



**Town of Bethlehem
Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee**

Meeting Notes

March 26, 2024

6:30 PM

In person and Zoom

Attendees

Jennifer Livingston (Member)
Elizabeth Vasquez (Member)
Jeff Baker (Member)
Nicole Cheplowitz (Member)
Robert Ellis (Member)
Dee Fisher-Golden (Member)
Oliver Holmes (Skip) Chair
Steve Redler (Member)
Peter Thomas (Member)
Nate Owens (Town Representative Senior Planner)
Lynelle Bosworth (Member)

• Public Comment

Comment 1: Member of community from Brookdale Development provided public comment. Raised concerns about northeast corner of high school and Eagle Elementary. Town added a four foot strip to the corner to address prior concerns raised about the northeast corner. There are two issues (1) design (2) and snow removal. (1) The flashing school zone light has been installed about 50 -100 feet east of the intersection. There is one yellow sign. Highway superintendent spent time with community member and reviewed the site. There was a white line that was painted around the corner. The Community member wants a brick with a curb installed. The community member acknowledged that there were not a lot of accidents. But there is still a concern. (2) The community member is suggesting that the snow on the corner be removed as well.

The Committee reviewed images on the computer in google maps.

Comment 2: Member of community from Bender Lane. Wants to create a greenway for a section exclusively used by "illegal vehicles" Community member shared images with Committee. Vehicles are crossing the double yellow line into a blind corner. Community member wants to the Town cover the one way section with signage to make a walkway and bike path only. This plan would allow for emergency vehicle to come in but not to be used by other

vehicles. Community member spoke with Elsmere Fire department. The community member is requesting signage to market at a passageway and to discourage illegal use of the roadway.

Community member shared images attached to meeting notes.

Comment 3: Member of community from Bender Lane. Member shared that would not let young children play in front yard. Drivers are gunning through the oneway illegally at high speed. Bender Lane is also being used to speed.

Comment 4: Member of community who walks Bender Lane. Reports walking on and seeing cars every time she walks speeding on the road. Advocating for it to be closed off of 9W.

Comment 5: Member of Country Meadows and runs Bender Lane. There is no pedestrian safe access in Bender but there are many residences that have been developed. Since there is no pedestrian access then there is only driving which increases the vehicle traffic. Skip summarized comments and thanked public for sharing these concerns.

- **Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes:** February 2024 -Meeting Minutes approved.
- **Department Updates**
 - Police Department - No meeting representative. Meeting updates provided by email before meeting related to the Bike and Roll planned.

22 emails sent out to possible vendors.

Confirmed Vendors (so far):

- Stewart's Shops (Free ice cream + ice cream coupons)
- YMCA
- Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce
- Albany Flow Riders
- CDTA- CDPHP Cycle (bringing bike + Ebike)
- BCSD Health Team (Trivia and giveaways)
- The Free Wheel Bike Repair
- Delmar-Bethlehem EMS
- Bethlehem Public Library
- Steiners Sports (bringing Ebike)

Venue confirmed

- Event yard signs updated
- 2x Electric DOT signs requested for advertisement (to be posted Monday before event)
 - 445 Delaware Ave
 - Feura Bush Rd (Delmar Station 2)

Awaiting response from Andrew Baker; live band.

In regards to an event for our older kiddos/attendees, the Certificate of Liability Insurance is documented for 250 Delaware Ave; for BPD, off property is not an option. Working logistics to make room in the parking lot to create event for older kiddos/attendees.

BPD to do list:

- For the Health & Wellness approach this year – will reach out to PT/Massage organizations.
- Bicycle donation x2 for raffle (Walmart)

- Water/snacks donations for attendees (Grocery)
- Email flyer to BCSD/Newsletter, St. Thomas, Bethlehem Children's School, AW Becker

- Highway Department - No meeting representative.

- **Committee Membership**

- Two New members needed, applications received -Committee discussed committee membership status. Staff plans to take the appointments and reappointments to the Town Board at the first April meeting.

- **Planning Department** Update sent prior to meeting (copied below)

-Committee discussed Blessing Road. Still in the planning phase.

Sidewalks

1. Planning and Highway staff met to discuss 2024 sidewalks and I'll touch base with Highway so a final list of 2024 sidewalks gets sent out to the Committee.
2. Feura Bush Road – Grading releases are being collected from residents along Feura Bush for the work on the sidewalk. Possibly a late Summer/Fall project, but uncertain. There's a chance it could get bumped to next Spring, so can't commit to 2024 at this time.

