

**PaTHs 4 Bethlehem  
Meeting Summary  
August 23, 2011**

Present: Henry Peyrebrune, Alan Via, Ann Mullaly, Scott Lewendon, Caleb Wistar, Anne Benware, Kathy McCarthy  
Town of Bethlehem Staff: Rob Leslie, Jason Gallo, Erik Deyoe  
VHB Staff: Kim Lundgren, Bill Desantis, Jason Zogg, Preston Halstead

**Comments on June Meeting Summary**

No Comments.

**Update on Meeting with BCSD Superintendent**

Jason – We had a very positive and encouraging first meeting with Dr. Tebbano. In attendance were Supervisor, Sam Messina, Oliver Holmes, Henry Peyrebrune and Rob Leslie. We outlined some of the committee’s accomplishments as well as the goals and direction that we now see the committee heading, which spotlights “Education” as an important component to overall picture. Dr. Tebbano agreed that education is crucial and identified some key people from the District that he would like to invite to a follow up meeting with us, to be scheduled sometime in mid-September. Individuals identified include:

- Jody Monroe, Assistant Superintendent
- Al Karem, Transportation Director
- Gregg Nolte, Operations & Maintenance Director
- Judy Kehoe, Comptroller
- School Resource Officers
- School Principals
- Physical Education Staff

Dr. Tebbano also confirmed that the School District would agree to disseminate our safety tip palm cards. Some of the goals/discussion at our next meeting will include identifying a liaison; discuss a programmatic approach (with the Paths committee providing the curriculum and materials) and possible programmatic incorporation with current school curriculum i.e., Elementary scooter city, Drivers Ed, Student Bus Safety and Dare Program. Dr. Tebbano also thought that there is currently a lack of enforcement and that it would be important to have an enforcement representative involved in order to achieve overall success.

Henry – It did appear that Dr. Tebbano was willing to try and institutionalize this type of education.

Rob – Dr. Tebbano also thought it would be a good idea to have the Transportation Director, Al Karem, review our network and make suggestions.

**Welcome and Introduction to the VHB Team**

Erik – The Town has been awarded a grant from NYSERDA to initiate sustainability efforts in Town. The scope of work by VHB will include energy management, measure green house gas inventory and include bike/ pedestrian initiatives. The RFP sent out for this project was responded to by 9 well qualified firms. After an extensive evaluation process, VHB was awarded the job. VHB offers a ton of experience, municipal climate action plans, extensive green house gas inventory and expertise in bike/ped planning. They also are doing work with our neighbor in Albany and show some local experience.

**VHB Team**

Kim Lundgren – The Project Manager

Bill Desantis – Will lead the Bike and Pedestrian team

Jason Zogg – Climate and Energy team

Preston Holstead – Regional Office Manager in Albany

A member from VHB will be present at all of our meetings from now until the completion of the grant scope (March).

Kim – We are excited to undertake this unique project in that you are linking benefits from a greenhouse gas perspective to a bike pedestrian program, which demonstrates to NYSERDA that this type of project should be funded going forward. Which is good considering transportation dollars are becoming less and less but there will still be energy dollars available, thus making this linkage is important for potential future funding.

**Presentation from VHB on the Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Tasks**

Bill – Will be leaving materials (on a thumb drive) with information about bike and pedestrian safety and information to help outline how to conduct a program from start to finish.

Bill:

- Outlined some of VHB’s prior Bike and Pedestrian projects, showing examples of signage, way finding systems, types of facilities and will leave us with a cookbook for road safety audits.
- Conducted a bicycle audit of some of the town roadways. Bill had a camera attached to the front of his bike and gave us a front seat perspective of riding a bike on the roads in Bethlehem.
- Recommended reading; Effective Cycling by John Forrester
- Stressed the importance of education and believes it will be the primary factor in getting more people comfortable riding on the roadways
- Showed examples of poor facilities and signage
- We will review the Priority Network Map
- We will assist the committee with the preparation of the LAB Bike friendly community application
- Develop a summary guide for how to use the walk-ability checklist and walk-able communities guide
- We will develop for the committee education and encouragement materials
- We will conduct the League of American Bicyclists Traffic Skills 101 Road session for the committee, to be done this fall. The classroom portion is online and will need to be completed prior to road session.
- Will assist with estimate the costs of improvements for 10 bike and 10 pedestrian projects
- Engage community partners through a public presentation
- Help develop a maintenance manual for existing facilities
- Develop recommendations for an annual operating budget
- Identify resources of other potential funding that don’t rely on federal or state sources
- Review zoning and land use policies
- Develop a Bicycle Pilot Route Project

Ann – How do you re educate a motorists.

Bill – Start with a Bicyclists and Pedestrian education program. If they follow the rules of the road it helps earn more respect of the motorist.

