



APPROVED
Regional Bicycle Pedestrian Planning Group
Meeting Minutes
5/21/19

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
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 1:02 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 21ST, 2019 MEETING

Waitkins referred to the minutes of April 16, 2019 included in the agenda packet as Attachment 1. He asked if there were any corrections. Chizmas provided an update about NH DOT requesting Alta Planning to delay public hearings until the fall. As a result, the farmer's market event has been cancelled with hope to reschedule it for the fall season. Waitkins stated that their regional network recommendations have been forwarded to Alta Planning. Minutes were approved.

COMPLETE STREETS DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

Buchanan presented about his complete streets design guidelines to the committee. The discussion outlined the history of cars dominating roads, redefining cultural space, the concept of risk compensation and driver comfort, and three categories of new road design.

The committee discussed the use of risk compensation to increase driver discomfort and alertness. The following were a gathered list of methods:

- Varying pedestrian crosswalk designs
- Road obstructions (i.e. trees)
- Reducing the lane width to 10 feet (trucking is 11 feet minimum)
- Removal of center lines
- Paved shoulders to narrow eyesight
- Textured roads (i.e. brick, cobble)
- More vertical objects

Buchanan outlined the three categories of new road design.

Goodale commented about keeping the center line and just bringing the painted lines in more for bicycle and pedestrian use. Buchanan responded that it is a step in the right direction, yet it still reinforces vehicle territory.

WORK PLAN DEVELOPMENT

No further discussion occurred on this item, and therefore, it has been moved to next month's agenda.

BIKE/PED COUNTING PROGRAM

Waitkins presented about the bike/ped counting program to the committee.

Chizmas stated that she would like to provide a Nashua list to Waitkins for the counting season. In addition, Chizmas was in favor of doing a before and after count for the summer season.

Carson stated that he would like to have the Amherst bicycle and pedestrian advisory committee comment too. He is in favor of doing two before-and-after seasonal counts: two in the winter and two in the summer. These counts would capture normal conditions with a preference of schools being in session. Waitkins added that Amherst sidewalk pedestrian data has only been collected so far. Carson has further data to provide, but Waitkins explained that a map has not been constructed yet. Carson added that maybe this committee can focus on creating one viewer that includes traffic, bicycle, and pedestrian data.

Waitkins provided a visual display of the current counts made so far. Disco added that there are additional sections of sidewalk that could be included for Merrimack, such as the Bedford Road intersection and Greely Street. Friedman asked how many counts can be theoretically be done in a season. Waitkins explained that the counts are limited based on the number of available machines. Two locations have been counted so far: Sagamore Bridge and Albuquerque Avenue. Friedman added that Pelham is interested in knowing more about pedestrian data, and therefore, there may be an opportunity to grow this program. Minkarah observed that there are no locations in Hudson selected for counting, highlighting Taylor Falls Bridge as a potential site. Chizmas noted that the Taylor Falls Bridge will be adding bike lanes. Betsy mentioned 3A may be an opportunity. Sidewalk projects are included in the long-range plan, it may give some ideas about where.

Carson asked if it is possible to do tube counts that differentiate cars and bikes. Waitkins responded that the Eco-counter can be used to count them. Waitkins stated that NRPC could install it on Carson's desired road (Boston Post Road) for getting bike numbers. Waitkins asked committee members to send any further requests for counting location sites.

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

No other business was discussed.

NEXT MEETING

Waitkins scheduled the next meeting for Tuesday, June 18th at 1:00 pm.

ADJOURN

Waitkins motioned to adjourn with an all-in favor from the committee. The meeting ended at 2:32 pm.