



MEETING NOTES

AUGUST 16, 2006

Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy
33 Livingston Avenue – New Brunswick, NJ
Room 112

Welcome and introduction of members

In attendance were: Walter Lane, Paul Metzger, Ron Tindall, Richard Kerr, John Boyle, Mike Viscardi, Jenn Lane, Bettina Zimmy, Kerri Martin, Mike Kruimer, Anne Kruimer, Sheree Davis, Caroline Granick, James Crane, John Hayes, Joseph Hacker, Barry Keppard, Athena Serafides, Ken Aloisio, Fred Kaimann, Leigh Ann Von Hagen, Ranjit Walia, Peter Bilton, Keri Tyler, and Kelley Sander.

BPAC Member Update Discussion

Bicycle Safety Checkpoints in Delaware as Model for New Jersey

- John Boyle provided an update on New Hope Beach bicycle safety check point program. The Route 1 area in Delaware from Lewes to Rehoboth Beach has large commercial strip development and a large summer foreign worker population. A significant number of cyclist/automobile crashes in the past few years prompted Delaware DOT (DelDot) to sponsor a bicycle education program, but it was found to be ineffective at reaching the target population. This summer DelDot sponsored safety check points along the corridor. Volunteers held up signs in multiple languages to get cyclist to stop at safety check points. Cyclists were given safety handouts in one of eight languages while their brakes and tires were checked. Safety check point volunteers also conducted travel surveys which are currently being analyzed. John reports that the program appears to be a success, as crashes are down and helmet usage is up. This program may be a good model that can be used in New Jersey, especially for shore towns, college towns, and other areas with demonstrated cycling activity. Anthony Aglio of DelDot is currently evaluating the program and VTC will follow up with him and review the results when they are made available.

Traffic Justice Institute

- NCBW (National Center for Bicycling and Walking) will host a “Traffic Justice Institute” at the Pro Walk/Pro Bike conference in September. See the NCBW website for information on this program: <http://www.bikewalk.org/conference/tji.html>

Delaware River Heritage Trail

- Riverton and Palmyra communities opposed routing the trail along the Delaware River. The trail will run along River Road instead but the current “Road Diet” design is too narrow and makes sharing the road difficult without a striped shoulder or bike lane.

NJDOT Office of Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs – Sheree Davis

- The design for the new Route 36 bridge in Sea Bright will include bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- Parsons Brinkerhoff is assisting NJDOT with the development of a Pedestrian Safety Corridor program for New Jersey. A team of engineers, planners, traffic safety professionals, and others will focus on a 2-4 mile corridor. The program consists of a classroom component and field visit, and participants will work collaboratively to implement a safety improvement project for the corridor. Newark will be the first focus city.
- The previously stalled Hudson River Walkway project is underway again and will be a cooperative effort between the NJDOT and the NJDEP.

Overview of BPAC transition process

- The final New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Council report, *Building a Better BPAC: Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Group Best Practices*, is available on the New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center website: <http://www.njbikeped.org/reports/>. A task force has been created to assist with the transformation of the BPAC into a more product-oriented and effective group. Send any comments or recommendations to Keri at ketyler@rci.rutgers.edu.

BPAC research findings & recommendations

- Members expressed interest in future BPAC work on crosswalk treatments and driver awareness issues. Interest was also expressed in setting performance measures for future BPAC projects.
- Ranjit announced that VTC is currently researching pedestrian rights and the law. A subsequent report will cover how NJ statutes deal with pedestrians, how statutes have evolved historically, and a legislative agenda for improvement.

DHSS-VTC survey results & analysis

- Leigh Ann announced that the VTC report “Wellness Survey: Summary of Questions Related to Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Issues,” has been posted on www.njbikeped.org/reports. Working with the Council on Physical Fitness and the Mayors Wellness Campaign, a joint survey was distributed to every New Jersey municipality. The survey had a 23% response rate and asked respondents to provide information on:
 - Existing Trail, walking, and bicycling maps
 - The community’s perception of bicycling and walking
 - Existing Pedestrian or Bicycle Master Plan or elements of General Plan that address bicycle and pedestrian facilities

- Existing bicycle and/or pedestrian advisory groups
- Existing bicycle and pedestrian advocacy groups or clubs

Overview of the NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center's 2006-07 work plan

- Ranjit Walia reviewed the current work plan for the NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center for the upcoming 18 months. The BPAC was asked to review and comment on a list of potential research topics identified by VTC. The group suggested that possible research topics might include:
 - Mid-block crossing treatments
 - New technology and products to aid NJ DOT in its work
 - Financial disincentives discouraging local communities to implement traffic calming on state roads
 - Members are encouraged to e-mail Ranjit or Keri with comments and suggestions for future research topics.

Overview of the Safe Routes to School Project's 2006-07 work plan

- Leigh Ann Von Hagen reviewed VTC's Safe Routes to School work plan for the next 18 months. Sheree Davis announced that 3 demonstration projects were planned for urban areas that will specifically focus on safety and education as many students already have access to biking and walking infrastructure. This will tie-in with VTC research on the challenges faced by urban school districts when implementing Safe Routes to School. Joseph Hacker announced that DVRPC will be implementing a Safe Routes to School demonstration project for the next year in a yet to be determined school district.

Open Discussion

- Sheree Davis provided the group with Transportation Problem Statement forms for reporting any safety, access, or maintenance issues on state roads to the DOT. The form will be available on www.njbikeped.org.
- New Jersey Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center postcards are now available upon request. Please contact Keri at ketyler@rci.rutgers.edu
- The East Coast Greenway route map, similar to the excellent High Point to Cape May route map, will be out next spring. Watch <http://www.greenway.org/> for news.
- Joseph Hacker brought copies of a new DVRPC study "Increasing Intermodal Access to Transit." They are available in hard copy from the Resource Center library.
- Fred Kaimann of Transportation Alternatives announced the release of "Contested Streets," a documentary about transportation planning and policy in New York City. NJ Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center and NJDOT will host two screenings, one in the Special Events Forum at the Bloustein School, Sept 19th at 6pm and the second at NJDOT headquarters, September 22nd at 10am. You must RSVP to Keri at ketyler@rci.rutgers.edu if you plan to attend the September 22nd NJDOT screening.
- Mike Viscardi would like to see more guidance on how to increase driver compliance with stopping for pedestrians in crosswalks. Sheree Davis believes this could be an issue for the BPAC to take on: creating or reviewing legislation related to pedestrian right-of-way. VTC is currently researching pedestrian rights and the law.

Upcoming BPAC Meetings:

- Wednesday, October 18th
- Wednesday, December 13th
- Wednesday, February 14th