



APPROVED
Regional Bicycle Pedestrian Planning Group
Meeting Minutes
4/16/19

ATTENDEES:

Ron Bingham, Goodale's Bike Shop
Chris Buchanan, Town of Amherst
Julie Chizmas, City of Nashua
Simon Corson, Town of Amherst
Nelson Disco, Town of Merrimack
Ryan Friedman, NRPC

Betsy Gamrat, Nashua Resident
Brian Groth, Town of Hudson
Sabrina Pedersen, NRPC
Matt Waitkins, NRPC
Ed van der Veen, Town of Hudson

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Waitkins called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm with a round of introductions.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 13TH, 2019 MEETING

Waitkins referred to the minutes of March 13, 2019 included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1. He asked if there were any corrections. Minutes were approved.

NHDOT STATEWIDE BIKE-PED PLAN

Waitkins referred to Friedman's regional network additions to the NH Statewide Bike-Ped Plan that were gathered by members at the last meeting. Waitkins asked members to complete a final review before NRPC submits their network recommendations to Alta Planning. Once the map is finalized, this data will be sent to Alta Planning as the preferred network. Waitkins added that the statewide plan will include design guidelines and gap analysis provided by the regional commissions.

Friedman stated that a gap was highlighted at Mine Falls at the last meeting, but he was uncertain if Alta Planning will accept this or not since it is unpaved. In addition, the Sagamore bike path was highlighted rather than the bridge. If the network includes this bike path, then the east and west connections should be included as well.

Chizmas asked if NRPC has received any input from the SNHPC. Friedman stated that their regional pike-ped map shares similarities with NRPC's, but they include all local facilities with bike infrastructure. Disco added that the committee should focus more on connecting our region's routes with popular facilities, since this aligns with Alta's plan too. The group reviewed destinations on the map.

Chizmas added that we need to build not just a regional network, but a local network too. Waitkins agreed that one focus of this committee is to create this regional network that is detailed enough at the local level.

Waitkins stated that the plan needs to be submitted by early summer to Alta Planning. Workshops will then begin in late May. For the City of Nashua, Chizmas is planning a public hearing during the farmers market (TBD) to receive public input on the statewide plan.

WORK PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Waitkins asked members to review and critique the Goals and Objectives from the 2015 Nashua Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan. Chizmas recommended a brief guide book (4 – 5 pages long) summarizing the objectives with bike-ped friendly best practices. Case studies could be included, especially about Concord, NH. She advised the committee on how their role could be to develop an annual bike-ped report with metrics to illustrate the benefits of complete streets. Corson added that “entry-level” language should be used to communicate with the public/officials. Buchanan added that road reconstruction may be an easier political path. Waitkins added that Amherst’s plan includes a work plan on road treatment, which could be a component added into this guide book.

BIKE/PED COUNTING PROGRAM

The group was unable to discuss this item, and therefore, it has been moved to next month’s agenda.

LOCAL, REGIONAL, STATEWIDE PROJECT UPDATES

The group was unable to discuss this item, and therefore, it has been moved to next month’s agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS

Waitkins asked for approval by the committee members to change the name of the bike-ped group to the Nashua Region Complete Streets Advisory Committee, a similar name that was also adopted by NHDOT. All members were in favor.

Groth asked for NRPC to provide a snippet of the NHDOT Statewide Bike-Ped Plan of Hudson to share with their town planner since Hudson’s master plan is currently being worked on.

NEXT MEETING

Waitkins scheduled the next meeting for Tuesday, May 21st at 1:00 pm.

ADJOURN

Waitkins motioned to adjourn with a second from Groth. The meeting ended at 2:35 pm.