

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

CONFERENCE REPORT

DATE OF MEETING: May 27, 2015

LOCATION OF MEETING: NHDOT, 7 Hazen Drive, Concord NH - Room 112/113

SUBJECT: Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee (BPTAC)

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Felice Janelle, NHDES (BPTAC - Chair)

Nik Coates, HEAL

Dave Topham, Granite State Wheelmen (phone)

Erik Paddleford, NHDOT – Rail and Transit

Tim Blagden, Bike – Walk Alliance of NH

Craig Tufts, Central NH RPC

Scott Bogle, Rockingham Planning Commission (phone)

Eric Feldbaum, DRED

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS/ OTHERS PRESENT:

Larry Keniston, NHDOT – Rail and Transit

Jim Kirouac, NHDOT – Highway Design

NOTES ON MEETING:

The regular meeting of the BPTAC was called to order on May 27, 2015 at 11 a.m. by the Chair.

Approval of April Minutes

The minutes of the April meeting were approved as amended.

Current Projects Update

Bike Ped Plan

Erik indicated the bicycle and pedestrian plan RFP has been sent to the Bureau of Planning. The Bureau of Planning administers the funds that would be used for this plan. Funding for this would be in the next fiscal year starting on July 1, 2015. We are waiting to hear back from Planning on when this will move forward. The RFP also included an economic impact study.

Bicycle Pedestrian Advocates Guide

The purpose of the guide is to educate bicycle and pedestrian stakeholders on how to engage in the transportation project planning and design process at appropriate times in order to ensure that transportation agencies consider bicycling and pedestrian accommodations. It will present information on how to get involved in the planning process and what types of improvements are beneficial for non-motorized users.

Full Lane” (R4-11) and “Begin Right Turn Lane - Yield to Bikes” (R4-4) and recommending sand or hydro blasting of for pavement marking removal where bicycle travel is expected.

A total of 7 recommendations will be covered in a final report by the subcommittee; notes and the report (when completed) will be available on the [BPTAC website](#).

Longer Term Projects

Strava

A proposal for evaluation of the Strava data has been provided to Plymouth State. A Plymouth State grad student would conduct an evaluation of the Strava data to determine its validity and usefulness. One cycling infrastructure case study would be conducted in each planning commission region using the data. The cost for this project is approximately \$7K and Nik is working on writing grants for the funding. A grant application for funding was been submitted to the NH Charitable foundation. Other organizations could also provide funding to cover the \$7K needed for the project.

Plymouth would need to sign an MOU with the Department to gain access to the data.

Craig has also been keeping track of Strava data request and specific uses for the data to data.

Counting Program

Craig said the counts went well in Concord. They did a count on Loudon Road at 3 locations in order to have a baseline prior to the Loudon road redesign (now on hold). It will be a good case study to see what the before and after counts tell us about the project, should the project move forward. During the counts, pedestrians were observed walking across and through intersections in various ways, not necessarily within crosswalks or designated pedestrian facilities.

Counts were also conducted in Bradford and Manchester among others. The automatic counters have been deployed and are next expected to be going to Concord and the Lakes Region.

Steering committee membership - Legislator or Governor’s office representative

Nik brought up the idea of having someone from the Legislature or the Governor’s office as a steering committee member. The committee discussed the topic and generally thought it would be a good idea to have policy maker participation. Committee members also thought having such a person might overstep the committee’s role, which is to advise the Commissioner of NHDOT. Bylaws would need to be changed and approved. We could always invite a legislator or other key staff member to a meeting without having the person be a steering committee member. Committee members felt an informal channel of communication rather than going through the process of having someone formally invited would be a better approach. Informal participation by a legislator or Governor’s office representative seemed to be the general consensus of the group.

Bike Ped Conference

The committee reviewed the agenda from the past conference planning effort. The “HEAL conference” is the next day which has active transportation as a major component. [Bill Purcell](#) will be the keynote speaker. He might be willing to come one day early and present at the BPTAC conference.

Complete streets, Legislative and rail trails seem to be the hot topics that should be included in the conference agenda if possible. Maybe the counting program would be a good topic to highlight and possibly other key items the BPTAC is involved with. Some breakout sessions could be, how to conduct a counting program in your community, how to develop a rail trail in your community including information on getting funding, volunteers, and making community connections.

Felice has the 29 Hazen auditorium reserved for September 30th.

Other Information

Tim mentioned that a few NH communities have signed on to Secretary Foxx's (USDOT Transportation Secretary) ["mayors' challenge" for safer people and safer streets](#). Bike Manchester worked to get Ted Gatsas to sign on. Hanover has signed up. It will be introduced in Keene soon. It's a good way to help spread the complete street project development approach.

Felice mentioned FHWA has introduced the ["Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guide"](#), with accompanying webinar scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, 2015 from 1 to 2 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm

Next Meeting: June 24, 11:00-1:00pm, NHDOT: 7 Hazen Drive, Room 161 – Environment Conference Room 1st floor.