



APPROVED

**Regional Bicycle Pedestrian Planning Group
Meeting Minutes
2/28/19**

Attendees:

Ron Bingham,
Chris Buchanan, Amherst
Julie Chizmas, Nashua
Nelson Disco, Merrimack
Mark Bender, Milford
Rick Katzenberg, Amherst
Simon Corson, Amherst
Kim Adie, YMCA
Betsy Gamrat, Bike Walk Alliance

Ryan Friedman, NRPC
Derek Stahl, NRPC
Jay Minkarah, NRPC
Matt Waitkins, NRPC
Cassie Mullen, NRPC
Mason Twombly, NRPC
John Goeman, 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 Chizmas. All were in favor.

LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND STATEWIDE PROJECT UPDATES

The statewide bike/ped plan was discussed explaining that input is being accepted online. Waitkins reviewed how to input on the bike/ped plan website. It was explained that the plan mostly focuses on numbered state routes, but places and routes not state routes can also be marked. Public input does not have a set end date yet but is anticipated to continue into early fall of 2019. The project should wrap up in October. DOT has provided a memo that will be covered at the TTAC Meeting on March 13th. Phil Goff will be presenting and accepting comments at that meeting. Corson mentioned this presentation will cover existing conditions and explained SADES data. Waitkins reviewed the map of bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Corson requested to see the map showing the barriers to bicycling. Waitkins noted that the barrier/gap analysis does not factor in the level of traffic stress on the roadway. There was a discussion on how the state does not have an official complete streets policy and what it would take to implement one. Corson expanded on Level of Stress Analysis including issues such as sidewalk widths/ availability, speed, and volume.

New Strava data will be available. Strava data is recreational/social program in which people submit their walking, running, and biking paths. There was more discussion about Strava data and its uses. Chizmas mentioned that most likely NRPC and herself would primarily be using this data.

Legislative Updates

Corson gave an update on legislation regarding electric bikes. There was some minor discussion regarding electric bikes. He also mentioned hearings about OHRVs and their impacts particularly in the North Country. There are growing concerns about noise and disturbances of the trails and environment. Some argue to ban OHRVs on the trails because they infringe on private property rights. Others worry that bans on OHRVs on trails would damage the economy.

BIKE WALK ALLIANCE UPDATE:

Gamrat gave an update from the Bike Walk Alliance. There are six new safe routes to school advocates. On March 30th they will be hosting a course about Bike Friendly Drivers. There is an upcoming event called Bikes & Beers May 2nd. Granite State Health and Fitness came to their meeting to collaborate.

Trail Mapping Data:

Friedman gave a presentation of the NRPC trail data collection and mapping effort. By going through NRPC Live Maps to themes to public trails these maps are accessible to the public. He further explained the attributes and use of the mobile app through mapgeo. NRPC has been focusing on robustly collecting all trail data so it is easily accessible. There was further discussion about the specific projects that have come of this effort such as trail mapping in Pelham, Merrimack, and Hollis.

Other Projects:

Nashua

Chizmas shared that Nashua has received TAP grant to improve sidewalks and complete bike lane striping on Locke, Chandler, and Whitney Streets. She also shared about the Nashua Bike Share Program. Minkarah asked if there would need to be regulation changes to address allowed uses in regard to motorized bikes.

Merrimack

Disco Shared that in Merrimack funding had been approved to build a trail that would be out for bid in the fall. He states there had been some unforeseen expenses. Disco also mentioned that the Route 3 Corridor Study would be wrapping up soon.

Amherst

Corson shared that there needs to be more education and advocating for complete streets. He mentioned that Buchanan had written the complete streets plan for Amherst, and had good luck bringing that to the board of selectman. Buchanan shared that he tried to really define multi modalism as something meant to be inclusive. Complete streets are not just for your extreme cyclists its also for young kids and recreational riders.

WORK PLAN FOR COMMITTEE

Discussion about what the work plan for this committee would be was started by Waitkins.

Counting:

The group seemed to think that having a more robust bike counting program would be advantageous. Particularly in areas around schools, large employers, major routes, and pre/post construction. More discussion followed surrounding how to do this.

Standardizing Policies in Region

Having membership from each community was discussed to create standardized bike/ped policies that could be used in the region and eventually on a state level. Eventually having complete streets become a required part of road construction maintenance and not considered a special project.

Commute Smart

Stahl explained the statewide commute smart campaign in which each effort to carpool, bike/walk to work, etc is logged into the software. At the end of the period the organization with the most trips saved is recognized.

NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was set for Thursday March 28 at 1:30PM.

ADJOURN

Corson motioned to adjourn with a second from Chizmas. The meeting ended at 3:24PM