

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
BUREAU OF RAIL AND TRANSIT**

MEETING REPORT

DATE OF MEETING: July 22, 2015

LOCATION OF MEETING: NHDOT, 5 Hazen Drive, Concord NH - Room 205

SUBJECT: Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee (BPTAC)

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Felice Janelle, NHDES (Chair)
Gretchen Gandini, WOW Trail (Vice Chair)
Dave Topham, Granite State Wheelmen
Erik Paddleford, NHDOT – Rail and Transit
Tim Blagden, Bike – Walk Alliance of NH
Mary Poesse, North Country Council
Jeff Latimer, Gus' Bike Shop

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS/ OTHERS PRESENT:

Larry Keniston, NHDOT – Rail and Transit
Jim Kirouac, NHDOT – Highway Design
Jan Collins, Newfound Pathways

NOTES ON MEETING:

The regular meeting of the BPTAC was called to order on July 22, 2015 at 11 a.m. by the Chair.

Approval of June Minutes

The minutes of the June meeting were approved.

Rail trail and Claremont's waiver request

Last year the City of Claremont agreed to a FHWA request to stop allowing ATVs to use a 1.8 mile section of rail trail in the City because the trail was constructed with federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds which do not allow the use of motorized vehicles (snow mobiles are allowed in winter months). The trail has long been used by ATVs and the City is preparing a waiver request to submit to FHWA that would allow ATVs back on the trail.

Felice indicated that Tim Blagden attended the recent public hearing hosted by the City of Claremont and that Tim also submitted comments on behalf of Bike Walk Alliance of NH against the waiver to allow non-motorized use of the trail. The NHDES Air Resources Division has sent comments related to the waiver directly to Bill Watson of the NHDOT Planning Bureau. Lots of comments have been submitted including comments in favor of the waiver by both NH senators, city officials, and others. The public comments are available online on the City of Claremont's website. It appears that the majority of input is in favor of granting a waiver. The DOT Planning Bureau's role in this matter is to review the public comments and provide a recommendation whether or not to grant the waiver to the local FHWA field office. FHWA will

make the final decision. A waiver such as this has never been granted by FHWA anywhere in the US, so granting the waiver would be precedent setting.

RPCs and Bicycle and Pedestrian Counting Subcommittee Update

Craig Tufts passed out copies of the [Counting Program Master Plan](#) prepared by the BPTAC “counting subcommittee”. Three Eco-Counters were purchased with funding from the NH Charitable Foundation. Two Jamar “cycles plus” tube counters are also currently being demo’d. This being the first year of a statewide counting pilot program, work being conducted is considered a pilot study to find out what works and to learn and test equipment. Nine RPCs have willingly participated in the program.

Craig gave a demo of the Eco-counter website and counts that have been conducted and uploaded so far. Graphs and various analyses can be performed on the data through the website. There is a public viewer username and password for anyone interested in viewing the data on the website.

Some of the locations where counts have been conducted so far include: Nashua Heritage Trail, Nashua River Trail, Derry Rail Trail, Piscataquog Trail, Route 1A, WOW Trail, and the I93 and I89 bike paths, among others.

Later in the year, the subcommittee will meet to discuss the work conducted throughout the year and will provide a synopsis to the BPTAC.

Lane Marking Subcommittee Update

Larry and Dave gave a PowerPoint presentation to the group about the [details of the subcommittee’s eight recommendations](#) that the subcommittee has been working on since the end of 2014. Each recommendation was explained in detail to the committee.

The eight recommendations are:

1. Improve internal DOT communications
2. Improve external DOT communications
3. Use of best practices
4. Correction of non-compliant work
5. Removal of lane marking
6. Signage related to bicycling and lane use
7. Lane markings on state maintained roads
8. Taper of shoulders at intersections

The committee discussed the recommendations and felt some could be consolidated with others to make a more concise list. The recommendations could then be reviewed and voted on by the committee at the next meeting. The final list of recommendations could then be submitted to Assistant Commissioner Cass.

Group Discussion

Questions for Assistant Commissioner Cass

The committee discussed questions that could be asked of Assistant Commissioner Cass when he attends a future BPTAC meeting. Members felt we should provide some questions in advance and ask “top level” questions. Question topics included: What is the DOT position regarding a state-wide complete street policy? What do you see as the role of DOT vis-à-vis pedestrians and bicyclists? What is the best way to

influence DOT decisions? How can the BPTAC best serve the Department? What do you see as the role of the BPTAC? Felice will send out a list of questions to committee members to review and comment on. A list of questions will be provided to Assistant Commissioner Cass in advance of his attendance at a future meeting.

Conference Update

Bike-Walk Alliance of NH has helped a great deal with event planning and will have a website registration process for the event. A save the date notice will go in the next week. The [conference agenda](#) is mostly set at this point with topics including: complete streets, rail trails, designing for active transportation, measuring active transportation, and others.

Next Meeting: August 26, 11:00-1:00pm, NHDOT: 5 Hazen Drive, Room 205 – Materials and Research Building.