

**Legislative and Policy Subcommittee Retreat
November 10, 2015 9:00am - 1:00pm
Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy
Room 253
33 Livingston Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ**

Attendees: Betsy Harvey, Sean Meehan, Emily Armstrong, Andy Anderson, Ranjit Walia, Janna Chernetz, Cyndi Steiner, James Sinclair, Charles Brown, Leigh Ann Von Hagen, John Boyle, Dana Dobson

I. Welcome and introductions

Attendees introduced themselves. Ranjit explained how the original BPAC came about and differences between how it was set up then and how it's set up now. He discussed the contents of several policy documents BPAC had written, including *NJ Title 39: Analysis and Recommendations for Bicycle Provisions* and *Evaluation of New Jersey Statutes Affecting Bicycling and Walking*. The former was not finalized; could be used as a starting point for further analysis and recommendations for changes to Title 39.

II. Why are we here? Purpose/mission of group

The following comments were made with regards to the purpose/mission of the legislative and policy subcommittee:

- Educate legislators and public about laws - pros and cons of recommendations
- Change mentalities to focus on pedestrians and bicyclists
- Advise DOT (and potentially other state organizations)
- Discussed whether or not the members of this subcommittee are advocates and if they can provide recommendations - concerns from MVC (could abstain, be only in an advisory role)
- Separate subcommittee members and advisory-only members, so that we can still keep our ability to make recommendations and to also have government entities involved
- Since Title 39 is largely law enforcement, the Attorneys General office could be involved
- Understand the baseline views of the various government agencies related to transportation policies
- Be an unbiased resource on legislative and policy affecting New Jersey's bicycle and pedestrian environment

Attendees agreed that the subcommittee's purpose should be to **advise** and **educate**:

- **Who:** NJDOT, New Jersey legislators, other state agencies
- **What:** requests from advisees (reactive) and new projects initiated from within the subcommittee (proactive)
- **When:** depends of needs of advisees
- **How:** through products, meetings, testimony, presentations, workshops, or conferences
- **Why:** to improve New Jersey's bicycle/pedestrian environment and to provide clarity on the laws and policies that govern biking and walking in New Jersey

III. How do we make this group work?

A. What level of effort is reasonable?

Attendees acknowledged that there is limited time to produce quality products due to the volunteer nature of the subcommittee, and discussed the potential of accessing further resources from NJDOT.

B. Meetings (in person/call)

All expressed preference for face-to-face meetings. Seven in-person meetings will be held each year.

- Four will be during BPAC in the afternoon in March, June, September, and December
- Three will be on intervening months from 10:00am to 1:00pm: February 17, July 20, and November 16 (the third Wednesdays of the month)
- Phone calls will take place every other month as needed

C. What is the role of the chair? Vice-chair - do we need one?

Need a vice-chair to run the meeting when Janna can't make it.

D. Is anyone missing?

It was decided that subcommittee participants will be divided into three categories – standing, advisory, and ad-hoc – in order to include organizations/agencies that wish to participate but not vote on recommendations of the subcommittee.

- Standing committee members:
 - Tri-State Transportation Campaign
 - New Jersey Bike Walk Coalition
 - Voorhees Transportation Center
 - Bike Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
 - CEC
 - Janet Heroux
 - Consultants (Mike Dannemiller, Pam Fischer)
 - Kerri Martin
 - Andy Anderson
 - Kathleen Lewis (AAA)
 - Rails to Trails (Liz Sewell)
 - NYNJ Trails Conference
- Advisory (non-voting):
 - Motor Vehicle Commission (Emily Armstrong)
 - NJ Department of Health (Sheila Dunn)
 - NJ Department of Transportation (Joe Powell)
 - NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety (John Strachan)
 - State Chief of Police
 - NJ Traffic Safety Officers Association (Tim Franco)
 - CA Committee (Tom Garrett)
- Ad Hoc Advisory (if there's a particular issue that their input would be helpful for):
 - Charlie Carmalt
 - Martin Robbins
 - Attorney General
 - Janine Bauer
 - Office of Legislative Services

- NJ Department of Education
- NJ Occupational Safety and Health Administration (H. Fortis, D. Lefkowitz)

E. What resources are available? VTC? Others?

- VTC has BPAC budget for admin support
 - Student(s) can be assigned a certain research tasks a few hours a week for small and containable projects
 - Staff currently take notes, attend meetings, notes distributions, set up meetings, logistics
- DOT could approve ad hoc requests from subcommittee and could either assign one of the 3 on-call consultants or VTC
 - Reports
 - Graphics
- Standing Committee members
 - Review and guidance
- External grants

F. What do you need to see for this to be worth your time?

Not discussed.

IV. What are the group's specific goals?

The following focus areas were discussed:

- Overhaul Titles 39, 27 and 56
- Review of state Complete Streets policy
- Safe passing legislation/vulnerable user legislation
- Identify issues in transportation in bike/pedestrian legislation and develop educational materials and talking points for legislators
- Legislative monitoring
- School transportation policies
- Review best practices/challenges in local ordinances (local land use re: development), resulting in case studies
- Distracted driving and walking
- Vision Zero state policy
- Review of other states' policies/best practices review (should be part of all projects)
- Bikes on trains (NJT)
- Bike parking policies
- ADA
- Sidewalk fixing by residents (case study of Highland Park)
- Pedestrian use of the road when there is a sidewalk (definition of "accessibility" of sidewalks)
- County Complete Streets policies
- Equity - all policies
- Cinderella lanes
- Performance measures - on all policies (i.e., crosswalk law enforcement)

Short, medium and long term projects will be identified in future meetings.

V. Next steps

- A. Put on BPRC website - VTC

1. Put meeting summary, schedules and agenda on website
 2. Contact information for Janna and all subcommittee leaders
 3. Project results
 4. Members
- B. Select a vice chair - Janna
 - C. Invite new members to December meeting - Janna
 - D. Read documents from Janna's email – all (Charles Carmalt 2002 Review of title 39 and the BPAC 2008? Review of title 39
 - E. Organize project list - Cyndi and Janna
 - F. VTC will send out calendar invitations
 - G. **Next meeting:** at December subcommittee meeting after December BPAC