

BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Wednesday, January 10, 2023 8:15-9:30 AM TRAINING ROOM, 2nd Floor 3 Washington St, City Hall

Members:

Drew Bryenton, Chair Todd Horner, Vice Chair Andrew Madison, Councilor Dillon Benik Jan Manwaring Michael Davern Dr. Rowland Russell Dr. Chris Brehme, Alternate Charles Redfern, Alternate Janelle Sartorio, Alternate Sam Jackson, Alternate Autumn DelaCroix, Alternate

- 1) Call to Order and Roll Call
- 2) December 13, 2023 Minutes
- 3) Safety and Outreach Working Group a. Memo to Mayor/City Council
- 4) Downtown Bike Racks
- 5) Regular Project Updates
- 6) Volunteer Opportunities
 - a. Crosswalk Yield Counts
 - b. Trail clean ups
 - c. Events
- 7) Old Business
 - a. Letter re: Route 101 Improvement Project/Transportation Heritage Trail
 - b. Membership Updates
- 8) New Business
 - Items to be included for next meeting
- 9) More Time

Old Stone Arch Bridge Safety Improvements

NHDOT North/South Bridge Signs

Kiosk Map Updates

Public Art and the Trails Update

BPPAC Website

Downtown Infrastructure Project Updates

10) Adjournment

Next meeting date – February 14, 2023

1 2 3	<u>City of Keene</u> New Hampshire											
4 5	BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE											
6	MEETING MINUTES											
7	<u>-</u>											
	Wednesday, July 12, 2023	8:15 AM	2 nd Floor Conference Room, City Hall									
	Members Present:	Staff Pres	ent:									
	Drew Bryenton, Chair	Kürt Blom	quist, ACM/Public Works									
	Todd Horner, Vice Chair		mergency Management									
	Dillon Benik	Director										
	Jan Manwaring		annon, Parks, Recreation,									
	Rowland Russell		s and Facilities Director									
	Dr. Chris Brehme, Alternate Sam Jackson, Alternate	William So	choefmann, GIS Technician									
	Autmn DelaCroix, Alternate	Guests:										
	Autimi Belacioix, Atternate		alczyk, Town of Swanzey									
	Members Not Present:		Committee/MRRTC									
	Councilor Andrew Madison		cey, Citizen									
	Michael Davern		iffy, Citizen									
	Charles Redfern, Alternate											
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9												
10	1) Call to Order and Roll Call	1 0 22										
11	Chair Bryenton called the meeting to o	order at 8:32 AM.										
12	2) A	4										
13	2) Approval of June 23, 2023, Mi											
14	With no edits or corrections, Chair Br	•										
15	minutes. Mrs. Manwaring motioned to	* *										
16	motion was unanimously approved an	id the minutes from June	e 23, 2023, were accepted.									
17	2) Degular Project Undates											
18	3) Regular Project Updates Mr. Schoolman edvised the committe	aa ha xyaa hayina aama	issues with the meeting audie on									
19	Mr. Schoefmann advised the committee	_	_									
20	Zoom and suggested they move the or		id stightly and go over project									
21 22	updates while he worked on fixing the	e issue.										
23	4) Downtown Infrastructure Up	ndates										
24	Dr. Russell stated he wanted the extra		are.									
25	Mr. Todd Horner shared that he attend	-										
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get disruptive so unfortunately, he had to leave.

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Chair Bryenton said he watched after it was recorded. He heard several councilors say, "we don't see cyclists, so why do we need bike lanes?" He included several studies and intended to vocalize that at the next meeting. Dr. Russell shared that he is going through the studies of economic benefits of bike lanes and wants to distill that down to eventually challenge the idea mentioned by some councilors that bike lanes will hurt our economy.

 Ms. Sam Jackson noted that in the time the committee had been sitting, there she witnessed a number of bicyclists that had ridden by. Mr. Horner was unclear if the Council was voting on the recommendation out of MSFI after and if there is ability to substantially change that at MSFI again? Mr. Blomquist shared that he recently spent forty-five minutes with the mayor and chairs going over the meetings and "the ancient books of protocol". The way that the motion has been done is that it is sent to the MSFI committee for public comment. The committee cannot do a motion with a substantial change. It is unclear if they can modify what has been sent to them, but what is clear is that once it goes back to city council, they have the freedom to make changes. He is not totally clear, but it seems as though they will not be able to substantially change what was sent to them. Chair Bryenton asked if they could do a motion to not accept or make a recommendation, which he agreed that they could.

