

NEW JERSEY BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY JUNE 21, 2012

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

EDWARD J. BLOUSTEIN SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND PUBLIC POLICY

33 LIVINGSTON AVENUE - NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ

ROOM 369

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS:

IN ATTENDANCE WERE:

Charles Brown (VTC)	Jerry Foster (WWBPA)
Jim Van Schoick (VTC)	Elizabeth Thompson (NJTPA)
Leigh Ann Von Hagen (VTC)	Mike Viscardi (NJ Transit)
Maeve Johnston (VTC)	Karen Jenkins (NJBWC)
Sean Meehan (VTC)	Jim Nicholson (NJBWC)
Jonathan Hawkins (VTC)	Linda Rapacki (RideWise)
John Stevenson (HART TMA)	Dan Lebar (Metuchen)
Janet Heroux (Shaping NJ)	Reed Sibley (Parsons Brinckerhoff)
Graydon Newman (CCCTMA)	Dan Rappoport (WWBPA)
Ted Semegran (BTCNJ)	Rob Myre (Skylands Cycling)
Ranjit Walia (Civic Eye Collaborative)	Carissa Sestito (Rutgers CAIT)
Dan Kueper (Michael Baker Jr., Inc.)	Cyndi Steiner (NJBWC)
Tiffany Robinson (RBA Group)	Gerald Fittipaldi (Graduate Student)
Kate Cahill (NJBWC)	Laura Torchio (SRTS NP)
Cami Zeleransky (NJBWC)	

REPORT ON COMPLETE STREETS WORKSHOPS (CHARLES BROWN, VTC)

Charles presented a brief update on the response to Complete Streets Workshops that were recently conducted across the state, covering all 21 counties.

REPORT ON THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP (LAURA TORCHIO, NJ ADVOCACY ORGANIZER FOR SRTS NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP)

Laura gave a brief overview on the Safe Routes to School program itself and the role of the National Partnership. She discussed the SRTS state network project, which New Jersey is a part of. Additionally, she gave an update on the successes New Jersey has recently had in the SRTS realm including the strategic plan update, the new SRTS Resource Center, revised application guidelines and complete street policy and implementation training.



HUD SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES REGIONAL PLANNING GRANT (MIRIAM SALERNO, VTC)

Miriam provided the BPAC with an overview of the North Jersey Sustainable Communities Consortium, which is funded by a \$5 million HUD grant and nearly \$5 million in matching funds from other sources. She highlighted the role of standing committees in the project and the need for members to serve on the committees. Recommendation of members will be submitted to the executive committee, and Miriam requested that anyone interested in joining one of the three committees email her at miriam.salerno@ejb.rutgers.edu.

3-FOOT LAW UPDATE (BRENDAN POH, NEW JERSEY BIKE & WALK COALITION)

Brendan presented an overview of the 3-Foot safe bicycle passing law, including the challenges and the potential benefits from its passage. He discussed efforts to pass such a law in New Jersey; the bill, which previously failed, has been reintroduced in the Senate and Assembly, having made it through second committee in the Assembly. He outlined a plan for the Bike & Walk Coalition to lead a campaign in support of passing the law, which has an objective of successful outreach to 10,000 people by September 15, 2012.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL NEW JERSEY (LEIGH ANN VON HAGEN, VTC)

Leigh Ann presented recent work by the New Jersey Safe Routes to School Resource Center at VTC, most notably the launch of a new website. She explained how to find a regional SRTS coordinator using the website and showcased the School Travel Plan guide section of the new site.

"FOR THE GOOD OF NEW JERSEY" (JIM VAN SCHOICK, VTC)

Jim presented recent successes in improving bicycling and walking conditions around the state, such as the implementation of complete streets policies in Essex County, Mercer County, New Brunswick City and Chatham Borough. He noted New Jersey Transit's revised bikes-on-trains policy, which overturns a prior ban on bicycle boarding at low-level platforms but implements a new restriction on bicycles aboard New York-oriented trains during weekend peak hours. He also highlighted the opening of the new bicycle and pedestrian friendly Route 52 Causeway bridge connecting Somers Point to Ocean City and the launch of the NJ Ambassadors in Motion (AIM) program. Finally, he announced the award of a \$20,000 grant by VTC to study a potential road diet for Livingston Avenue in New Brunswick, and the impending launch of a new website for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center.

ONE MINUTE UPDATES

To conclude the meeting, the floor was open to attendees for brief announcements. One highlight was that New Jersey has been named a "bicycle friendly state" by the League of American Bicyclists for the third year in a row, and was ranked as the 7th most bicycle-friendly state in the nation. The Ambassadors in Motion program was mentioned by the League as a program that could help improve the state in the rankings, while a vulnerable user law was cited as the most needed improvement. Finally, Jim Nicholson was honored for his work as Executive Director of the New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition, as Jim will be relocating to South Carolina.

