

**Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study
Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee
Zoom Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2023**

In attendance:

Scott Reigle (BMTS), Nick Cecconi (Getthere), Susan Pitely (NYSDOT R-9), Brian Cohen (BMTS), Tanya Husick (Bing. Univ.)

Convene: 1:32 PM

October 16 minutes accepted as is.

Topic	Discussion/Follow Up	Action
Introductions	Scott introduced Brian Cohen, BMTS's new Transportation Analyst to the Committee.	
Roadway Needs Report: Follow Up to Previous Meeting Items:	<p>Follow-up Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott contacted the City of Binghamton Dept. of Public Works Acting Commissioner, Josh Paludi regarding the Chenango St. & Henry St. southwest and northwest corner pedestrian buttons that are not working. Scott received a response that he'll have his guys take a look at them as soon as possible. • Margaret Opalka (AVRE) informed Scott of pedestrian signal buttons not working on the northeast corner of Court St. and Brandywine/Tompkins Street. Scott also informed Josh Paludi of these. <p>New Needs Reports</p> <p>The following items were provided by Mark Bowers for the Committee to discuss. He also sent a request to the City's Deputy Mayor, asking the City to consider his proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riverside Dr. east from Beethoven St. to Chapin St. – Scott shared that Mark Bowers emailed him with the following recommendation for the inclusion of dedicated bike lanes on Riverside Drive, east from Beethoven Street to Chapin Street. The inclusion of these bike lanes would complement the dedicated bike lanes already on Riverside Drive from Beethoven Street west to the city line. The only reason there aren't dedicated bike lanes is that the City allows on street parking. If parking were prohibited in this area, the roadway width could accommodate dedicated five-foot bike lanes in both directions. The inclusion of these bike lanes would also compliment the proposed improvements to the Memorial Bridge as well as provide additional bike infrastructure to support the recently opened Rte. 434 element of the Two Rivers Greenway. Note that it is not suggested to remove any parking between Chapin and Front Street. The Committee discussed other alternatives to accommodate cyclists. One that may be an initial/incremental option is installing edge stripes to narrow travel 	<p>Action Items:</p> <p>Scott will discuss these two design proposals at the next BMTS staff meeting and determine next steps to take.</p>

	<p>lanes to 11 or 10 feet wide and creating shoulders to be used by cyclists. Not designating them as bike lanes would allow on-street parking to continue. Since the on-street parking is rarely used, space should be available for cyclists for the majority of time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intersection of E. Clinton St. and Washington St. – Mark is suggesting the removal of the dedicated turn lanes on all three approaches to this intersection. He also questions whether the signalized intersection meets warrants for having a three-color signal. Could this be replaced with stop signs on all three approaches? Also, additional on street parking spots could potentially be created. • Susan also followed up regarding the question of making the Rt. 434 shoulders formal bike lanes. She said this was not possible because pedestrians also need to use the shoulders on most of Rt. 434. 	
Announcements and Status Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper Articles/Notices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nothing additional to share. 	Action Items:
Education and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Binghamton Bridge Pedal – Possible dates include Saturday, August 10th or 17th, 9am-12pm. Planning for the event will begin during January • Walk, Bike and Roll NY 2024 Symposium – will take place at the Double Tree Hotel in Binghamton on September 16-18. Mark your calendars! 	Action Items:
Project/Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian and Bicycle Counter Reports are available on the BMTS website. Scott shared that BMTS will not install visual barriers to remedy car counting by using a 4-foot by 3-foot white foam board for the MacArthur Park counter unless the City of Binghamton permits it. BMTS may wait for NYSDOT to remedy the car counting issue at MacArthur and then work with the Town of Dickinson to emulate the treatment at the US11 over I-81 counter. • Formation of a Friends of the Two Rivers Greenway (TRG) Group - Scott shared a history of the development of the TRG. As the TRG has been implemented, the need for a Friends of the TRG group has been more evident for items such as trail maintenance, having a source for comprehensive TRG information, promoting the TRG, and supporting the completion and extensions of the TRG. BMTS staff and Mark Bowers met with Parks & Trails NY representatives to get guidance on how to create a Friends group. Main outcome points were: ultimately the Friends group needs to be a grass routes organization; the group can start out under the umbrella of an existing 501c3 organization; establish initial priorities (e.g. TRG legitimacy: website & social media presence, trail maintenance/enhancement). An initial step to take is to establish the group’s initial purpose and hold a public meeting to present the Friends of the TRG concept and gauge interest in participation. Stakeholders would also be directly invited to this meeting too. 	Action Items: Download Counter Reports at: https://bmtsonline.com/data/bikeped-counts Scott will arrange a meeting with BMTS staff, Mark B., Cyndi Paddick, and other interested individuals to establish initial priorities for the Friends group, and work on preparing for a public meeting during the Spring.

	<p>Brian shared that he has joined several student-run groups at Binghamton University that can potentially play a significant role in participating with a Friends of the TRG group. Tanya said that the Binghamton University administration has been focusing more on bike & pedestrian issues and can potentially be helpful to a Friends group efforts.</p> <p>It will be helpful to research how other Friends of Greenway groups started. Susan is involved with the Friends of the Broome County Public Library. Their by-laws may be helpful to reference.</p>	
Agency/Dept. Updates	<p>NYS DOT Region 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Susan shared that the old pedestrian bridge over I-81, connecting Sunrise Terrace to Front St., has been taken down. Also, the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) applications are due on January 9th. Award announcements are estimated to be 6-7 months after the application submission deadline. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Binghamton University: Tanya Husick shared that BU has an alternative transportation plan that has been six months in the making, and some details are still being worked out. The intent is to go for funding to implement it. Vetting of the plan still needs to happen. The plan will be posted for review on the BU Transportation & Parking Services website. 	Action Items:
Other	None	Action Items:

Adjourn: 2:35 PM

Next Meeting: Monday, January 8, 2024 at 1:30PM

NO DECEMBER MEETING!