



Bethlehem Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meeting Summary September 25, 2012

In Attendance

<i>Committee Members:</i>	Jill Adams, Maureen Cunningham, Oliver Holmes, Scott Lewendon, Henry Peyrebrune, Joe Pasquini, Anne Benware
<i>Town of Bethlehem Staff:</i>	Rob Leslie, Jason Gallo
<i>Bethlehem CSD Staff:</i>	Fred Powers
<i>Guests:</i>	Cindy SanLorenzo

Comments on July and August Meeting Summaries

No Comments. Summaries accepted by the Committee.

Walk to School Day – October 3, 2012

- **Slingerlands Elementary School** -- Jason Gallo presented a summary of his interactions with the school and its participation in the “Walking School Bus” and “Walk to School Day” initiatives. While the school’s administration was originally on board with the concept of a “Walking School Bus,” unanticipated apprehensions arose resulting in their decision to withdraw from participation. Jason then worked with the school to alternatively endorse and take part in a “Walk to School Day” event which will be held on Wednesday, October 3rd beginning at 8:45AM. The school is providing “toe tokens” (charms) as an incentive to participating students. Route maps and informational handouts will also be provided. Jason has also received a donation of 200 fruit products and 200 water bottles courtesy of the new Shop Rite. Jason and Scott Lewendon will participate on behalf of the Committee. Scott will display a “Walk Left/Ride Right sign at the Committee’s table and distribute Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Tip Palm Cards. It is anticipated that the BCSD Superintendent will also attend.
- **Hamagrael Elementary School** – Maureen Cunningham has been working with the school to put on a similar “Walk to School Day” event. While the scope is expected to be smaller than Slingerlands, more walkers are anticipated. Maureen will participate on behalf of the Committee; Henry Peyrebrune may also assist if he can. Several parents have also expressed interest in assisting. The Committee agreed to split the Shop Rite donation so that fruit and water were also available at Hamagrael. The Committee will provide Maureen with a “Walk Left/Ride Right Sign to display at the event and Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Tip Palm Cards for distribution. Maureen mentioned that Elsmere Elementary School is also trying to organize an event after hearing about the Slingerlands and Hamagrael elementary school events.
- **General Discussion** – Jason has been trying to get the Bethlehem Police Department to assist with the events, but their involvement may be limited due to resource constraints. Maureen will be formally reaching out to the Bethlehem Police Department via letter and Supervisor via email. In addition, the Committee suggested that Rob Leslie ask the NYSDOT to temporarily place a portable Variable Message Sign (VMS) board at the Kenwood and Cherry intersection to help raise awareness. In the meantime, Rob will try to have a “Walk Left/Ride Right” signs placed at each school. Several Committee members will also look into getting some lawn signs printed, but some concerns were raised due to the late nature of the timing.

Status of Town's Application for the NYSDOT "Safe Routes to School Program" Grant

- Several Committee members assisting in the collection of signatures in support of the application. Approximately 150 signatures were collected. The general consensus was that about 80% of the feedback received thus far has been supportive in nature with the remaining 20% being either indifferent or opposed.
- Letters of support have been received from the local schools as well as several citizens within the affected area.
- The project is anticipated to cost \$689,000. The grant, if approved, would cover \$500,000 with the Town covering the remaining \$189,000.
- Rob formally presented the grant application to the Town Board at the September meeting. The Board approved the submittal of the application through a resolution and signed a memorandum of understanding with the BCSD regarding their commitment to conduct student travel surveys (a requirement of the SRTS program).
- Rob anticipates that the grant application, which leverages many of the BCSD's existing educational activities pertaining to bicycle and pedestrian safety, will be submitted to NYSDOT in early October.

Initial Identification of Locations for the "Walk Left/Ride Right" Signs

- The Committee agreed that the initial focus of the signage should be Fernbank and Delmar Place as this area appears to currently have the greatest need.
- Rob provided each Committee member with aerial maps detailing the streets located within a ½-mile radius of each school within Town. These areas could likewise benefit from signage.
- Henry suggested that the schools themselves (e.g., administrators, school bus supervisors, PTAs, etc.) could probably provide the best assessment regarding sign placement. Rob anticipates that thirty (30) signs will initially be available. Fred will speak with the BCSD Transportation Director to identify bus routes to assist in the placement of signs along the routes.
- Joe Pasquini suggested that the signs, perhaps as part of a later phase, could also be placed alongside each of the Town's gateways in an effort to further promote shared roadways.
- Fred will reach out to the BCSD Superintendant to make it known that the Committee is interested in introducing their work to him and possibly the PTOs.

Committee Work Plan

- While the Committee has been active recently, there has not been much movement forward regarding the Committee Work Plan.
- Rob asked the Committee to set aside time to revisit the work plan at future meetings. After discussion, it was decided that the October Committee meeting should focus upon the topic of Education.

New Business

- Next Committee meeting is Tuesday, October 23rd.
- Rob received a letter from a local Cub Scout Leader requesting a bicycle safety presentation (i.e. bicycle rodeo/traffic skills course). Scott and Jason will follow up.
- Rob will be giving two presentations on October 4th: one for the Capital District Regional Planning Committee regarding walkable communities and the other for the Saratoga Springs' Shared Access Advisory Board regarding project prioritization.
- The Delaware Avenue and Fuera Bush Road improvement projects and an annual sidewalk maintenance improvements, among others, have been deemed as discretionary spending

initiatives in the Town's proposed Capital Plan. Committee members are encouraged to attend the upcoming Capital Plan Workshops in October.

- There was some general Committee discussion regarding traffic calming techniques (permanent vs. temporary) as well as traffic data logging (volume and speed). The Committee may pursue this as a future task.
- Rail Trail update – The scope of the project has been refined to include items affecting public safety or the improvement of corridor infrastructure. As a result, the anticipated budget has increased from \$3 million to \$3.6 million. Albany County is currently seeking the necessary matching funds.

Public Comment

- Request from Cindy SanLorenzo to have a sidewalk installed in her neighborhood along Bender Lane between Route 32 and Elsmere in order to improve safety and enhance the quality of life within the area. She has collected fifty (50) signatures in support thus far.

Meeting Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.