

Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study
Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2025

In attendance:

Scott Reigle (BMTS), Nick Cecconi (Getthere), Nikole Hulbert (BCDOH), Devin Link (BCDOH), Jacob Rotary (Broome United Way/Fresh Cycles), Stephanie Brewer (BC Planning), Susan Pitely (NYSDOT Region 9), Julian Shepherd (BU/City Conservation Committee), Laura Spencer

Convene: 1:35 PM

March 10 minutes accepted as written.

Topic	Discussion/Follow Up	Action
Roadway Needs Report: Follow Up to Previous Meeting Items:	<p>Follow-up Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Memorial Bridge Transformation Project – Binghamton</u>: Scott shared the good news that this project, which would add separated bicycle and pedestrian facilities along the bridge, has successfully been approved to be on the updated BMTS Transportation Improvement Program. The timing of the project currently is to have the final design done in 2027, and then construction would be in 2028. Scott will be communicating with the city to see if they have any preliminary concepts that can be shared with the committee and will also look for opportunities that there will be for comments on draft designs that come through before final design approval. • <u>Vestal Ave. Pedestrian Crossing at Ivanhoe Rd.</u>: At last month's Committee meeting, Hadassah mentioned that there was a resident that had contacted her about the Ivanhoe crossing to access the 434 Greenway. The complaint was regarding speeding traffic and motorists not yielding to pedestrians in the crosswalk or stopping. Hadassah did take this to the City's Traffic Board, which meets monthly. Right now, they are not recommending putting in a raised crosswalk. I think we're going to look at, and maybe the city too, to see what the true situation is with the crossing. Scott stated that he uses this crossing frequently and would agree that it does seem like motorists don't like to yield to pedestrians. However, if you turn on the flashing beacons with enough warning and you make eye contact with drivers, they will stop for you. It appears education of the public is needed. Maybe there could be some opportunities where we get some information out to the public about rapid flash beacons and even the pedestrian hybrid beacon signals. Do that annually, especially as we get going from winter to spring and more people are out and about walking and using the trail. Nick suggested that a mid-road yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk sign could be helpful. Scott agreed but noted that someone, perhaps the City Park Dept., would have to put the sign in the road and take it out when needed such as when it snows. Speed and yielding to pedestrians enforcement would also be helpful. 	Action Items:

	<p>New Needs Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott stated that several news announcements are out regarding traffic signal replacements in Endicott on Watson Blvd. at N. McKinley Ave. & Hayes Ave. They are going to include adding pedestrian signal heads, which aren't there now, and also improving the curb ramps and crosswalks. 	
Announcements and Status Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper Articles/Notices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No new articles or notices. 	Action Items:
Education and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 Binghamton Bridge Pedal –Saturday, August 9th, 9am-12:30pm. Scott shared the ride route and the following bike ride stops: Lee Barta Community Center, the VINES building, and the MacArthur Park Trail Head. Permission to stop at Cutler Gardens has been granted by Cornell Cooperative Extension, however the Binghamton Police have not yet responded to confirm whether they are able to escort the ride north of the City line. The route will be about 11 miles long. Will promote the ride to be from 9 – 11:30AM. There will be no rain date, but if there is heavy rain, registrants can come to TechWorks! to pick up their shirt and tour the museum. Nikole noted that the BC Health Dept. will be able to table and hand out sunscreen but cannot supply water. Scott said that TechWorks will supply the water. The Lee Barta Community Center will be the location for the Health Dept. table. 	Action Items:
Projects/ Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian and Bicycle Counter Report: A quarterly report is in development and will be available on the BMTS website. Specific count data is available upon request. Scott reminded the Committee that BMTS is preparing for Eco-Counter to perform in-person maintenance on the counters during April 28-May 1. • Rt. 434 Tower Viewer & Interpretive Signs: Scott shared photos from the City's March 19th press conference that showed the tower viewer available for the public to view the eagle nest. Interpretive signs were also installed featuring information on the eagles, as well as information on other flora and fauna that is common along the Susquehanna River in the Binghamton area. • Friends of the Two Rivers Greenway (TRG) Group – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scott reported on the Tuesday, March 18 meeting held with municipality representatives and stakeholders in the Legislative Conference Room in the Broome County Office Building with a Zoom option. There was a total of 21 participants. Scott, Mark Bowers, and Mike Haas led the meeting starting with a presentation explaining what the TRG is, progress made on building the trails, current and future trail plans, and the need and purpose of a volunteer-based Friends Group. This was followed by group discussion about how stakeholders can progress the development of the volunteer-based group, and best assist municipalities with trail maintenance. It appeared that the municipalities welcome maintenance assistance, and that the stakeholders present support participating in and helping grow the Friends group. A likely direction that we'll go is finding stakeholders to "adopt" sections of the TRG that are close and convenient for them to help maintain. 	<p>Action Items:</p> <p>Friends of the TRG Meeting Recording Link. Passcode: t+=6pfqt</p>

