

**BMTS Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee
Notes from the meeting held on Monday, May 14, 2007
5th Floor Planning Conference Room
Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building**

Present: Don Robertson, Scott Reigle, Greg Patinka, Steven Bard, Al Sunderwirth, Warren Wetzelberg, Gail Domin, Kris Gilbert, Barbara Thomas, Janet Denman, and Christine Muss

Absent with Excuse: Erin Duguay

1. The meeting was **convened at 1:37 PM**. The **March 12th** minutes were approved as written.

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.
- **ANNOUNCEMENT – Trails for the Southern Tier Conference**
Wednesday, May 23rd at the Waterman Conservation Education Center in Apalachin, NY.
Registration is \$15 and the deadline is May 16th. Information is available at www.ruralhealthnetwork.org.
- **ANNOUNCEMENT – Fun Fest & Safety Day at Recreation Park – Bike Rodeo**
Saturday, June 2nd
Scott passed around a sign-up list for bike rodeo volunteers.
Christine gave the Committee a report on the bike rodeo kit. The kit was delivered to her today (5/14). It was requested to have the July 9th Committee meeting at the Broome County Health Department so the Committee could see the kit. Christine thought that would be fine, but will need to confirm.
- **ANNOUNCEMENT – Complete Streets Workshop**
Thursday, June 28th all-day workshop at Cornell Cooperative Extension on Upper Front Street. Registration is \$40. Scott passed around information pamphlet.
- **ANNOUNCEMENT – Chris Thater Memorial – Bike Rodeo**
Saturday, August 25th from 2 – 4 PM (Setup at 1:00 PM)
Scott passed around a sign-up list for bike rodeo volunteers. Planning for this event will be on the July 9th Committee meeting agenda.
- **ANNOUNCEMENT – Bike Tioga 2007**
August 11 & 12
New ride routes focus on the south and east of Tioga County.
For registration and detailed information go to www.biketioga.com.

3. Binghamton Historic Bridge Pedal (Sunday, July 8, 2007 from 9 to 11 AM)

The Bridge Pedal is being promoted via I LOVE NY through the NYS Heritage Area program, the Southern Tier Bicycle Club, BMTS, flyers, and press releases. BMTS will provide space on its website to host Bridge Pedal information. Links to the Bridge Pedal page will be on the BMTS homepage and the Broome County website's homepage.

Fliers and map brochures with historic site information are also being printed by BMTS. Bike shops and several other locations will be sites where people can register for the Bridge Pedal. When a person registers, they will receive a wrist band and a Bridge Pedal Brochure, which will include a map of the ride route with information about historical sites along the route.

Janet reported that the Preservation Association of the Southern Tier (PAST) will provide docents to share historical information for sites along the ride route.

It was decided that the Bridge Pedal Subcommittee will hold a meeting to make final plans for event logistics.

ACTION: *Scott will set up a Subcommittee meeting for a date in mid-June.*

4. Vestal Rail-Trail

The NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation and Army Core of Engineers rejected the Draft Design Report's (DDR) proposed "flow-over" walkway in Choconut Creek for the west extension of the Rail-Trail from North Main St. to Castle Gardens. Barbara Thomas stated that she and Mark Bowers are pursuing alternatives for bridges. The NYSDOT Structures Division has been notified of the need for a bridge and that possible a historic bridge of the proper length that needs to be preserved as a part of a bridge replacement project could be moved to the Rail-Trail. Mark B. will also talk to the NYSDOT Main Office to see if would be possible to acquire additional Transportation Enhancements funds from unspent allocated TEP funds.

ACTION: Once NYSDOT Region 9 will reviews the DDR, their comments will be shared at the soonest Committee meeting. Further comments from the Committee will be noted and forwarded to Vestal along with NYSDOT's.

5. Walk N Roll 2007

GIANT Bag Ad: Scott showed the final bag ad design the Committee. Scott will contact Brian O'Neil, of GIANT Markets, to find out when the bags will be in the stores.

Information Display at B-Mets Game (Thursday, June 14th): Mary McFadden of the Broome County Health Dept. / Steps to a Healthier NY Program Coordinator arranged for the display to be at the June 14th morning game, and also arranged for Excellus Blue Cross/Blue Shield to donate two bikes to give away. Scott passed around a sign-up list for volunteers.

