



**PaTHs 4 Bethlehem
Meeting Summary
October 27, 2009
Town Hall Room 101**

Present: Steve Downs, Sue Kambrich, Mark Jordan, Dan Lewis, Kathy McCarthy, Anne Benware, Julie Sasso, Mark Lewis, Henry Peyrebrune, Caleb Wistar
Town of Bethlehem Staff: Jason Gallo, Rob Leslie, Erik Deyoe

September Meeting Summary No comments were provided on the September Meeting Summary. The summary would be posted to the Committee's webpage.

General announcements included: Jason welcomed Anne Benware as a new member to the committee. Jason also reminded the committee about the November meeting date change, which will be Monday, November 30. Henry asked if there was any official publicity done for the Complete Streets Resolution (No) and that we should consider getting the word out about the Complete Streets Resolution any way we can.

Bethlehem 2010 – 2015 CDTC TIP Grant Application Rob explained that the Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC), as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady Counties, has responsibility under federal law to adopt a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). CDTC will be soon developing the TIP to cover all federal-aid transportation projects for the period from October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2015. CDTC provided an anticipatory solicitation to municipalities for project applications for the 2010 -2015 TIP. Rob announced the Town would apply to the TIP for pedestrian and bicycle improvements along Feura Bush Road. Improvements would include sidewalks installed on one side and a widened shoulder on both sides (to achieve a 4-foot shoulder). The grant would be for approximately \$3,000,000 with a 20% match required from the Town. The Planning Department will prepare the grant. Rob prepared a letter of support on behalf of the PaTHs for Bethlehem Committee, since the proposed project is in line with the work of the PaTHs Committee (i.e. Complete Streets). The letter was reviewed and approved by the Committee.

Dan asked if a bike lane would also be part of the grant application (no). Steve asked about a two-way bike path parallel to the roadway. Rob explained that a separated two-way bike path is not recommended by AASHTO because of safety reasons (i.e. bicyclists riding against traffic). Steve also asked about the possibility of widened shoulders on Rt. 144 (River Road) as being part of the grant application. Rob explained that he did not feel Rt. 144 would be competitive since it did not achieve the TIP's criteria, such as connections to destinations, transit stops, adjacent to dense areas, etc.

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Both Steve & Sue commended the Town for moving forward with 2010-2015 TIP application.

Committee Message Board An update and handout regarding the Committee Message Board (aka PaTHs Discussion Forum) was distributed to all committee members. The PaTHs Discussion Forum will be utilized to continue conversation(s) between monthly Committee meetings. It is anticipated that the first discussion topic will be the Town of Bethlehem Draft Criteria for Pathway Investment.

Criteria Development. The handout, *Town of Bethlehem Draft Criteria for Pathway Investment*, was given to each committee member. The 8 criteria items include the following:

- Safety
- Potential Users
- Destinations
- Constructability
- Cost Effectiveness
- Consistency with Town Plans
- Geographic Distribution
- Leveraging a Funding Opportunity

The draft criteria are based on discussion at the Committee's September meeting. The criteria are intended to be used by the Town as an evaluation tool for future pathway investment. It is envisioned that the Town will apply the criteria to potential pedestrian/bicycle improvement projects to assist in identifying the best project to be funded. The committee discussed the criteria and concluded that their descriptions will be an important aspect of the evaluation.

Henry thought that we should consider a separate set of criteria for the maintenance of existing pedestrian facilities. Julie asked if the Town currently has any official review process for existing pedestrian facilities. Review of existing pedestrian facilities is conducted by the Highway Department during their general review of all roadways.

Henry asked if there was a way to tie in the review of current facility conditions with the Complete Streets Resolution. Caleb asked if the draft criteria list was going to be used for new construction projects only and it was determined, Yes. Caleb also thought that the ongoing maintenance and cost of any future project should be included within a criteria description.

Henry asked if the committee would consider the recommendation of a separate set of criteria for students walking to schools, as a walk to school program. Rob mentioned the walking school bus program in Niskayuna, where students meet up with other students on their way to school.

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Henry also wanted to know if the criteria that we are developing would be applied to all roadways (State, County) or just Town operated roads. Rob said that it would be for all roadways that are within the Town boarders. Caleb thought we may want to create a mission statement that outlines that the criteria value system would be implemented for all new roadway construction projects.

Pairwise Exercise presented by Erik Deyoe. The purpose of the Pairwise presentation was to give the committee background on an evaluation tool that the Engineering Department has used to help aid their decision making for public works projects. Essentially, the Pairwise Exercise helps compare many components (Criteria) to each other, after which a weighted value is applied. Many small decisions and comparisons of criteria are made without having to make one large decision or comparison. The Pairwise exercise could be used to weight the criteria (determine a criteria's value).

Public Comment

- Criteria may be limited to roads and not Paths
- Count the users
- How will the comparison of large ticket and small ticket items be done
- Think about how to have flexibility when applying criteria

Adjourn 8:34

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