



**APPROVED**

**Regional Bicycle Pedestrian Planning Group  
Meeting Minutes  
3/28/19**

**Attendees:**

Ron Bingham,  
Julie Chizmas, Nashua  
Nelson Disco, Merrimack  
Ed Vander Veen, Hudson  
Simon Corson, Amherst

Derek Stahl, NRPC  
Jay Minkarah, NRPC  
Matt Waitkins, NRPC  
Cassie Mullen, NRPC  
Mason Twombly, NRPC

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Waitkins opened the meeting at 1:35 asking for a round of introductions.

**REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

The group reviewed the meeting minutes without comment.

*Corson motioned to approve the minutes with a second from Minkarah. All were in favor.*

**NHDOT STATEWIDE BIKE-PED PLAN**

Waitkins explained that as many in the room already know, Phil Goff gave a presentation to TTAC in March in which they accepted public comment for this DOT led plan. He told the group he thought it would be a useful exercise for them to mark up the maps physically where they have comments. He noted that the public input from the TTAC meeting had not been incorporated into the map yet. Disco expressed that the Merrimack bike-ped maps should be incorporated into the state plan. They were recently done with NRPC and provide major corridors that these maps seem to be ignoring. Minkarah told the group that he wanted the goal of the plan to be clearer. The maps in their current state appear more geared toward recreational use however if they will be implemented as a transportation system this map is not complete. Bingham commented he felt the same that that the goal of the plan needed to be clearer. He said he sees there being three major groups this plan is addressing pedestrians, recreational riders, and those who ride for transportation. Corson felt the major issue is that the state overall does not have a complete street policy. The state needs to focus on creating multimodal infrastructure statewide, so that the sections of existing network can be interconnected. Otherwise these efforts will remain largely unaddressed. Waitkins acknowledged that these comments will be relayed to the DOT about the plan. He then pointed the group toward marking up of the maps on the center table of the Nashua region. The group debated and discussed the best biking corridors and priority areas in the Nashua region for around 45 minutes. Key routes in the region were highlighted and these routes represent the proposed biking network in the region. NRPC staff will incorporate the network into a GIS layer and produce a map that will be reviewed for completeness and accuracy at the April bike ped meeting.

**Strava Data**

The group viewed the heat maps of Strava data on the projector screen. There was some comment on which shades were the higher traffic. Chizmas identified some major routes in Nashua for bikers on the map. Bingham also pointed out several routes that he rode quite often. Corson mentioned it is important to note that especially in some places the lines may be created for only a handful of rides. Minkarah suggested that Alta the consulting company working with DOT should be encouraged to analyze the Strava data. Waitkins noted that the scope of work for development of the statewide bike ped plan includes additional outreach in the form of a public meeting somewhere in Nashua. Corson expressed that he did not think a public hearing would be productive, they should take more input from this group and bike advocates. Bingham agreed stating he thought it was still a while off before the general public supported bike infrastructure.

**WORK PLAN:**

Waitkins acknowledged that the time was approaching 3pm and that the work plan would probably be better to address at the next meeting.

**COMMUTE SMART**

Stahl explained that the commute smart challenge is coming up in June. They will be reaching out to companies in every region to challenge people to use alternative modes to travel. Each trip can be logged through a web app, which also calculates the emissions saved by this trip. The finalization of documents and application will be happening in the next week.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Nashua

Chizmas gave a brief summary of the results of the bike program in Nashua and offered to display the data collected from the bikes to the next meeting.

She also mentioned that if anyone was interested, there is a walk around town with the mayor event on Monday starting at City Hall.

Hudson

Vander Veen explained that Hudson has a requirement for sidewalks that has often been waved in the past. The board has agreed to not wave this in the future to fill the gaps in the Hudson sidewalk network. Filling in the gaps in sidewalks to Alvirine High School is a goal.

Merrimack

Disco mentioned the Safe Transit for Every Pedestrian Workshop in Manchester on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Chizmas mentioned there is also one in Concord on the 12<sup>th</sup> and two more in other locations.

**NEXT MEETING**

Waitkins expressed that he would like to set a recurring day for meetings. He suggested the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 1:00pm. Making the next meeting Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. There were no objections from the group.

**ADJOURN**

Corson motioned to adjourn with a second from Bingham. The meeting ended at 3:05PM