



Minutes: Design and Infrastructure Sub-Committee Meeting September 17, 2015, 9:30 – 10:30am

Attendees:

State:

Nipa Maniar – NJDOT

Cyrenthia Ward – NJ Transit

Mike Viscardi – NJ Transit

James Sinclair – Rutgers VTC

MPO:

Betsy Mastaglio – DVRPC

Cassidy Boulan – DVRPC

Dana Dobson - DVRPC

County and Municipal:

Ryann Rapp – Middlesex County

Andras Holzmann – Somerset County

Private:

Dave Cox – Urban Engineers

John Boyle – Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia

Reed Sibley - Parsons Brinckerhoff

Layla Fryc – Baker

Mike Dannemiller – RBA

Summary:

First order:

What to do about the shoulder primer? Concerns over setting the bar too low, and lack of context. Questions on shoulder maintenance, including winter plowing. Preference stated for DOT adopting superior national standards, but questions on how likely that is. Sub-committee did not really reach a consensus on where to take document next. However, as a summary of the current state of affairs, the document works well. Other sub-committees will review.

Second order:

Roundtable discussion of relevant projects being worked on by members of group. Ribbon cutting for Camden bicycle lanes. Advocate effort to contact government officials on benefits of Complete Streets. NJTransit blending Complete Streets components into Safe Routes to Transit plans. Question on how to designate a bicycle route.



Long Notes

Shoulder primer

Cassidy Boulan began the meeting with a discussion on the shoulder primer, which has been circulated to other sub-committees.

John Boyle raised concerns that the bar is being set too low. Also concerned that bike-friendly shoulder standards have context issues, where they're not really bicycle friendly. Also wonders if this should be classified as interim document as progress is made to adopt NACTO/AASHTO standards.

Mike Viscardi brought up maintenance issues, including the lack of plowing. He also talked about the need for follow-through with the implementation of any project. Gave examples of projects that changed for the worse between planning stage and engineering stage. Items that were deemed to be important in planning stage get cut in engineering stage due to lack of understanding, communication, or cost. Also agrees with John that the plan needs to be put into context. It might work in rural areas but not urban areas.

Discussion on replacing DOT design manual with NACTO and AASHTO. Nipa Maniar mentions difficulty in making this happen at DOT.

Cassidy brings discussion back to upcoming general meeting. Sub-committee needs step that can be acted on. What to do?

James Sinclair brings up question about bike lanes not existing in Title 39. Also, upcoming Complete Streets Summit.

Roundtable project updates

John Boyle – Ribbon cutting soon for bike lane projects in Camden – September 24. Also, effort to communicate with Republicans in Congress about importance of Complete Streets.

Mike Viscardi – NJ Transit looking at blending Safe Routes to Transit with Complete Streets. Important to be in capital plan so facilities can include Complete Streets components when working on other projects. Also gave an update on “bike pods” that they have been looking at to replace lockers. Concern that they lock in two bikes, which could create conflict.

John Boyle – Asked Mike if Transit is reaching out to advocates to help them acquire grants for bicycle parking, and also to push for more bicycle parking at the local level.

Mike noted some limitations, such as not being able to add new racks along HBLR and RiverLine because they are contracted out.

Mike Dannemiller brought up Complete Streets summit, and proposed Cooper's Ferry staff as Complete Street Champions.



Ryan Rapp – Country Road 529 now has bicycle compatible shoulders. Had question to group as to how to get it designated as official bicycle route.

At 10:25am meeting ended so the room could be set up for the general BPAC meeting.

Next conference call: TBA