Delaware Ave Complete Streets

3. Targeting late Spring for the next public meeting for the Delaware Ave. Complete Streets project. Planning Dept. staff has been working with business owners along the corridor in efforts to discuss narrowing driveways and only have a handful of driveways left. Narrower driveways and the concrete sidewalk passing through the driveways will reduce pedestrian/vehicle conflicts and contribute to a safer and more comfortable corridor.

CDPHP Cycle! Bike Share

4. Town staff met with CDTA and their contractor, Shared Mobility, Inc., in regards to expansion of the CDPHP Cycle! bike share program expansion into the Town of Bethlehem. We are looking to take an Memorandum of Understanding to the Town Board at next week's Town Board meeting for a pilot year in 2024. We've reached out to Albany County about what is needed for them to consider rack stations within County lands along the Rail trail.

Committee discussed plan and locations on the Rail Trail. Current plan is to have three stations and 10 -15 bikes.

Committee discussed need for signage and need for rules for bike share.

Committee discussed Rail Trail and lack of County rules. Members discussed options and will add this to the agenda to discuss best practices for next meeting.

Bethlehem Safe Streets

5. Staff is preparing for the Spring launch around April 15.

Committee will help share materials when they get published. This might be a good idea to share through the schools with the PTOs or Administration. Committee members can help with sharing this information.

- **Walk and Roll Fest** May 18, 2024 Community Care Parking lot -see notes above under Police Update.
- **Elsmere Bike to School Day** May 16, 2024, 8:45 to 9:30 am
- **Updates**
 - Delaware Ave sidewalk project (see above)
 - Safe Streets Safety Campaign- spring 2024 rollout (see above)
 - Social media support for Safe Streets Campaign (see above)
- **Items for discussion**
 - Sidewalks Comprehensive Plan 2024/2025 –Planning and Highway communicating. Committee discussed impact of Water Board on these projects.
 - BCSD Walking distances -no new updates at this time. Committee members will communicate with PTO/PTAs.
 - New Sidewalks schedule tool -see above. Planning and Highway communicating.
 - Network Priority map -see above.

New Items:

Discussed Proposal off of North Street. Link to materials will be shared with Committee members.

Discussed change in location of the Farmers' Market from middle school to HS and need to create a safe bike path via existing network. Committee member suggested connecting with Farmers' Market to make bike friendly and market biking.

- **Adjourn**
- Next Meeting: April 23, 2024 (Zoom/ in person)

“Bender 55” Wrong way through 1 way 12-24 cars daily

Crossing Double Yellow near bridge >40%

Crossing double yellow Shiffendecker preserve.~23%



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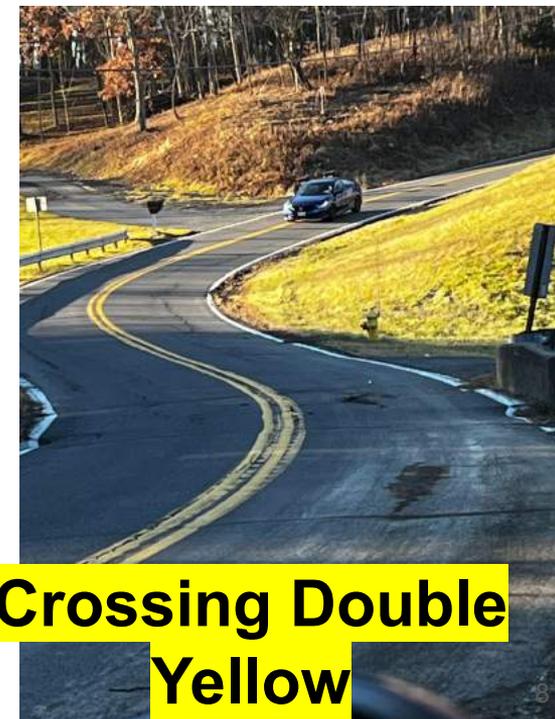
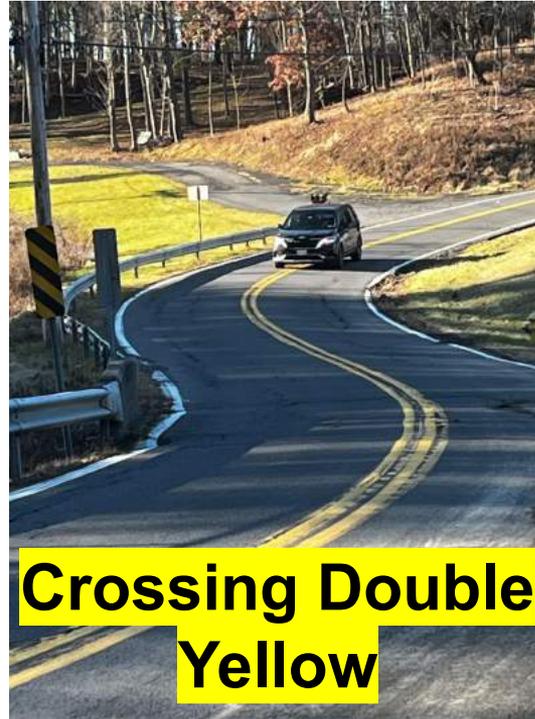
Wrong way