Mr. Horner asked if once full council votes if that is the end. Mr. Blomquist said ideally the council will decide on the major components they want to see next Thursday night. They could potentially turn around and do something else, but his sense is that in general, the council is ready to close this phase out. Councilors can do whatever they want but he suggested the committee keep the focus on multimodal transportation. Mr. Horner said the agenda that was sent out said it was not a public session.

 Mr. Bohannon said his thought process was that this committee was charged with a particular purpose and there have been master plans related to street infrastructure. Currently, there are city councilors and past city councilors on the committee as well as Professors from Keene State, and professional planners. All these amazing people are at the table provided expertise and help with looking at the bike infrastructure in the city. He noted this is now about current state but more the next 20-50 years. If the vision is to keep it the same, we may want to change the charge and the code. He added that members of council do not always see the why. This committee should serve to remind them of that. These items they have adopted and are their guiding principles should be their guiding principles for this project as well.

Mr. Blomquist suggested connecting the why back to their documents. He suggested reminding those members of the public that are against it of the master plan. Being sure to point out that the public has participated in these processes and that is what makes them valuable. The anti-group, while loud, is a small select group. The master plan had over 2800 people. Mr. Bohannon reiterated that this is not about the now. The building blocks have been laid for years prior to this. There has been a huge effort over the past ten years to get to where we are with plenty of history with Healthy Monadnock, Clean Streets, etc. and it is being dismissed by a couple of minority voices. He believes that showing that history is going to be crucial.

- 70 Dr. Russell asked Mr. Blomquist if by not being able to change things, does that include the bike
- lanes? Mr. Blomquist responded yes and that this is what the city attorney has indicated to the
- 72 chairs. The MSFI committee may not be able to do that but once it gets back to fill committee,
- everything is on the table. Mr. Russell asked who was planning to be there that night and noted
- 74 that three minutes is a really short time. He asked if anyone was willing to take on the history.
- 75 He will share the economics and asked about any other things like safety, work commuting, and
- 76 whether there were other things to share.
- Mr. Horner said the hybrid design seems like a compromise solution. Putting his fingers in the
- wind, he does not see a lot of those things happening and the fact that bike lanes are even part of
- 79 the discussion attests to the work this group has been doing. Compared to some of the other
- scenarios, the hybrid design is modest and recognizes that multimodal transportation is important
- and part of the future of downtown Keene. If you take the bike lanes out, there is not recognition
- 82 of needs for future.
- Dr. Russell suggested members encourage people to come even if the members themselves are
- 84 not able to come. Chair Bryenton said the committee needs to keep pushing and wanted to ensure
- a presence of people. Mr. Blomquist said representing the pedestrian community is crucial and
- making sure it includes those with mobility issues and has non-vehicle options.
- 87 Mr. Horner said he has heard people say bicycle lanes will be taking away from pedestrians. Mr.
- 88 Blomquist said that simply is not true as they are actually adding. The compromise of
- 89 eliminating the parking in the middle allows for the multimodal facilities such as widening the
- 90 sidewalks and safer bike facilities. The hybrid option includes both the widening and the bike
- 91 lanes.

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5) Old Business

A) Volunteer Opportunities

- i) Trail Cleanups
- ii) Bike Friendly Community

Chair Bryenton stated he was setting up a meeting with some volunteers to go over the application and answer what they could before handing it off to Mr. Schoefmann. They were waiting on access to the application which needed to be sent from Mr. Schoefmann via email.

Mr. Schoefmann confirmed.

B) NHDOT North/South Bridge Signage

C) Project Priorities

Chair Bryenton explained this was started back in May and was tabled in June. The goal is to keep some visibility of the top bundle of priorities. One interesting point noted in the meeting was that Mitch Greenwald does now own an electric bike and the committee would welcome him with open arms.

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Mr. Will Schoefmann explained that the committee reviews all the projects in the mix annually and goes through a ranking exercise. They look at the level of organizational support, if there is funding, is it in the plans, etc. They start by ranking by high, medium and low and then further ranked by level of importance to the committee.