**Review Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Network and Identify Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects**

The Committee identified the following pedestrian projects as potential projects for the Town to undertake:

<b>POTENTIAL PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Road Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>
1	<b><u>Delmar Place</u></b>	Kenwood Avenue	Fernbank Avenue	TOWN
2	<b><u>Adams Street</u></b>	Kenwood Avenue	Hudson Avenue	TOWN
3	<b><u>Brockley Drive</u></b>	Delaware Avenue	Orchard Street	TOWN
4	<b><u>Feura Bush Road</u></b>	Bayberry Road	Jefferson Road	STATE
5	<b><u>Feura Bush Road</u></b>	Jefferson Road	Route 9W	STATE
6	<b><u>Murray Avenue</u></b>	Delmar Bypass (NYS Rt 32)	Feura Bush Road	TOWN
7	<b><u>Kenwood</u></b>	Pine Tree Drive	Delmar Bypass (NYS Rt 32)	TOWN

<u>Avenue</u>				
8	<u>Blessing Road</u> <u>Krumkill Road</u>	NYS Rt 85 Blessing Road	Krumkill Road Russell Road	TOWN
10	<u>Route 9W</u>	Glenmont Elementary Driveway	Town Squire	STATE
11	<u>Kenwood Ave</u> <u>(Crosswalk)</u>	At Edgewood Road		TOWN
12	<u>Delaware</u> <u>Avenue</u> <u>(Crosswalk)</u>	At Bennett Terrace		STATE
13	<u>Orchard Street</u>	Brockley Drive	Crestwood Lane	TOWN

The Committee identified the following bicycle projects as potential projects for the Town to undertake:

<b><u>POTENTIAL BICYCLE PROJECTS</u></b>				
<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Road Name</u></b>	<b><u>From</u></b>	<b><u>To</u></b>	<b><u>Jurisdiction</u></b>
1	<u>Wemple</u> <u>Road/Weisheit</u> <u>Road</u>	Beacon Road	River Road	TOWN
2	<u>Feura Bush Road</u>	Elm Avenue	Route 9W	STATE
3	<u>Murray Avenue</u>	Elm Avenue	Feura Bush Road	TOWN
4	<u>Kenwood Avenue</u>	Delaware Avenue	Delmar Bypass (Route 32)	TOWN
5	<u>Delaware Avenue</u>	New Scotland Town Line	City of Albany Town Line	STATE
6	<u>Delmar Place</u>	Kenwood Avenue	Fernbank Avenue	TOWN
7	<u>South Albany Road</u>	Old Quarry Road	Bridge Street	COUNTY
8	<u>Old Quarry Road</u>	New Scotland Town Line	Bridge Street	COUNTY
9	<u>Elsmere</u> <u>Avenue/Feura Bush</u> <u>Road/Wemple Road</u>	Delaware Avenue	River Road	STATE/TOWN
10	<u>Cherry Avenue</u>	Kenwood Avenue	New Scotland Road	STATE
11	<u>New Scotland Road</u>	Cherry Avenue	Albany City Line	STATE
12	<u>Blessing</u> <u>Road/Russell Road</u>	Route 85	Albany City Line	TOWN
13	<u>Meads Lane/Elm</u> <u>Avenue</u>	Delaware Avenue	Delmar Bypass (Route 32)	TOWN

The Committee identified the following additions to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Network:

<b><u>POTENTIAL ADDITIONS TO THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PRIORITY NETWORK</u></b>			
<b><u>Road Name</u></b>	<b><u>From</u></b>	<b><u>To</u></b>	
<u>Adams Place/Herber Avenue</u>	Roweland Avenue	Elsmere Avenue	
<u>Hasgate Drive/Forsten Drive/</u> <u>Ashgrove Lane/Harvest Ridge</u> <u>Road</u>	Feura Bush Road	Elm Avenue East	
<u>Willowbrook Avenue (Bike/Ped)</u>	South Albany Road	Bridge Street	
<u>Bridge Street (Bike/Ped)</u>	<u>Willowbrook Avenue</u>	<u>Ten Eycke Avenue</u>	

### **Discussion of Bike Pilot Project**

Rob - Funding for the bike pilot project is built into the grant and would allow for improvement to a road surface. In order to stay true to our evaluation process, we need to first identify the potential bicycle projects and then run them through our Evaluation for New Pathway Investment. This will include evaluation of the project benefits (by the Town ) and estimate of project cost (by VHB). This will be how we select which project to choose for the bike pilot project.

Erik – Some of the possible improvements could include a way-finding system with destinations identified, signage and pavement markings.

Scott – Will the road diet on Delaware Avenue be considered?

Rob – Yes and even if Delaware is not chosen for the pilot project, we would have some costs to associate with future projects.

Scott – Something else to maybe consider is the information that came out of our open house presentation for the priority network; a potential project identified the public was the signing of a few roadways, Elsmere to Feura Bush to Wemple.

### **Overview of Take Home Action Items and Next Month's Meeting Agenda**

Town Staff will work on scoring the benefits side of the identified potential projects and VHB will compile the costs for the projects. This will provide a total score and letter grade to determine which project will be implemented this fall.

Town Staff will also disseminate information regarding the LAB Traffic Skills 101 course and select a date, by consensus, for all to participate in the on-road portion of this course. The on-line portion must be completed prior to participating in the on-road component; the website address for online is: [www.bikeed.org](http://www.bikeed.org).

### **New Business**

Jason – Two Bethlehem police officers attended Camp Adventure with their bicycles to discuss bicycle and pedestrian safety. They also gave out to each camper our safety tip palm card.

Scott – Perhaps VHB could review the Town Ordinance and bring it up to date with regards to allowing bicycles on the sidewalk.

Henry asked if there was any follow up with either the Police Department regarding the safety tip palm cards and enforcement efforts though out Town or if the Highway Superintendent has confirmed the possibility of using Highway funds to do a maintenance project (for pedestrians) somewhere in Town?

Jason – Nothing has been confirmed at this time. It will take some additional persistence on our part (Town Staff) to get some answers and information. Our upcoming meeting with Dr. Tebbano will also help foster additional conversations about these matters.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Adjourn**

8:45