	<p>Meeting notes and a link to the meeting recording were sent out to the entire invitation list, currently over 40 people. The Friends Group is still very informal, but we'll plan to have quarterly meetings. Scott will continue building up the email list of contacts and we'll invite everyone to those meetings so we can learn what what's going on in each municipality and share opportunities for cleanup and maintenance efforts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A reminder was given about Hadassah leading a trail cleanup team on Friday, April 25 from 1:00 – 3:00pm through the Binghamton University Alumni Global Day of Service program. Registration is open to anyone who wants to participate. Go to https://advance.binghamton.edu/s/1796/interior.aspx?sid=1796&gid=2&pgid=3438&cid=7595. If you are not a BU Alumni, put yourself down as a guest. The cleanup team will meet at the MacArthur Park Trailhead parking lot and the focus will be on cleaning the Rt 434 Greenway in the general vicinity to the east and west of the MacArthur trail spur. 	
Agency/ Dept. Updates	<p>NYSDOT Region 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan shared that the Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB) at the 17C pedestrian crossing in front of U-E High School will be replaced with a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) this summer. Regarding PHB education efforts, the school has been sent the links to some instructional videos NYSDOT has created. Susan believes they have some type of like e-newsletter for parents, which they will hopefully use to include PHB information over the summer. Susan also plans on reaching out to the school in August before school is in session to remind them about sharing the PHB information. <p>Broome County Health Dept.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nikole reported regarding the CHSC Grant funded treatments on Oak St. for the Binghamton High School. The proposed project that we've pretty much shifted to is a speed table that can be ordered with crosswalk striping. There's a couple of different materials to make a temporary crosswalk right outside of the high school. The Traffic Board is holding a special meeting this Thursday (4/17) to, as long as there's no issues with drainage or engineering issues, hopefully vote, accept and approve the project proposal so the Health Dept. can move forward with purchasing materials. • Devin shared that the CHSC Grant will also be funding benches for the Route 434 Greenway. The Health Dept. cleared the City to purchase those, so we're just waiting to get the invoice from them to know whether or not they've gone through. The last she heard is the City is going to be getting four benches with shades over them. Devin believes two of them are going to go on the Greenway and then two of them are going to go to another City of Binghamton Park, Sandy Beach. And then there's also going to be two benches that are convertible and turn into a picnic table. They're going to be back-to-back and they can fold it over and become a picnic table. Devin was not sure about the garbage cans. The Health Dept. approved them, but it depends on budget. <p>Broome County Planning Dept.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The construction phase has begun on the Chugnut Trail west extension project from Davis Ave. to Grippen Park. The trees have been cut, allowing for actual work on trail construction to begin. The contractor is running into a couple little road bumps with some parts of the design, 	Action Items:

but Planning is working with the consultant (EDR), BC DPW and BC Parks on those. Ultimately, the contractor (Rutledge Excavating out of Pennsylvania) is anticipating project completion during August or September 2025.

- There is renewed interest in developing a **Rail Trail in the Windsor/Colesville area** to connect with the Northeast Pennsylvania Rail Trail. The Broome County Planning Dept. will organize a meeting of stakeholders to discuss feasibility. Stephanie showed the general potential trail location on a map. There's a parcel that someone had bought, and their hopes were to make it into a trail. It's not known why nothing happened, but now it's owned by an energy service company that may want to sell it for a million dollars. No one has a million dollars just laying around to purchase it, so that's kind of the stumbling block that we're at right now. It sounds like some people are going to talk to political representatives who can have some political flux to see if there's any way to advance it.

Lee Barta Center

- Jacob mentioned that Fresh Cycles is hosting its first group ride of the season this Friday (4/18) at 2pm. We're going to be going from the Lee Barta Center out to the 434 Greenway. We're going to go check out the eagle viewer. All are welcome. We're just asking anyone who's under the age of 18 to come with an adult. Nick asked if people could join the ride midway? Jacob said absolutely. Jacob mentioned that his director was planning on getting him an air tag because when we've done group rides in the past, people have shown up late and wanted to know where we were. So, I'll probably have an air tag on me.

Binghamton / City Council

- No report.

Getthere

- Nick shared that Getthere is building up its volunteer transportation network and is hiring for a Volunteer Transportation Program Manager position.

Adjourn: 2:38 PM

Next Meeting: Monday, May 19 at 1:30PM (*NOTE: The third Monday of the month.*)