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90+ person petition 2022

Emails for years

Having Supervisor at house who witnessed personally

Having Highway Superintendent at house who witnessed personally

Having Town Board Member at house who witnessed personally

Having Police Commander at house who witnessed personally

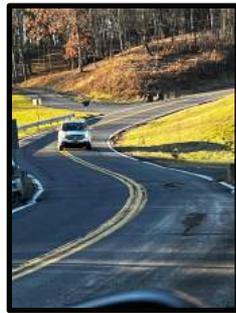
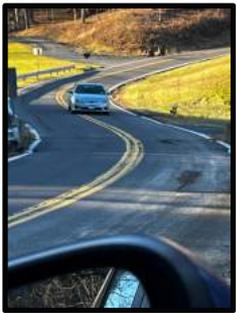
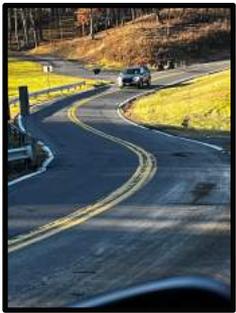
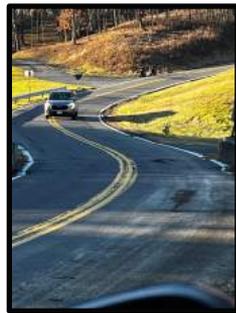
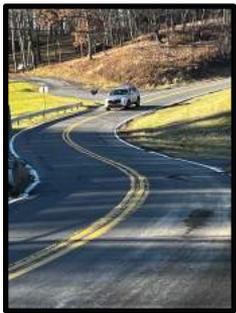
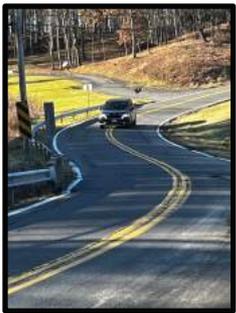
Personal visits to Town

Police reports

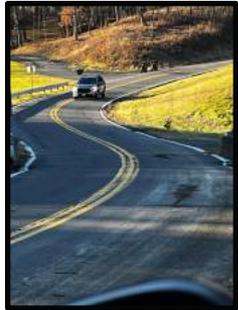
Town of Bethlehem has been on notice of concern.

Having grown up here since 1957 and moved back to orig house.

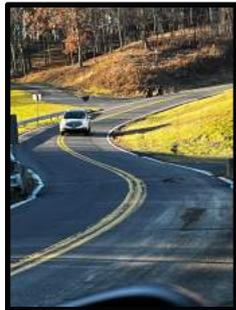
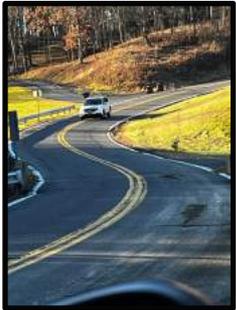
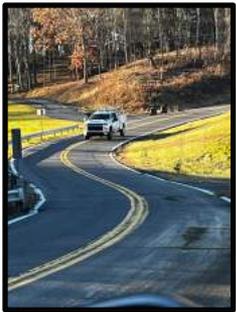
This is awaiting lawyer after next major accident/death.



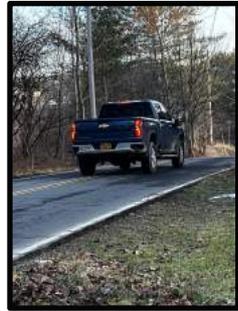
High frequency of crossing double yellow lane marking. Bender Lane Hill At 334 Bender



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Shiffendecker
Nature
Preserve



Roughly 1 out of 4 of crossing double yellow lane marking