NHDOT Complete Streets Advisory Committee (CSAC) Meeting
Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Draft Minutes of
25 September 2019

Attendees
Alex Belensz – North Country Council                      Leigh Levine - FHWA
Amanda-Joe W. Paulino – NHDOT Highway Design              Maddie Dilonno – SNHPC
Colin Lentz – SRPC (telephone)                            Paula Bedard – BWANH
Craig Tufts - CNHRPC (CSAC Chair)                          Stephanie Verdile - NHOSI
Dave Topham – GSW                                         Sylvia von Aulock – SNHPC
Elizabeth Strachan - NHDES                                Tim Blagden – Concord Lake Sunapee Rail Trail
Greg Bakos - BWANH (telephone)                            Tim Dunn – NHDOT Bureau of Highway Design
Larry Keniston – NHDOT Highway Design                      

NOTES ON BPAC MEETING:
The Committee approved the combined CSAC/PAC Meeting Minutes of July 24, 2019.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan Project Advisory Committee update on public outreach
Larry reported on the 6 statewide public meetings completed to date.

- Sept 8 – Dover Farmers Market (completed)
- Sept 15 – Nashua Farmers Market (completed)
- Sept 17 – Keene Library (completed)
- Sept 18 – Lebanon UVLSRPC Office (completed)
- Sept 22 – Littleton Farmers Market (completed)
- Sept 24 – Manchester Library (completed)

Larry reported that 3 upcoming public meetings had been scheduled:

- Sept 25 – Gilford Library
- Sept 28 – Concord Farmers Market (Regional public “meeting-in-a-box” event)
- Oct 2 – Portsmouth Library

(Subsequent to the meeting, Rockingham Planning Commission held an additional afternoon farmers market event in Exeter on October 10.)

Larry demonstrated how the Consultant generally conducts the pedestrian and bicycle transportation planning public outreach with sample maps focused on Rockingham’s planning region, a Master Plan Goals board and the “dot activity” boards. Larry walked Committee participants through the public input activities similar to the formula that Alta follows for the public meetings/events identified above.

For the “Top Goals” activity, the Committee contributed the following “Policy,” “Infrastructure/Design,” “Economic” and “Miscellaneous” suggestions:
(Subsequent to the meeting, Alta included the Committee’s Top Goals responses for inclusion with the approximately 3000 public responses received statewide.)

The Committee contributed feedback in a modified version of the “top three barriers to walking and bicycling in New Hampshire activity.”

(Subsequent to the meeting, Alta included the Committee’s Top Three Barriers responses for inclusion with the corresponding public responses received statewide.)
The Committee contributed feedback in a modified version of the “top three improvements needed to increase walking and bicycling trips in New Hampshire” activity.

(Subsequent to the meeting, Alta included the Committee’s Top Three Improvements responses for inclusion into the corresponding public responses received statewide.)

Larry showed sample maps (centered in this case around the Rockingham Planning Commission region) used at the public meetings to gather public input about specific locations.

Larry invited attendees to subscribe to the ongoing planning effort, complete an on-line survey, use an interactive map to comment about solutions where pedestrians and bicyclists need additional access, safety and comfort and to publicize the Plan’s on-line opportunities for public feedback through October 15.
Pedestrian Safety PSA
Larry invited meeting participants to continue to share, repost and otherwise leverage through additional channels the available Pedestrian Safety PSA audio, linked to the NHDOT Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/NHDOT/posts/2418074551582806?comment_id=2418536238203304.

Level of Traffic Stress Pilot Update
The project is nearing its completion date requirement (October 1, 2019) and Scott will report further at a subsequent meeting.

The LTS pilot partly extends research work that an earlier project, Plymouth State University’s Active Transportation Accounting: A Three-pronged Approach to Developing Metrics for Project Prioritization, Monitoring, Safety Assessment, and Evaluation, began. Larry agreed to link the PSU report to these meeting minutes for convenient Committee access. See Final Report - June 2019. (See also the Crowd-sourced Interactive Level of Traffic Stress map developed as part of the earlier research project.)

