



DRAFT
Complete Streets Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
1/21/2020

ATTENDEES:

Ron Bingham, Goodale's Bike Shop Chris Buchanan, Town of Amherst Julie Chizmas, City of Nashua Lincoln Daley, Town of Milford Chris Costentino, Town of Milford Nelson Disco, Town of Merrimack	Brian Groth, Town of Hudson Chris Shenk, Town of Amherst Judy Shenk, Town of Amherst Matt Waitkins, NRPC Ryan Friedman, NRPC
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CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Waitkins called the meeting to order at 1:05pm with a round of introductions.

AGENDA ITEM #1: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 19, 2019 MEETING

Waitkins referred to the minutes of November 19, 2019. He asked if there were any corrections.

Chizmas pointed out the minutes are for November 2019 not October 2019.

Motion to approve November 19, 2019 minutes with correction; Buchanan, Second; Chizmas, unanimous affirmative vote.

AGENDA ITEM #2: NASHUA BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN LEVEL OF SERVICE PROJECT

Friedman began an overview of a new project that NRPC is doing under contract with the City of Nashua.

Chizmas provided background:

- The City aspires to design, construct, and maintain a network of Complete Streets.
- Recent road projects in the city have included non-vehicular components such as bike lanes and sidewalks.
- Making efficient progress towards the goal of a more walkable and bikeable road network requires understanding current conditions and where improvements are most needed so that City resources can be allocated accordingly.

Friedman focused on Task 1 of the project scope that NRPC and the City of Nashua have agreed to. For Task 1 NRPC will conduct an initial public outreach campaign to gather a general understanding where people want to bike and walk, what specific destinations they are trying to reach, and what barriers exist that prevent them from doing so.

Friedman explained that the primary initial public outreach instrument will be an online survey that he developed. Public Input is the name of the company that hosts the survey online. His goal for today's meeting was to get feedback from the CSAC regarding the survey. A link to the survey had been provided in the agenda packet for this meeting. He ran through the survey on the projection screen and explained each question.

Feedback:

Daley:

- Regarding the question about would why you would walk or bike instead of drive;
 - He suggested that an additional answer choice could be “it’s more convenient”.

Groth:

- It would be good if the mapping questions would allow for polygons to be drawn by respondents; Friedman said this survey instrument does not allow for that.
- Could the survey include a question about the public's perception of the bikeshare program (VeoRide)? Friedman said this not a survey about bike share.

Costantino:

- Suggested additional questions including:
 - Do you find biking/walking safe in Nashua?
 - Would you be comfortable letting your kids walk/bike in your neighborhood?
 - Would you be comfortable letting your kids walk/bike over to another neighborhood?
 - Would you bike/walk more if the infrastructure was more inviting?

Buchanan:

- Is the police department tracking crashes? Friedman said NRPC has access to crash data and it will be considered during this study.

Gamrat:

- Will the City be installing new bike lanes?
 - Chizmas replied that infrastructure improvements will be a mix of bike lanes and other improvements. It will depend on the situation.

Friedman:

- The survey will be distributed in the spring when the weather gets better and people are thinking more about biking/walking.
- He requested that the committee take the survey and provide feedback to him.
- Friedman continued with a brief description of the rest of the project scope.
 - TASK 2: GIS LEVEL-OF-SERVICE (LOS) ANALYSIS
 - TASK 3: DETAILED FIELD INVENTORY
 - TASK 4: ANALYSIS REPORT-OUT AND PRESENTATION
- Friedman will provide project updates at future CSAC meetings.
- Link to Survey:
<https://publicinput.com/Project/AccessCode?id=GEwt%2f3duQJ2AqI%2fDgIjIYA%3d%3d>

There was a discussion about the Transition Plans that are required under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). Julie noted that Transition Plans are required of all public entities with more than 50 employees. The obligation to have some planning method to make facilities ADA-accessible is required for all public entities. There was some general discussion about Transition Plans.

AGENDA ITEM #3: AMHERST VILLAGE TO MILFORD OVAL MULTIMODAL SIDE PATH PROJECT

Chris Buchanan of Amherst gave a presentation and explanation of this project.

Project purpose:

- The utilization of systematic safety principles as a determination for where to separate people from motor vehicles,

- The installation of 10,090 feet of multimodal transportation facilities on Amherst Street to connect the Amherst village to the Milford oval, including 5,775 feet of separated sidepath.
- The utilization of a sidepath as a separated, bidirectional, multimodal facility – a design that is especially appropriate for rural applications and is also cost-effective,
- The consideration of safer intersection designs which reduce exposure to conflicts, reduce speeds, and allow for safe and convenient passage of multimodal users
- Defining multimodal space with terra cotta-colored hot-mix asphalt colorant, which lasts for the life of the pavement,
- Providing an objectively safer space for multimodal users, allowing for more comfortable use of environmentally friendly transportation modes (not just for recreation),
- A multimodal transportation system that does not rely on high levels of confidence, experience, or physical ability, allowing for comfortable use by people of all ages.

Buchanan explained that the Town of Amherst is proposing a Warrant Article to raise \$287,000 to build the Amherst segment of the project in 2020 (the Milford segment will be the policy and funding responsibility of the Town of Milford). The project will be constructed as part of a larger infrastructure project that will require a segment of Amherst Street to be excavated for drainage and the road reconstructed. By piggybacking on the drainage project, the sidepath construction will cost significantly less than if the sidepath were to be built as an independent project. It is estimated the sidepath, if constructed independently, would cost approximately \$800,000.

Lincoln Daley, Milford Community Development Director, said that Milford is interested in finding out more about how the sidepath could be integrated into the Milford sidewalk system as it transitions into the Town of Milford. He noted the sidepath would benefit both towns. The Milford segment of Amherst Street is considered a high priority for reconstruction by the Town. Lincoln said there is a Milford Planning Board workshop scheduled for January 21 at which the project will be discussed. The Milford and Amherst Board's of Selectmen have been invited as well as NRPC staff.

It was suggested the Amherst Warrant Article needs as much support as it can get so after discussion the CSAC resolved to support the project as follows:

Whereas the Amherst to Milford Side Path Project addresses several objectives of the Nashua Region Pedestrian and Bicycle plan, therefore, the Nashua Region Complete Streets Advisory Committee resolves to support this project.

Motion, Groth;

Second, Buchanan;

Unanimous affirmative vote, motion passed.

AGENDA ITEM #4: OTHER BUSINESS

Chizmas said that Bike Walk Alliance of New Hampshire (BWANH) is seeking public opinion on the proposed House Bill 1621 related to changing current laws for wearing helmets while operating motorcycles, mopeds, and bicycles (including electric-assist bicycles).

This bill requires every person operating or riding upon a motorcycle, bicycle, electric-assist bicycle (e-bike) or moped on a public way or off-road trail to wear protective headgear. Violations would result in a \$50 fine.

Chizmas said that BWANH is conducting a survey related to the bill and asked that CSAC members participate in the survey.

Link to survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NWSXHN7>

Waitkins said that regional design guidelines committee has not been able to meet in the past month. They will make an effort to meet soon.

ADJOURN:

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:45

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held February 18, 2020