehicles are capable of putting down brine (a liquid salt) and some can be equipped with a small plow.



[https://twitter.com/NYCSanitation/status/1479146181838221315?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1479146181838221315%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1\\_&ref\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.accuweather.com%2Fen%2Fwinter-weather%2Flive-news%2Ftennessee-valley-to-northeast-snowstorm-live-updates%2F1121187](https://twitter.com/NYCSanitation/status/1479146181838221315?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1479146181838221315%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.accuweather.com%2Fen%2Fwinter-weather%2Flive-news%2Ftennessee-valley-to-northeast-snowstorm-live-updates%2F1121187)

---