

**PaTHs 4 Bethlehem
Meeting Summary
January 31, 2012**

Present: Henry Peyrebrune, Ann Mullaly, Scott Lewendon, Anne Benware, Oliver Holmes, Dan Lewis, Alan Via, Caleb Wistar
Town of Bethlehem Staff: Rob Leslie, Jason Gallo, Gregg Sagendorph
VHB Staff: None
School District Staff: Fred Powers

Comments on November Meeting Summary

None.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Goal Setting Exercise

Cancelled.

CDTA/CDTC Capital Region Bike Rack Program Application (due February 17, 2012)

Jason mentioned that we have been successfully awarded this grant the past two years and that we plan to apply again this year. This will be the last year that this program is offered.

Rob showed the committee a map on the CDTA website which outlines all the bike racks that have been awarded through their grant and discussed the locations that we recommend for selection this year: 2 racks at the Adams Street parking lot. 2 racks at the Elm Avenue Park Office.

The thought process is to replace the 4 silver galvanized racks around four corners with black rubberized racks (also galvanized) to better match the current aesthetic of the black light poles along Delaware Avenue. We would move the 4 current racks from four corners to the new locations, 2 at each site. Scott suggested Glenmont Plaza as another possible location but in looking at the ROW, it falls in the middle of the grass strip which does lend itself to a good bike rack placement. Alan – What about Delaware Plaza?

Rob – We do not have the authority to apply for bike racks and place them on private property. An email was sent out to the Chamber of Commerce encouraging business to apply for the grant.

Jason – Scott or Dan, does FORT have any interest in applying for this grant with placement at the Slingerlands termini?

Scott – Not at the moment, we have a lot of things on our plate right now.

Dan – We received a grant to do an overall communication plan that incorporates design features, so it seems a bit premature for FORT to apply for this grant now.

PaTHs 4 Bethlehem Committee December Activities:

- December presentation to Town Board (Board comments)

Rob – I put together a list of our 2011 accomplishments for a presentation to the Town Board (the bike rack applications, palm cards, participation at various events) and discussed the ongoing work that we are doing with VHB, including the pilot routes.

- Meeting with BCSD Parent Teachers Organization

Jason, Rob, Scott and Henry attended a Parent Teachers Organization meeting on December 5th. The PTO consists of Parents who serve as the President for their home school PTO, as well as parents who serve as Presidents of various clubs/committees affiliated with the school district. At this meeting we shared with the PTO our committee's work, goals and current initiatives. We learned that there are multiple opportunities for Paths to try and network and share bike & ped information and education at various events that the PTO put on throughout the year.

Henry – We have done a fantastic job of opening the lines of communication with different groups but what is our central message or mission? Perhaps we should brainstorm what it is that we will convey to better align ourselves for when these outreach opportunities present themselves.

Dan – We discussed a while back the idea of subcommittees around the 3E's, and to what Henry is saying this would be a perfect opportunity for a subcommittee to put together concepts of what our mission or central idea should be and then bring it back to the committee as a whole for discussion and confirmation.

Jason – I believe the idea of subcommittees may have taken a back seat to our work with VHB. I like the idea of subcommittees as it would lend itself to work being done behind the scenes and between meetings by committee members.

PaTHs 4 Bethlehem Sub-Committees – Member Participation (VHB Task 6.b.iv)

- April Slingerlands Elementary School Earth Fair Day – Thursday, April 26 9-3pm

Rob – Introduced Fred Powers as our School District Liaison.

Rob – We need to confirm if we want to participate at these events, this way if we are going to prepare something we have time to do so.

Jason – These subcommittees would plan and organize the appropriate activities for their month while Rob and I would provide materials & assistance as needed.

Subcommittee participation as follows:

April Slingerlands Earth Day Fair- Caleb, Ann M, Anne B, Dan, Alan

May Bike month activities (Bike Expo, Bike to Sch. Day) – Kathy, Scott, Ann M., Oliver

Fred – Remember to consider the education of the parents as well.

Jason – Scott prepared an open letter to parents about their role in reinforcing the safety and rules of the road to their children. This letter was disseminated at the previous Bike expo and can be duplicated as a handout for these events.

