

BMTS Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee
Notes from the meeting held on Monday, March 13, 2006
5th Floor Planning Conference Room
Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building

Present: Scott Reigle, Ruth Levin, Steven Bard, Al Sunderwirth, Greg Patinka, Fred Booth, Gail Domin, Don Robertson, Mayor Edward Arrington, Erin Duguay, and Warren Wetzelsberg

Absent with Excuse: Craig Thomas, Luke Davis, and Toby Wollin

- The meeting was **convened at 1:40 PM**. The **February 13th** minutes were approved with no changes.

2. Announcements and Status Reports

- **News articles and announcements** are sent out in a monthly emailing, around the time the Committee Meeting agenda & minutes are sent out. They are also available in .pdf (Acrobat) format on the BMTS website (www.bmtsonline.com) in the REPORTS section. The direct link is http://www.gobroomecounty.com/departments/BMTS_reports.php.
- **Bike Tioga 2006** will take place on **Saturday, August 12th** and **Sunday, August 13th**. Go to www.biketiooga.com for details and updated information.
- **BC Walks for Gold:** In celebration of Broome County's Bicentennial, The Broome County Health Department - Steps to a Healthier NY and United Health Services presents BC Walks for the Gold. Starting March 28, (the actual date of our County's 200th anniversary) 100 pairs (200 shoes) of gold shoes will be hidden along walking trails (indoor and outdoor), county parks and down Main Streets through towns, villages and cities throughout the County. The gold shoes will be 'sponsored' and decorated by members of the Steps to a Healthier NY - Broome consortium. Beginning **March 28 through April 28**, 3 - 4 partners will be responsible for hiding gold shoes in your neighborhood. The consortium member will need to let Steps staff know where the shoes have been placed. Each shoe must have an official BC Walks for the Gold certificate. Once a shoe is spotted, the lucky walker calls 607-778-3067 and the official number is recorded and a gold 'medal' is awarded. The finder of the gold shoes will receive a gift certificate to purchase a pair of sneakers.
- **Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS):** Erin reported that she talked with Gary Holmes, City of Binghamton Engineer, regarding installation of APS at the Court St. /Hawley St. /Water St. intersection as part of the Court St. Bridge reconstruction. It looks like this will happen. When APS is installed, a public education campaign will be necessary.
- Erin informed the Committee that construction for both the **Court St. Bridge Reconstruction and the Binghamton University Downtown Center** is beginning. BC Transit routes are being altered due to the bridge construction. There was minimal publicity about the route changes, maybe a short notice in the newspaper. It is recommended that BC Transit provide notice of route changes using media that would be informative to the sight impaired public, such as radio PSA's. Erin also noted that the sidewalk in front of the University Center construction site will be taken out, and a walkway using a part of the roadway will be created in conformance to ADA guidelines. The pedestrian crossing at the Susquehanna St. and Washington St. intersection needs to be improved with expected increase in traffic due to the Court St. Bridge work. Currently a flashing yellow light exists at that intersection. The Association for Vision Rehabilitation and Employment (AVRE) is located at that intersection, so there will be sight impaired pedestrians crossing there as well. Construction noise will make it difficult to pick-up traffic noise cues to help them cross the street.
ACTION: Scott will connect Erin with Cyndi Paddick to get this onto the Binghamton Traffic Board Agenda where a solution can be devised.

3. Walk-N-Roll 2006 (May 13 – 20)

ACTIVITIES/EVENTS:

- Hold a Bike and/or Pedestrian Safety Event at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School: Scott reported that Luke Davis informed him that the UHS Trauma Unit Education Team is giving a bicycle safety assembly at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School on April 5th. Benjamin Franklin Elementary may be interested in

doing a bike rodeo during Walk-N-Roll week, and he is sure that Calvin Coolidge Elementary would like to do one, too. Greg suggested to check if the UHS Trauma Unit Education Team can provide a presentation for Calvin Coolidge Elementary rather than a bike rodeo.

ACTION: *Scott will ask Luke Davis if the UHS Trauma Unit Education Team can conduct a bicycle safety program for Calvin Coolidge Elementary.*

- **GIANT Bag Ad:** Scott submitted the bag ad to Brian O'Neil of GIANT. A sample of the ad was shown to the committee. The ad uses the same Shared the Road graphic as last year, and also promotes the Greater Binghamton Bike Route Map, along with Bike-To-Work Week in the text portion.
- **Coordinate with STEP Grant:** Scott contacted Mary McFadden with STEPS and it will be possible to utilize the media do some type of pedestrian and bike safety message. A pedestrian & bicycle safety display at a B-Mets game will also be pursued. Ideas for the display include the NYSDOT Pedestrian Crossing display, a bicycle giveaway, plus other handouts such as Greater Binghamton and NYS Bike Route 17 bike route maps, print materials from NYSDOT, and blinking red lights from the Broome County Health Department.