- 112 Cheshire Rail Trail Phase V, Ammi Brown up to Westmoreland town line Mr. Blomquist
- suggested the question of the effectiveness to improving this section would be what Surry and
- 114 Westmoreland would be doing to improve the sections connecting to it. Mr. Mike Kowalczyk
- provided an update that an RTP grant was written last year. With regards to Surry and
- Westmoreland, this year, there will be trail clearing and work on the cut. He said not to expect a
- hard packed surface this year, but the idea is to continue to work up to the
- Westmoreland/Walpole town line. Walpole also received an RTP grant with similar work
- keeping the trail passable year-round. Should be seeing by the end of this reason an improvement
- to the cut in Surry as well as the trail in Walpole. The committee ranked it as Medium

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- Mr. Bohannon noted that the Jonathan Daniels (JD) Trail expansion is at the bottom of his list.
- Mr. Schoefmann said the main concept was that there would be improvements made to made it
- more accessible and create a loop. The committee ranked it as Low.

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- 126 Wayfinding facilities and signage Mr. Schoefmann stated has had some movement with the
- 127 UNH Downtown Trails Initiative. Mr. Bohannon owes a huge apology to the Rotary Club. He
- received \$35,000 from them for the wayfinding. It is on his desk and just needs to move it along
- for approval. He needs to get names back to the design company. The committee ranked it as
- High. Mr. Schoefmann noted Wayfinding plan was combined with signage.

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- South Bridge/Ashuelot Rail Trail Gap, Old Railroad Trestle Bridge by Keene State College –
- Mr. Blomquist said the question at the end of the day is that Keene State deals with it from
- Winchester Street to the campus. Mr. Schoefmann stated he remembered the gap not being paved
- and that the abutments are hardpack and not paved. Mr. Blomquist confirmed the abutments are
- hardpacked and not paved. This should be a bigger discussion with the committee and involve
- reaching out to Keene State College. Mr. Russell suggested adding the trestle bridge and
- revising. Mr. was suggested to invite Keene State College to a meeting. Mr. Bohannon said the
- current administration is likely to be open to some sort of joint project and thought it worthwhile
- to reach out to them. Chair Bryenton suggested keeping it a low priority, the committee agreed.

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- 142 Ashuelot Green Space Trailhead Mr. Schoefmann stated it is the parking lot that is being
- developed off Ashuelot Street. The committee agreed to keep it Low.
- Main Street decision was to keep it high.

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- Marlboro Street Mr. Blomquist stated it will be started next summer. Chair Bryenton asked if
- support was needed. Mr. Bohannon suggested the group should keep it as high as it is going to be
- constructed. Mr. Horner asked what the design was for that connection. Mr. Bohannon stated
- down Bartholomew Court past the Fleet building then up to the Cheshire Rail Trail.

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- Beaver Brook Green Way is a conceptual idea and something that will require a little more
- effort. Worth keeping on the list even if it is Low. The committee agreed that Low was a good
- 153 ranking.

- Gilbo Ave and Colony Mill Mr. Schoefmann explained this was an effort to continue the 154
- Cheshire Rail Trail along Gilbo Ave with setting aside counter bike lanes, but there has never 155
- 156 been any success negotiating with the landowner. Mr. Blomquist suggested keeping this Low but
- that there will be funding for redesign and construction of West Street in 2027, there would be an 157
- opportunity there as it is an 18 million project that's just three years away. Mr. Brehme noted 158
- that there are currently no sidewalks along Gilbo Avenue. The committee agreed Low. 159

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- West Street Mr. Blomquist reiterated that in 2027, they will be getting funding for construction 161
- of West St. Currently there is a multiuse trail that parallels the back and there is a lot of traffic. 162
- Connecting the trail and any improvements from Gilbo back up to an improved West Street is 163
- important. Mr. Schoefmann stated there's probably about five year's worth of bicycle and 164
- pedestrian counts the committee has conducted and are on file in his office.. Chair Bryenton 165
- 166 suggested keeping West Street and West Street Bypass a medium priority. The committee
- agreed in making it a Medium priority. 167

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- West Street By Pass Mr. Schoefmann mentioned it was a concept of dealing with the issues 169
- along West Street and Mr. Brehme stated it was out in left field in terms of reality. The 170
- committee agreed keeping it Low. 171

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- 173 Amenities - Mr. Schoefmann explained that amenities is all encompassing at this point. Mr.
- Bohannon suggested reviewing the 19 recommendations in the UNH study. There already is a 174
- document and a plan it just needs to be revisited. No need to recreate anything new and keep it a 175
- high priority. Chair Bryenton suggested there was an element with regards to Trail Lighting, the 176
- Mr. Bohannon stated lighting has been working. Mr. Blomquist suggested bringing in the Police 177
- Department as there are often questions around why the police are not patrolling especially when 178
- you light it and make it more accessible. Mr. Horner was surprised to hear that the brightness of 179
- the lights was a safety issue? Mr. Blomquist replied in the affirmative and people want lighting 180
- that make it look like day not just lights up a spot. The problem is that it doesn't light up areas 181
- that are adjacent to the trail and that is where people get uncomfortable and bringing in the police 182
- might be useful. Mr. Blomquist stated it would be time to think about where to have the lighting
- 183
- to encourage usage and have that conversation with the police department. Mr. Schoefmann 184
- suggested it could be an issue of "perception of safety" and the areas people perceive as unsafe 185
- 186 are actually not when you review the data for where crime is occurring.

