



NJ BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Thursday September 27, 2012

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy

33 Livingston Avenue - New Brunswick, NJ

Room 113

Welcome and introduction of members:

In attendance were:

Sheree Davis (NJDOT Bike/Ped)	Janet Hansen (TSRC)
Debbie Kingsland (NJDOT Bike/Ped)	Wansoo Im (Vertices)
Joseph Powell (NJDOT Bike/Ped)	Mike Viscardi (NJ Transit)
Charles Brown (VTC)	Tara Shepherd (HART TMA)
Jim Van Schoick (VTC)	Ryan Fisher (HART TMA)
Leigh Ann Von Hagen (VTC)	Liz Usmiani (HART TMA)
Sean Meehan (VTC)	Dan Kueper (Michael Baker)
Maeve Johnston (VTC)	Peter Bilton (KMM)
Jonathan Hawkins (VTC)	Tiffany Robinson (RBA)
Graydon Newman (CCCTMA)	Pam Fischer (NJTPA)
John Stevenson (Rutgers Transportation)	John Boyle (Bike Coalition of Philadelphia)
Jerry Foster (WWBPA)	Janet Heroux (Shaping NJ)
Susan O'Donnel (VHB)	Cyndi Steiner (NJBWC)
Stephen Chiaramonte (Parsons Brinckerhoff)	

Presentation: NJTPA Pedestrian Safety and Education Campaign

- Pam Fischer gave a presentation on a pedestrian safety and education campaign being undertaken by NJTPA in response to New Jersey being designated by FHWA as a pedestrian focus state and Newark a pedestrian focus city
- Currently a consultant is being selected to develop, pilot and evaluate the campaign which will be piloted in 4 locations, targeting different communities and audiences using a mix of earned, owner and paid media
- The program aims to begin work in Dec/Jan with the pilot campaign planned for Spring - Fall 2013
- Goals are to change pedestrian and motorist behavior to reduce crashes, injuries and fatalities, to educate motorists and pedestrians, and to increase enforcement of laws
- The campaign will be funded by flexing \$500k in HSIP funds, and hopes are for funding to continue after 2013
- NJTPA will partner with NJDHTS and NJ Ambassadors in Motion for enforcement at pilot locations

Presentation: Engaging Communities in Safe Routes to School Using Public Participatory Mapping

- Dr. Wansoo Im gave a presentation on his recent experience with using GIS mapping as a tool for public participation
- With Rutgers students, Wansoo created an interactive mapping website and a corresponding smart phone app to collect perceptions on safety which could be mapped to their respective locations
- Wansoo showed how students assessed safety conditions around the Rutgers campus and added them to a map live in the field with the smart phone app; the smart phones also allowed light indexes to be mapped
- As part of a summer program for underprivileged high school students in Somerset, Wansoo created a community mapping program using road safety audits conducted by the students
- Students also mapped the High Line in New York and mapped litter problems at a local park
- Wansoo showed video of students discussing how the program inspired them to be more active in their community, demonstrating that public participatory mapping is as much about community engagement as it is collecting data
- An app is in the works to assist NJTIP travel trainers in improving conditions for the disabled; study is being done by the NJBPRC

Presentation: MAP-21 Update

- Steven Higashide and Cyndi Steiner gave an update on the recently passed new federal transportation legislation
- The most important takeaway is that dedicated bike/ped funding is smaller and less dedicated than under the previous legislation
- There is now more local control of funding
- Most highway programs were retained and can still be utilized for bike/ped projects
- Local advocacy remains key
- Dedicated funding for such programs as Transportation Enhancements and Safe Routes to School was eliminated and wrapped into a new program, Transportation Alternatives
- 50% of the funding for this program can be transferred to highway funding
- 50% of funding is locally controlled and 50% state controlled
- It will be more important than ever to show the real economic and safety benefits of bike/ped projects to ensure their continued funding
- The most important places for advocacy are Congress, USDOT and NJDOT
- A free event entitled "Mapping it Out" to inform about the new legislation will be held on October 17 from 9-12:30 in the Brower Commons Conference Room at Rutgers (RSVP to steven@tstc.org)
- The NJ Bike Walk Coalition is active in advocating for bike/ped funding under the new legislation
- NJ Bike Walk Coalition wants to ensure the full funding, staffing and implement of the Transportation Alternatives program and maximization of the state's investments
- NJ Bike Walk Coalition has requested that NJDOT restore dedicated bike and pedestrian funding to 2012 levels using other highway funding sources
- 69 organizations signed a campaign letter that was delivered to NJDOT Commissioner Simpson supporting these goals

Briefing: Safe Routes to School

- Leigh Ann Von Hagen gave a briefing on the Safe Routes to School program, noting that October is Walk and Bike to School Month
- There are 91 registered Walk and Bike to School Month events for this year, the most ever
- Soon SRTS will be rolling out a Recognition Program for SRTS successes, with the first application deadline being December 1
- New Become a Friend of SRTS program can be accessed via the website
- Crossing guard resources added to the website; coming next a model crossing guard training program
- The next SRTS Coalition meeting will be November 14 from 10 AM to 12 PM at Bloustein
- The “Things Parents Say” video about common SRTS barriers was screened

Briefing: For the Good of New Jersey

- Jim Van Schoick noted that 8 new municipal complete streets policies were passed in Jul, Aug and Sept
- There are now 40 NJ municipalities with complete street policies
- Pro Walk/Pro Bike took place in Long Beach, CA and many BPAC participants attended
- The Ambassadors in Motion program has been around the state promoting bike/ped safety
- The “Bikes on Buses” video showing how to use a public bus bicycle rack was screened

One Minute Updates

- Sheree Davis: Under new policies, municipalities that have complete streets policies will be required to have an implementation plan and will receive an advantage in Local Aid distribution
- Sheree Davis: A round table with NJDOT Commis. Simpson will be taking place on a safe bicycle passing law
- Sheree Davis: Pilot devices at Garfield and Aberdeen/Matawan stations were installed to improve rail crossing safety and thus far appear to be effective; NJ Ambassadors in Motion were present at a press event in Garfield
- Pam Fischer: NJ League of Municipalities has released a new video on how your town can become mobilized around pedestrian safety
- Pam Fischer: Will be chairing the Lifesavers Conference 2013 in Denver and needs speakers and workshop ideas: Deadline is October 5
- Andy Besold: NJ Traffic and Highway Safety has produced a video on motorcycle safety; a similar bicycle safety video could be a good idea
- Janet Heroux: Public health listservs could be useful in getting the word out to other sympathetic audiences about these issues
- Jerry Foster: Bicycling and walking is up 18% at Princeton Junction station
- Tiffany Robinson: On Oct. 5 APA NJ will host a walking tour of Montclair and will be showcasing new sharrows and an ergonomic crosswalk on South park St
- Cyndi Steiner: The 2013 NJ Bike Walk Summit will be Feb 23 at Bloustein; non-profit booths are \$50
- Charles Brown: NJ League of Municipalities will host a panel on complete streets
- Charles Brown: For future BPACs, please submit potentially interesting questions that could be used to survey BPAC attendees using new polling technology that VTC has obtained

2012 Meeting Schedule

- December
- Future dates TBD