Bike Rodeo at Binghamton River Crawl (Friday, June 15th from 6-8PM – setup at 5PM):

A bike rodeo geared toward younger children will take place on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Promenade as part of the River Crawl. In addition to a few bike rodeo activities (e.g. slalom, figure-8, rock dodge), helmet fitting and bike inspections, there will be a coloring book station and a game with prizes. Scott passed around a sign-up list for bike rodeo volunteers.

It was decided to have a meeting on June 4th at 1:30 PM for those involved to make final preparations for these events.

6. Action Items

- **Vestal Rd. (Jensen Rd. to African Rd.):** In past meetings, Warren stated that this segment of Vestal Rd. is the only unsafe portion for bicyclists and needs to be upgraded.

Warren also stated that there is an opportunity for improvements on **Vestal Rd. from NYS 201 to Bunn Hill Rd.** as a part of the project to replace the NYS 201 Bridge over Vestal Rd. & NYS 434. Comments on desired accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians should be sent to the Town of Vestal, and the Town will forward them to NYSDOT.

ACTION: Warren needs to re-survey this stretch of Vestal Road to determine recommended treatments. He will draft a letter to be sent to the Town of Vestal, the County, and Cc NYSDOT Region 9.

- **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 Duguay contacted Danielle Besso of the NYSDOT Region 9 Traffic & Safety Department. This section of Riverside Drive, 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. Danielle Besso 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.

Greg Patinka informed the Committee via email that he checked on the timetable for the re-marking of Riverside Drive. It is on the schedule to be repainted in the spring of 2008. Greg recommended that the BMTS Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee should send a letter asking for the recommendations of Danielle Besso (indicated above) to be followed. The Committee agrees that traffic calming treatment is needed and that the use of 1.5 m bike lanes on Riverside Drive should be used where ever the width of the road allows.

ACTION: Erin will draft a letter with the above recommendations for the Committee to consider before sending it to NYSDOT Region 9.

- **Village of Owego – NYS 434 at NYS 96 (South end of the Court St. Bridge)**

Erin informed Scott that she was contacted by an Association for Vision Rehabilitation Employment (AVRE) consumer with a complaint that there are no pedestrian facilities at this area of NYS 434, and thus, no safe way walk along or to cross the roadway. Erin, Mark Bowers (NYSDOT Reg. 9), Doug Carrier (NYSDOT Reg. 6), other NYSDOT Reg. 6 representatives, and Scott (BMTS) met on January 11th to address this issue. It was decided that a raised island on the east side of the southern end of the bridge, with pedestrian push-button poles would be an appropriate treatment.

ACTION: Erin stated that AVRE sent a letter to the appropriate NYSDOT contact to request the above treatment.

- **Passenger drop-off at Forum in Binghamton** can be problematic. Currently, large buses stop in front of the Forum to drop-off passengers. Sometimes they are double parked. There is no place left for car drivers to drop off their passengers, which is a problem for the handicapped. It is believed this area is signed to allow standing for up to 10 minutes, but this is regularly violated. The vehicle congestion also makes the area unsafe for pedestrians. Furthermore, when events are on Sundays, the church parking lot across the street is not available so people need to park further away.

The Committee suggested looking into a shuttle bus service from the State St. Parking Ramp. Another idea is installing a bus pull-in area and designate a car & bus drop off area.

The immediate concerns may be able to be addressed by the City's Traffic Board.

ACTION: Committee members were asked to observe this area when events take place and document any safety issues.

- **Trail on Water St.**

There are concerns about the design and construction of the multi-use trail on Water Street. Driveways run through the trail, and there is textured brick patterns through portions of the trail. It is a concern that the NW & SW corners will be designed properly for trail users

ACTION: The Binghamton River Trails Initiative Design Oversight Subcommittee is meeting with City Engineer, Brian Kessler on May 15th to address design issues.

8. Other

- Perils for Pedestrians is a Public Access Television show about pedestrian safety. Erin has acquired videotapes of the show and is submitting them to Time Warner Cable. The Committee will be informed when an airing time is determined.
- Public Notice of Trail Closings: Projects at the BU Downtown Facility and Otsiningo Park caused these trails to be closed without public notification. BMTS will determine the best way to request municipalities to notify the public when construction work will make a trail impassible, and how long the trail will be closed.

9. Meeting Dates for the Next Two Months

- Monday, July 9, 2007 at 1:30 PM
- Monday, September 10 or 17, 2007 at 1:30 PM?

10. Adjourned at 3:15 PM

Scott Reigle, Recorder