



BPAC General Meeting Notes
September 22, 2016 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Rutgers University
Special Events Forum
33 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ

- I. 10:30 AM: Welcome and Introductions:** *Charles Brown*
- II. 10:35 AM: New Jersey Department of Transportation Updates:** *Elise Bremer-Nei*
- A. SRTS grants have been scored. Projects should be announced by end of year
 - B. October 5th is the 20th anniversary of Walk to School Day
 - C. Complete Streets design guide under final review
 - D. Sustainable Jersey
 - 1. Working to make points system “mesh” with bicycle and pedestrian planning efforts
 - E. Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan update
 - 1. Anticipated October review process and November wrap up
 - 2. Project website: set up and maintained by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Resource Center
 - 3. Plan will be released to BPAC for final review
 - (1) There will be a short timeframe for review, it is nearly ready
 - 4. Regarding previous BPAC comments:
 - (1) Implementation section revised to incorporate increased outreach
 - (2) Additional outreach to vulnerable and underrepresented groups discussed
 - (a) Some in chapter 2, some in addendum
 - 5. Thank you to BPAC for comments. The goal is for this to be a living and useful document
 - 6. Need for follow up on Sustainable Jersey integration
 - F. General questions
 - 1. AASHTO and NACTO guidelines updates question
 - (1) Comments are in for AASHTO
 - (2) Discussion about whether or not NJDOT will endorse NACTO guidelines
 - (a) Endorse might not be the word used by engineers
- III. 10:40 AM: Subcommittee Reports:** *Subcommittee Chairs*
- 1. Design and Infrastructure committee

- a. Covered parking review should be complete
 - b. If questions about intersections / roadways to review, please refer to subcommittee
 - c. Call for brainstorming for next task between BPAC meetings
 - i. Interest in design guidelines
2. Education and Outreach subcommittee
- a. Reviewed all available education materials
 - b. Materials categorized across six focus areas (pre-defined by group)
 - c. Biggest gap: educating drivers about safe streets; educating towns about the value of complete streets (from an engineering perspective)
 - i. We've educated 100s of stakeholders at the community level. But does the average person understand the value of it?
 - ii. If we can do some more basic education, there's probably some value in that
3. Safety subcommittee
- a. Met with DOT (safety section) to look at what can be done to implement bicycle pedestrian projects through a program that's been struggling to do so
 - i. Focus on systemic treatments: things you can do across the system to decrease risk at a variety of locations
 - 1. Minimum lighting standards at intersections
 - a. Benchmarking with other states, specifically regarding minimum standards for pedestrian
 - 2. Collecting "near miss" data
 - a. A big topic, lots of attention will be focused on this before next BPAC meeting
 - b. How many cyclists use some kind of app when they go out? What apps are these?
 - i. Not beneficial to create new app, maybe better to incorporate feedback options from existing apps
 - 3. Issues with stopping for pedestrians at crosswalks
 - a. Figure out a dilemma zone? Applicable for all road users
 - i. To give pedestrians an idea of safety threshold
 - ii. To give motorists view that they are entering a pedestrian space
 - b. Is this being talked about in other states?
 - i. Pursuit of experimental status to try to pilot?
 - 4. No turn on red

- a. Montclair project: eliminating turn on red program and measuring impact
 - b. Quantifying impact on safety
 - b. General comments
 - i. Opportunity for design subcommittee to work with safety subcommittee?
 - ii. Pedestrian enforcement details
 - 1. Accountability and awareness between road users
 - iii. Backlash from communities regarding “stop and stay stopped” program
 - 1. Education gap. What tools can we put out there? How can it work better?
 - 2. Potential to prioritize municipal road spaces that have municipal employees?
 - a. May make things go farther in certain towns
4. Legislative and policy subcommittee
 - a. Drafted a resolution for the consideration of the executive council
 - i. Change word accident to crash, specifically in NJDOT language
 - ii. Resolution modeled after FHWA guidelines
 - 1. Thinking: If it works at federal level it should work at state level
 - 2. Resolution will be distributed to BPAC general body via email for review
 - iii. Presented to executive council for approval
 - iv. Caveat: resolution not binding upon NJDOT
 - 1. BPAC is advisory
 - 2. Ultimate outcome of resolution is controlled by NJDOT
 - v. Hope that general body can discuss concerns with resolution so it can move forward to executive council
 - vi. Comments or concerns can be attached to resolution that will be submitted to DOT so agency is aware
 - vii. General discussion about accident v. crash language
 - b. Discussion called to close due to time
 - c. Chair: Because BPAC meets four times a year, resolution decision should be reached at the end of this meeting
 - i. Motion made to adopt the resolution
 - ii. Motion seconded
 - iii. Amendments reviewed
 - iv. Motion made to adopt resolution as amended
 - v. Motion seconded

- vi. None opposed. Motion passed

IV. 2016 Grant Funding for the Transportation Alternatives Program

1. Overview of Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
 - a. Funding
 - b. Application process
 - c. Eligible project categories
 - d. Program requirements
 - e. Deadlines
2. Office runs grant workshops for assistance with TAP applications
3. General Questions:
 - a. Program Requirements - 'Responsible Charge' meaning

V. Covered Bicycle Parking Presentation *Jennifer Buison, NJ Transit*

1. Design and infrastructure subcommittee discussed the types of facilities needed to incentive bicycling and walking to transit
 - a. Protected bicycle parking facilities identified as useful investment
 - b. Overview of protected bicycling parking facility designs
2. General Questions:
 - a. School bike parking guide to be released shortly
 - b. Stratification in the type of parking cyclists will accept

VI. New Jersey Bicycle Safety Action Plan Update

1. Thanks to safety subcommittee for development of plan
2. Last day for review comments on Monday, September 26
 - a. The report is almost ready for release
 - b. Located at njbikepedplan.com for review
3. It is a companion document to the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan
 - a. Located on NJDOT website, published in 2014
4. Both completed in response to New Jersey's high fatality rate for bicycles and pedestrians

VII. Announcements and Public Comments

1. Vision Zero being heavily pushed in the state
 - a. Discussion needed around enforcement, especially regarding minorities
2. Somerset County Government putting on a complete streets workshop
3. Public Comment:
 - a. Business owner in center of town in Mercer County
 - b. Needs advice about an issue in his town
 - c. Narrow sidewalks lead to conflicts between bicyclists riding on sidewalk and pedestrians

- d. Advice requested, connections made between BPAC members and Scott
- 4. NJ Bike and Walk Summit 2017
 - a. February in Princeton
 - b. Call for proposals out now
- 5. DVRPC opened applications for safe routes to transit
 - a. Encouraging municipalities with rail stations to apply for technical assistance
 - i. Design assistance, TAP assistance, etc.
- 6. Annual Tri State Transportation Campaign benefit
 - a. Tuesday, September 27 in NYC
- 7. Dedication of Middlesex County Greenway
 - a. Saturday, October 16 at trailhead in Metuchen
 - b. Rails to Trails project that runs from Metuchen to Woodbridge
- 8. NJTPA - Street Smart New Jersey Campaign
 - a. Fall campaign approaching
 - b. Materials for distribution and display available
- 9. Metuchen Country Fair approaching on October 1
 - a. Transportation issue booths will be present

Meeting adjourned at 12:00.

Next BPAC: December 15, 2016