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- 188 Mr. Bohannon said Dr. Chris Cusack did a lighting study from Keene State. The technology has
- 189 changed quite a bit since the lights were put in. Generally, if one is walking the lights gradually
- 190 light up as you walk, but when on a bike, the speed is greater, and the rider is often well past by
- 191 the time the area lights up. It was suggested to keep it in the High priority by adding it back into
- Amenities overall and creating one category/project again. The committee agreed. Lighting 192
- added to Amenities and it would be ranked High. 193

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Chair Bryenton asked members to send any new business to him or Mr. Schoefmann via e-mail. 195

		C Meet 2, 2023	ing Minutes	DRAI
196	Mr. L	acey sai	d he thinks of the downtown rail trail as dangers. Suggested the committee	e look
197	forwa	rd enou	gh to have the bicycles in the traffic flow.	
198				
199	6)	New I	Business	
200		A)	Items to be included for next meeting.	
201	7)	More	Time	
202		A)	Kiosk Map Updates	
203		B)	Public Art and the trails	
204		C)	BPPAC Website	
205		D)	Wayfinding/Amenities: North and South Bridge signage	
206		E)	Bike/pedestrian counts	
207	8)	<u>Adjou</u>	<u>irnment</u>	
208		A)	Next meeting: August 9, 2023	
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210	There	being n	o further business, Chair Bryenton adjourned the meeting at 9:36 AM.	
211				
212	-	•	submitted by,	
213	Aman	da Tras	k, Minute Taker	
214				
215	Revie	wed and	l edited by,	
216	Will S	Schoefm	ann, Community Development Staff	

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BPPAC Project Updates 2024	JANU			ITEMS WITH UPDATES					
Project	PRIORITY	Master Plan	Status	Budget *			Schedule	1	Updates
		Project #		Cost	Status	Start	Finish	Status	(status changes and project notes)
Master Plan	N/A	N/A	Delayed	City Staff \$5K	N/A	Spring 2014	Fall 2021	Behind	Revised scope of work developed submitting CIP to complete the plan in 2024/5. Annual project evaluation by BPPAC. Updated response from SWRPC being reviewed by staff.
Complete Streets			Working		N/A	2018	N/A	Behind	GIS Tech working with Highway to inventory in street bike markings for budget purposes. Bike Boxes, Downtown Sharrows remarked.
Bike Racks	AMENITIES	P21	Working	N/A	N/A	ongoing	N/A	N/A	DPW Highway In for Winter - Highway seeking input on placment. Gaps in where historically placed. Commmittee discussing this month.
Appel Way Trail Paving	MAINTANANCE	P22	Planning	\$ 104,900.00	Even	2025	N/A	Behind	Appel Way repaving project, CIP Budgeted in Parks and Rec Trail Maintenance Program. Pushed out to 2025
Safe Streets for All Grant	N/A	N/A	Planning	NA	N/A	Spring 2023	N/A	N/A	Engineering division of DPW is managing this grant opportunity. Autumn named BPPAC Rep on Steering Committee
NHDOT TAP Grant 2018 - Marlboro Street	N/A	BE22	Working	\$674K	Over	Winter 2018	Summer 2022	Behind	City of Keene has been selected as a TAP grant recipient for Complete Street improvements to Marlboro Street that tie into other planned improvements, infrastructure, economic development goals and the Cheshire Rail Trail. Project is moving into construction phase.
Safety and Outreach Working Group	NA	N/A	Working	N/A	N/A	Ongoing	N/A	N/A	This working group is planning and investigating where to focus efforts around Safety and Promotion of other Bike/Ped Initiatives via outreach. Focus areas are being conceptualized and report outs will be at regular meetings.
League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Program & other community ranking programs	N/A	N/A	Completed	Staff/Volunteer Time	N/A	Summer 2023	Summer 2023	On Schedule	City of Keene's designation as a "Bicycle Friendly City" has lapsed and needs to be renewed. The process includes data gathering for a report/application. Application submitted, announcement in December.
Sidewalks	N/A	N/A	Submitted	CIP	Even	Spring 2022	N/A	On Schedule	Summer 2022 expecting to replace approx. 2,000 LF of asphalt sidewalk, including Colby St. and Adams St. The CIP will request funding for about 2,000 LF / year beginning in 2023.
Downtown Infrastructure Project (MAIN STREET)	AMENITIES	P14	Planning	CIP	Even	Summer 2023	Fall 2027	N/A	Final recommendation from City Council via MSFI includes widened sidewalks and protected bike lanes. All other concepts scrapped.
Lower Winchester Street (Roundabout - City Line)	N/A	N/A	Planning	CIP	Even	Summer 2024	Fall 2027	N/A	Planned improvements including sidewalks connecting market place in Swanzey and Route 10/Winchester Street