Legislative Update
Dave reported that:

- HB 683: New regulations for ATVs/off road vehicles. A drone video will help to demonstrate negative impacts of ATV proliferation to the Resources, Recreation and Development Committee in the New Hampshire House of Representatives.
  - Class 1 E-bike has no throttle – variable pedal assist provides motor assist up to 20 mph
  - Class 2 E-bike has a throttle and works like a Class 1 E-bike when the throttle is off
  - Class 3 E-bike works like class 2 e-bike but can reach speeds of 28 mph before the motor assist cuts out
For highway purposes, E-bikes in all three classes are defined as bicycles. For trail purposes, trails may have various restrictions regarding E-bikes. (The carriage roads in Acadia National Park in Maine and Green Woodlands in Dorchester, NH, for example, recently opened up trails only to Class 1 E-bikes.) The bill updates NH RSA 265:144 (however the text had not yet been revised on line as of 11/19/19). Link to more information more generally about E-bikes at https://bwanh.org/e-bikes/.
- SB 185 Rail trail plan update: Bill passed. NHDOT to send out invitations to populate a committee to oversee the planning effort.

STRAVA Training Update (Craig)
Training update took place on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission. The Regional Planning Commissions can request, directly from STRAVA, (Haynes Bunn at haynes@strava.com), licenses to use NHDOT’s data. Quarterly data becomes available shortly after the conclusion of each quarter.

Bicycle-Friendly Driver Class Information (Paula)
Paula discussed the League of American Bicyclists Driver Friendly class program that she offers. The 90-minute long class is teaches motorists how to be more aware of bicycle drivers’ needs for access and safety. The full class includes a written exam where with a certificate for satisfactory participant performance.
**Seacoast Electric Bike Expo “E-bike curious” event**
Dave announced the Seacoast Electric Bike Expo [E-Bike curious event](#) to be held in Stratham on October 13. (Subsequent to the meeting, it turned out that the E-bike curious event was successful for the vendors with over 300 people attending. Anne Rugg of [commute SMART SEACOAST](#) later reported that 6 busy vendors helped to host the event. Event attendees included many from the age 50s - 70s group.) The Seacoast Electric Bike Expo proved that similar events may work successfully elsewhere in other regions of the State. Motor assist could be especially helpful in returning aging adults to cycling for utilitarian trips and mitigating the problems of traffic.

**“Upper Valley E-Bike initiative”**
An ongoing project in the Upper Valley called the [Upper Valley E-Bike initiative](#) uses a research approach to similarly seek to mitigate the problems of traffic congestion through the promotion of E-bikes for commuters whose primary impediment to bicycling is physical endurance.

**Items for deferral to/continuance at subsequent meeting Agenda**
- [NHDOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Program](#) Review (Craig)
- [LTS Project update](#) – How to use tools for project selection Clarification of “Centrality;” (Colin)
- [2021-2030 Draft Ten Year Plan - Governor’s Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT)](#)
  Meetings Content and Update. Apparent discrepancies between the reported pedestrian and bicycle project element totals by executive council district. Should pedestrian and bicycle elements in projects earn a column? The public input phase of this cycle’s Ten Year planning input phase of the GACIT planning process closes November 12. (Tim)
- Commissioner Sheehan comments on [September 3 NHPR The Exchange](#) - adoption of a policy would create a financial burden on towns (Craig)
- Smart Growth America Seeking Support for a “[Federal Complete Streets bill](#)” (Craig)
- LPA Project Process; Lean review to make LPA less onerous? Municipalities have found it difficult to get the project out and therefore CMAQ funds are redistributed away from potential pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure elements. Do other state transportation agencies have an improved process? (Tim, Leigh & Sylvia)
- Revisit work of Subcommittee on the Collection of Bike Lanes and Trails. NHDOT has posted the document at [https://www.nh.gov/dot/programs/bikeped/advisory-committee/documents/Coll_Van_CSAC_102717.pdf](https://www.nh.gov/dot/programs/bikeped/advisory-committee/documents/Coll_Van_CSAC_102717.pdf). Additional Collection Subcommittee items now housed only in NHDOT internal folders need be made available in order to revisit Collection Subcommittee progress to date. (Craig)

Next Meeting: (Subsequent to the meeting, Larry proposed the next meeting for December 18, 2019 (3rd Wednesday in December due to the Holiday the following week), 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm in the Highway Design Conference Room (Room 211 in the main NHDOT headquarters building). Call-in option will be made available.