Rob – The April event would entail having a table and providing information or an activity around our table's theme.

- May Bike Month

May bike month ideas included:

- a) Using the first bike pilot route as a kickoff to ride your bike to school day
- b) Facilitate a ride on the 1st Bike Pilot route after the Bike Expo
- c) A ride for adults on the pilot route incorporated in the Bike Expo

Dan – I can help coordinate and initiate conversations with BIANYS for potential helmet giveaways.

Rob – Is it realistic to coordinate a bike to school day in conjunction with our first bike pilot route?

Fred – A few years back we visited the idea of trying to do something like this and created a plan to facilitate it but it was shot down by the higher ups in the school district. I also have a lukewarm feeling about providing a bike to school day for only 1 or 2 schools. Staging something on a weekend highlighting the route with parent involvement/facilitation might be a better approach.

Anne – Perhaps some announcements in the schools and on the school website about May being bike month and promoting the new pilot route would be best.

Jason – Instead of us trying to coordinate a ride your bike to school day our approach would be to promote the route to the schools and PTO's and encourage its use.

Rob - So parents would be the coordinators of any type of event not Paths.

Status of Walk and Bike Friendly Community applications (VHB Task 6.b.i)

Rob - The walk friendly community application has already been submitted and the bicycle friendly community application will be submitted by February 17. As part of the application process we have uploaded a number of files on to the Paths web page in order to help highlight the committee's accomplishments. The evaluation process usually takes 2-3 months so we should expect an announcement regarding our status for the walk friendly community application sometime in May.

Bike Pilot Project (VHB Task 7)

- Update on first bike pilot and second bike pilot routes

Rob – Since the committee last met in November we have had a meeting with DOT about how we could implement the bike pilot project and what obstacles could be involved. Their response was that Region 1 is not prepared to address SLM and they don't have criteria to do so.

Caleb – Is this about money?

Rob – Probably both money and maintenance.

Rob – Anne informed me about a project from region 4 where they did use SLM. I will follow up with DOT if any criterion has been developed for creating SLM. DOT also said that an evaluation of Delaware Avenue from Van Dyke to Elsmere will be conducted to determine if we have an environment that would be appropriate for SLM. I will find out if any progress has been made on this evaluation as well inform them about the SLM work that is being done in region 4.

Jason – So essentially this left the state roads off the table for our second pilot project selection. This differs from the 10 projects that we first selected for evaluation because those 10 identified roads were mostly on state roads.

Rob passed out a map with the two potential routes for the second bike pilot project. Both routes were evaluated and scored within our tier 1 grouping. The chosen route for the second bike pilot project is Option A (see map hand out). The thinking for selecting this route was that it extends into the southern part of town, connects to our first bike pilot route and also connects to the existing route that connects to Elm Avenue Park. Bill and I went out last week and started marking these routes.

Henry – When we plot this out on a map for publication we should include the existing route on Elm.

Caleb – I like how the first route hits 4 schools and the second route goes into the southern part of town.

Anne - Timing for marking the route is April?

Rob - Pilot 1 is April/May this year. Pilot 2 there is no time frame at this point.

Anne – We should time the completion of pilot 1 with an education piece out to the schools and the public about what SLM's are.

New Business

Oliver – As part of federal money that will be available for road work in the state, rumble strips are included in the improvements and for placement in the shoulders. You can visit LAB website to voice that you don't want you to do that

Anne – The House Transportation and Infrastructure committee has in their bill that ~~service~~ **surface** transportation funds will no longer require a mandatory amount be used for bike and ped accommodations. In the past it was usually between 5-10% that was allocated for bike/ped projects.

Henry – I believe we would have better name recognition if we were called the bicycle and pedestrian committee.

Dan – Has there been any indication from the new supervisor about this committee's status going forward specifically continuing to be lead by the two of (Town Staff). I feel the success of this committee is in large part due to the leadership of the town staff.

Rob – We have not had any indication to date but Jason and I will be meeting with John Clarkson soon.

Scott – At some point we as a committee should build a consensus and develop an official opinion on riding a bicycle on sidewalks. We could add this as a discussion on an upcoming agenda.

Public Comment

None.

Adjourn

8:27 p.m.