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Project									
Jonathan Daniels Trail Maintenance	TOP 7	P3	Planning	\$25K	Even	Summer 2020	2022	N/A	CIP Budgeted in Parks and Rec Trail Maintenace Program.
Wayfinding Signage Facilities and Plan	TOP 7	P11	Working	City Staff, \$42,000	N/A	Planning	N/A	On Schedule	BPPAC Considering overall wayfinding plan with Parks/Rec, DPW and Comm Dev Departments. UNH Downtown Trails Initiative completed. Next steps signage design and placement in conjunction with City branding effort.
◆Transportation Heritage Trail ◆									
THT Phase 1 - CRT Eastern Ave to NH 101 (Transportation Heritage Trail)	TOP 7	P1	Planning	\$ 386,400.00	Even	2024	2025	N/A	Project includes from Eastern Ave - 101 Bridge abutments. Stantec and Engineering held 2nd Public Concerns meeting happened Monday January 8th.
THY Phase 2 - Prowse Bridge - CRT NH 101 Overpass to Stone Arch Bridge (Transportation Heritage Trail)	TOP 7	P4	Planning	\$ 381,685.00	N/A	2027	N/A	N/A	Installation of the Historic Prowse Bridge at NH Route 101 and connecting the Cheshire Rail Trail to the Old Stone Arch Bridge and safety improvements (railings) to Old Stone Arch Bridge. Promotional website and video released with funding donation from PFK.
THT Phase 3 - Old Stone Arch Bridge - (Transportation Heritage Trail)	TOP 7	P4	Planning	\$ 321,195.00	N/A	2025	N/A	N/A	Collaboration with Heritage Commission to conduct research and assist with Historic Resources LCHIP application for railing/abutment design. PFK funding conceptual visuals. LCHIP grant planned for 2022 to fund Planning Study phase. Promotional website and video released with funding donation from PFK.
THT Phase 4 - Island Street Bailey Bridge - Swanzey Factory Road to Town Line (Transportation Heritage Trail)	TOP 7	P4	Planning	\$ 1,862,310.00	N/A	2027	N/A	N/A	Installation of the Historic Island Street Bailey Bridge at Swanzey Factory Road to create a safe overpass for trail users and creating continuity of the Cheshire Rail Trail towards the Swanzey Town line. Island Street bridge due to be removed from Island Street during current project - currently delayed.
NHDOT Route 101 Improvement Project	THT Impact	NA	Planning	NA	N/A	2023	N/A	On Schedule	NHDOT Project including widening and other improvements to NH Route 101 in the vicinity of the THT and improvements to the intersection of RT 101/Swanzey Factory Rd. Chuck drafting letter from BPPAC
West Street - Complete Street	TOP 7	P19	Planning	\$ 785,275.00	N/A	2027	N/A	N/A	Designated as a Gateway Street in the Complete Street Design Guide. BPPAC discussing interim and long range solutions for bike/ped facilities along the corridor. Funds available in 2027, DOT 10 Year Plan redesign/construction
AMENITIES	ТОР 7	P21	Working	City Staff, Facility and Maintenance Costs	Under	Planning	N/A	On Schedule	Staff should establish a base line of existing amenities and propose types and locations of future amenities in a plan. These should include Kiosk/Trailhead facilities, Trailside Facilities such as bathrooms, potable water and tune up stations and efforts should be made to engage the artist community to create spots along the trails for public art which will enhance the unique qualities of our system. Survey work incorporated into UNH Downtown Trails Initiative. TRAIL LIGHTS NOW INCLUDED HERE

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