

Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study
Planning Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 2, 2021 1:30 pm
Broome County Office Building
6th Floor, Legislative Conference Room & Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Jennifer Yonkoski at 1:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present:

Leslie Boulton, Chair, Broome County Public Works
Vernon Myers, Vice-Chair, Town of Vestal
Beth Lucas, Broome County Planning
Gary Hammond, Tioga County Public Works
Lou Caforio, Town of Union
Pam Eshbaugh, NYSDOT Region 9 Planning
Elaine Jardine, Tioga County
Ron Lake, Town of Dickinson Engineer
Alex Urda, Town of Chenango
Joann Lindstrom, Town of Owego
Bernice Griffiths, for John Paddick, City of Binghamton Public Works

Others Present:

Jennifer Yonkoski, BMTS Central Staff
Leigh McCullen, BMTS Central Staff
Scott Reigle, BMTS Central Staff
Ashley Seyfried, BMTS Central Staff
Cynthia Paddick, BMTS Central Staff

Approval of September June 3, 2021 minutes. Motion made R. Lake, seconded by G. L. Caforio. Approved by consensus.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment.

ACTION ITEMS

- **NYSDOT Targets for Safety Performance Measures**
[Resolution 2021-07, Recommending Policy Committee support the 2022 NYSDOT Performance Standards related to Safety]
 - J. Yonkoski provided an overview of Resolution 2021-07. This is a yearly approval required by the FAST Act. Each year BMTS supports NYSDOT State Targets which means that BMTS agrees to fund projects that meet these goals.
 - ✓ R. Lake made a motion, seconded by L. Caforio, to approve Resolution 2021-07. The resolution was approved by unanimous consent.

- **2020-2024 TIP Amendments**
- 2. [Resolution 2021-08, Recommending Policy Committee approval of an amendment to the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program, FAST Act requirement – TIP Description of Anticipated Effects]
 - J. Yonkoski provided an overview of Resolution 2021-08. This resolution must be incorporated before approving any other TIP Amendments. This text will be included in the current TIP and then amendments can be approved.
 - ✓ R. Lake made a motion, seconded by L. Caforio, to approve Resolution 2021-08. The resolution was approved by unanimous consent.

- 3. [Resolution 2021-09, Recommending Policy Committee approval of an amendment to the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program, PIN 9PM022 Pavement Marking Contract, increase Construction phase from \$1.400M TO \$2.500M AND CI phase from \$0.140M TO \$0.250M]
 - J. Yonkoski provided an overview of Resolution 2021-09. This is a request by NYSDOT for pavement marking as additional funding was given by Main Office DOT.
 - ✓ R. Lake made a motion, seconded by L. Caforio, to approve Resolution 2021-09. The resolution was approved by unanimous consent.

- 4. [Resolution 2021-10, Recommending Policy Committee approval of an amendment to the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program, BC Transit FTA Section 5339 Competitive Grant Award]
 - J. Yonkoski provided an overview of Resolution 2021-10. This amendment is for FTA funds for BC Transit to purchase 6 electric busses. The total project cost is \$7,592,495 with a local share of \$375,898.
 - ✓ R. Lake made a motion, seconded by L. Caforio, to approve Resolution 2021-10. The resolution was approved by unanimous consent.

DISCUSSION ITEMS / UPDATES

TIP Administrative Modifications

J. Yonkoski described that TIP Subcommittee must approve amendments or modifications before they proceed to the Planning Committee. As the State fiscal year ends September 30th, 2021, any projects that are not complete need to move to the following fiscal year (2022).

TIP Database for Local Projects

J. Yonkoski related this action item to the TIP administrative modifications. As many projects fall behind schedule, TIP Subcommittee suggested that the MPO hold monthly regular meetings to help facilitate the progression of projects along so that less modifications would be made, and projects could remain on schedule. J. Yonkoski opened it to the floor for support or questions. No questions.

BMTS Travel Demand Model Update

A. Seyfried provided an update on the progress of the Travel Demand Model. Transpo was the consultant selected. BMTS has had two meetings with the consultant thus far.

North St., city of Binghamton RSA

L. McCullen made it known that the Road Safety Audit for North Street in the City of Binghamton will be on September 28, 2021 at 1:30pm. The goal is to identify as a group safety issues and develop countermeasures.

Annual Traffic Count Program

L. McCullen stated that BMTS' Annual Traffic Counting Program will be collecting Turning Movement Counts (TMC) at intersections the last week of September with completion expected the first week of October.

Bike/Ped Counter Data and Update

A. Seyfried provided an overview of the bicyclist and pedestrian data up to August 31, 2021. The region has nearly 3.5 million counts since installation in 2019 and over 1 million counts this year. Counts have decreased from last year, likely due to the initial impacts of COVID-19 and recreation.

S. Reigle described current maintenance and issues experienced with the counters. Two counters are needing to be replaced and will be replaced soon. S. Reigle explained that BMTS is intending to rate the trail pavement during the months of September and October.

E-bike Regulations Update

S. Reigle provided a status update on the E-Bike Regulations specifically on multi-use trail. Bicycling and E-bike use is popular in the trail system. E-bikes are defined by NYS in three classes. Class I and II cutoff once the bike reaches 20 mph and Class III allows assistance up to 28 mph. While many think negatively of e-bike users (specifically relating to speed and behavior), current research shows that when comparing e-bikes to regular bikes, the two have relatively similar speeds and riding patterns. S. Reigle recommends that combustion engine bikes are different from e-bikes and should be prohibited from trails, Class I & II should be permitted

on trails, speed limits should be posted and adhered to, and all trail users should be educated about behavior. S. Reigle conveyed that Broome County is currently updating the policy on e-bikes and described that many benefit from the e-bike use. Broome County Parks Department plans to update the policy in accordance with BMTS recommendations and is currently posting signs about trail use and will have BC Security help enforce rules, and the County plans on conducting a survey on use. The report will include recommendations, BMTS will keep tabs on the County's policy and progress and hopes that regulations will be similar across all municipalities.

TIP Update: 2023–2027 Call for Projects this Fall

J. Yonkoski described that the 2023-2027 TIP Update is occurring, and that the committee should be expecting a call for projects this Fall, expected in November, from BMTS.

- Local Safety Issues/Locations
 - J. Yonkoski explained that HSIP funds can be used on any roadway. BMTS can work with a local if they believe they have a roadway that would qualify.
- Traffic Signal Projects
 - J. Yonkoski explained that oftentimes single traffic signal projects are expensive and suggests creating signal projects in bulk to make them less expensive and BMTS would help facilitate that.

Federal Transportation Legislation Update

J. Yonkoski updated the committee on the Federal Transportation Legislation. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was passed by the Senate and the House is expected to be looking at it in September. AMPO & NYSMPO have suggested that funding is expected to increase significantly for transportation funding if this passes.

BUSINESS OFFERED FROM THE FLOOR

- V. Myers explained that the Town of Vestal has been contacted by E-Scooter companies and asked S. Reigle for opinions for use on trails. S. Reigle explained it is important to allow as many transportation users as possible on trails, but ensure that users are compliant. S. Reigle followed up with Vern to clarify his response: "From the research I've done on trail use regulations, it is encouraged to allow as many types of users on multi-use trails as possible, while focusing on enforcing trail etiquette by all users. It is also recognized that if there is persistent violation of trail etiquette by certain types of trail users despite regulation enforcement efforts, prohibiting that particular mode may be necessary to ensure trail use safety."

Motion to adjourn made by R. Lake, seconded by C. Caforio and approved by consensus. Meeting adjourned at 2:08 pm. Next meeting is Thursday December 2nd, 2021.