



**Legislative and Policy BPAC Subcommittee Meeting
March 23, 2016
Rutgers University
33 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ**

Attendees: Janna Chernetz, Arnold Anderson, Bruce McCracken, Daniel Lebar, John Stzachan, Kerri Martin, James Sinclair, Elizabeth Ward, Emily Armstrong, Cyndi Steiner

1. Legislative updates

- *Bill proposed by Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt (D-Camden) to fine or jail pedestrians who text while crossing the street*
 - Concerns over the bill included:
 - Difficulty of enforcement
 - Hard to prove
 - Unbalanced – blames pedestrians in case of collision
 - Allocates blame to vulnerable users
 - Lack of data on safety merits
 - **Group wrote advisory memo to executive council stating fault with proposal and lack of support among group. Will present at next general BPAC**

2. DOT messaging – Continued discussion on use of “accident”

- a. Proposal to push for replacement of the word accident with the word crash or collision in public conversations
 - i. NHTSA policy: “all crashes are not accidents”
 - ii. Requires change in statute for changes to be made in official documents

3. Role of group

- a. Creating talking points for legislators in lieu of taking a position
 - i. Use state police statistics
 - ii. General bike/ped information
 - iii. Tailor talking points to specific bill proposals
- b. To get bills passed, champions are needed
 - i. Champions exist but aren’t connected with BPAC

4. Other discussion

- a. Conversation about liability
 - i. Metuchen has shade tree commission that limits sidewalk improvements
 - ii. Metuchen passed code requiring sidewalk improvements
 - iii. Conflict of policy
- b. 100 days of summer kick-off
 - i. No additional information at this time