ACTION: *Scott will continue to work with Mary McFadden on this.*

- **Bridge Ride:** Steven shared progress made on his idea to organize a bike ride using the downtown Binghamton bridges, modeled after Portland, Oregon's "Providence Bridge Pedal". The proposed ride originates at MacArthur School (Binghamton Southside) then follows a route that uses multiple bridges downtown, then finishing back at MacArthur School. The next step will be for Dave Cody to organize a meeting with Dan Correll, the City's traffic sergeant, about the bridge ride idea, and find out what needs to be done to have the event, and when some possible dates for the event could be. Subsequently, a sponsor for the event will be sought.

ACTION: *Steven and Dave and interested Committee members will continue to pursue this.*

4. Advisory Committee Refocus

IMPORTANT...This Committee's meeting frequency will now be bi-monthly.

The following ACTION ITEMS were agreed to by the Committee:

- **Review of Project Design Reports:** Scott will review the projects design reports and comment on them as he normally does. He will then notify Committee members by email that a project design report is available for review, and attach his comments. Committee members, at their convenience, can review the project design report in the BMTS Conference Room, and give Scott their comments. Greg will also look into inviting Committee members to NYSDOT Region 9 Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee meetings to review project plans.
- **Review BMTS Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan:** Scott posted the Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan in the reports section of the BMTS website for the Committee members to review for this meeting. Updating the Plan, now 10 years old, was recommended. Scott said that updating the plan would need to be a task in the BMTS 2007-2008 Unified Planning Work Program, since the 2006-2007 Program was just approved. It was suggested to make the updated plan less specific with design standards, and site NYSDOT, ASSHTO, ITE, and other guidelines so the Plan will not become quickly outdated. It was also stated that the opportunity to "massage" the role of the BMTS Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee would be during the update the Plan.

5. Action Items

- **Marian Apartments (Hooper Rd. in Endwell)**

Scott and his Director, Steve Gayle, met with the Broome County Dept. of Public Works Commissioner, Henry Weissmann, and Tony Fiala & Alison Dunham of Serving the Elderly through Project Planning (SEPP) who owns and manages the Marian Apartments. The following was agreed upon:

- Broome County will install a sidewalk from driveway-to-driveway along the frontage of the Marian Apartments. Curb ramps will be installed at both ends and the sidewalks will provide access to the Hooper Rd crossing ramp, and the BC Transit bus stop shelter. The Hooper Rd. crosswalk will also be re-stripped.
- SEPP will stripe a walkway from the apartment entrance, through the parking lot, to a sidewalk that they will construct that will access the new sidewalk along Hooper Road.

This project is planned to be completed in late Spring/early Summer 2006.

- **Vestal Rd. (Jensen Rd. to African Rd.):** Warren stated that this segment of Vestal Rd. is the only unsafe portion for bicyclists and needs to be upgraded.
ACTION: Scott will talk with his Director to see if a meeting can be arranged with Broome County Dept. of Public Works, Warren, and BMTS to address this issue.
- **Riverside Dr. (JC Roundabout to Lourdes Hospital):** Currently, there are no opportunities for pedestrians, particularly those with vision impairments, to cross the road in designated crosswalks in this segment of Riverside Drive. Erin contacted Danielle Besso of the NYSDOT Region 9 Traffic & Safety Department. Erin showed the Committee photos provided by Danielle of this section of Riverside Drive, which exhibited gaps in the sidewalk system, lack of ADA compliant crossings, consistent traffic speeds higher than the posted 30 mph, and that there are no striped crosswalks either. Danielle provided the following recommendations: install a marked crosswalk at Margaret St. near the CVS, supplemented by black on yellow pedestrian warning signs or black on white State Law Yield to Pedestrians sign, and to complete the sidewalk system. She also noted that the corridor was ripe for traffic calming treatments.
ACTION: The next step is to arrange a meeting with NYSDOT, the appropriate Village of Johnson City officials, BMTS, and other stakeholders.
- **Bike Racks:** Scott gave Laurie Kimball a copy of the Association of Pedestrian & Bicycle Professionals Bicycle Parking Guide, which lists preferred bike rack designs, and provides information on how to best install bike parking.

6. Meeting Dates for the Next Two Months

- Monday, May 8, 2006 at 1:30 PM
- Monday, July 10, 2006 at 1:30 PM

7. Adjourned at 3:10 PM

Scott Reigle, Recorder