



**Nashua Region Bike-Ped Technical Advisory Committee (NR-BPTAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
01/17/19**

**Attendees:**

Chris Buchanan, Amherst  
Julie Chizmas, Nashua  
Simon Corson, Amherst

Betsy Gamrat, Hudson  
Ryan Friedman, NRPC  
Matt Waitkins, NRPC

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Meeting began at 2:00pm followed by a brief overview of the agenda.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

There was a round of introductions with brief summaries of where people live/work and why they are interested in bicycle and pedestrian issues.

**PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING**

To bring together a core group of people to help reinvigorate the regional bicycle and pedestrian technical advisory committee.

Matt explained that the advisory group that developed the 2015 NRPC Regional Pedestrian bike plan continued to meet after the plan was adopted. In recent years, however, that group has not continued to meet.

The question is whether there is interest in participating in a regional committee and the value that committee could add to bike-ped initiatives in the region.

There was discussion about the need for a regional committee and the consensus was there is a need.

**LOCAL AND REGIONAL PROJECTS UPDATE**

The group described ongoing bike-ped projects and issues they are aware of

NRPC activities:

- NRPC owns a permanent bike-ped counter on the Nashua River Rail Trail and has 2 years of data. NRPC owns 2 portable infrared counting machines and 3 tube counters and has begun doing temporary counts at locations in the region.
- NRPC attends NH DOT statewide bike-ped committee meetings and is participating in the development of a statewide bike-ped plan.
- Development of a bike-ped corridor plan in Merrimack.
- Developed various SRTS plans.
- Developed regional bike-ped plan.

Betsy:

- Lives in Hudson and commutes by bicycle.
- Concerned that bike-ped infrastructure development is not a priority in Hudson.
- Has tried to educate the town about bike-ped issues.

Simon:

- Has been developing a bike-ped master plan and story map for the Town of Amherst.

- Focus of the plan and story map is to use data to tell the story of the need for bike-ped infrastructure in Amherst.
- There has been a significant public outreach effort.

Chris:

- Lives in Amherst and is working with Simon and the Town to develop design guidelines for town roads that accommodate all modes.
- The guidelines are correlated with several specific categories of road in Amherst.
- The idea is for guidelines to be incorporated into future road maintenance or new road construction. In this way, non-motorized roadway improvements become part of the roadway maintenance and capital improvement budget which means these improvements don't have to solely be dependent on special (and very competitive) funding such as TAP, etc.

Julie:

- Works for the City of Nashua as transportation and long-range planner.
- She manages the City bike share program which has 200 bikes (25 in winter). The program seems to have generated interest in biking and in turn sparked interest in improved bike-ped infrastructure.
- The City is making an effort on several fronts to provide bike lanes, improved sidewalks, pavement markings and other projects that encourage and support alternative modes.

Ryan:

- NRPC staff member who has been involved with developing Level of Traffic Stress (LTS) analysis on several projects in the region as well as at the state level.
- Has worked on statewide asset data development project, including development of sidewalk inventory in several NRPC towns.
- Has worked with communities to develop comprehensive trails data base.

#### **DISCUSSION**

As noted above, the group consensus is there is a need for a regional bike-ped committee. The committee should have a mix of advocates, planners and decision makers (DPW people, for example).

The initial frequency of meetings should be monthly.

Ideas for things to work on:

- Identify a structure for the committee
- Develop a work program
- Update regional bike ped plan
- Continue to develop design guidelines
- Monitor and participate in statewide efforts
- Develop regional bike network
- Identify what infrastructure exists and what is needed
  - o Advocate for implementation
- Education and outreach
  - o Make bicycle-pedestrian rules of the road part of driver's education
  - o Recruit riders and walkers to participate in regional group
  - o Develop facts sheets

- Information clearinghouse (same as education and outreach?)
- Participate in statewide LTS research project
- Participate in statewide bike-ped plan development
- Be a resource for grant opportunities beyond just TAP

**NEXT STEPS**

- The group will meet in February
- Possible agenda items:
  - o Define structure of the committee
    - Will there be rules of procedure?
    - Will there be a chairperson?
    - NRPC will provide staff support?
    - Will there be subcommittees?
  - o Develop work plan
  - o Strategy for recruiting committee members
- Link to NRPC bike ped page
  - o <https://www.nashuarpc.org/mpo-transportation-planning/bikeped/>
- Link to Nashua Plan for Health Complete Streets Guide
  - o [http://healnh.org/images/pdf/P4HN/FNLGuide\\_03\\_14\\_16compressed.pdf](http://healnh.org/images/pdf/P4HN/FNLGuide_03_14_16compressed.pdf)

**NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, February 21st, 1:30pm

**Adjourn**

The meeting ended at 3:30pm.