



**Safety BPAC Subcommittee Meeting  
March 21, 2019 9:30am to 10:30am  
Rutgers University  
33 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ**

**Attendees:**

**State**

Keith Hamas – NJTPA  
Elise Bremer-Nei – NJDOT  
Angela Quevedo – NJDOT  
William Riviere – NJDOT  
Jennifer Buison – NJ Transit  
Anish Grover – VTC  
Lisa Cintron – VTC  
Leigh Ann – VTC  
Sean Meehan – VTC

**Private**

John Federico – WSP  
Andrew Lappitt – Sam Schwartz  
Charlie Romanow – WSP  
Mariah Richardson – Michael Baker

**Non-Profit**

Linda Rapacki – RideWise TMA

**County/Municipal**

Bruce McCracken – Middlesex County  
Tony Gambilonglu – Middlesex County  
Andras Holzmann – Somerset County

**Summary:**

Meeting began with a round of introductions before the Subcommittee Chair Jennifer Buison brought the group to order.

**First order:**

Jennifer Buison discussed the recent legislation about e-scooters in New Jersey. The proceeds focused on the legislation on riding e-bikes/e-scooters on sidewalks, deliberating the safety issues associated with riding e-bikes/e-scooters on sidewalks versus roads. Members of the subcommittee talked about how important it is to get people to use e-scooters properly, and discussed a scenario where the sidewalk ban is removed. Participants of the sub-committee inquired about the speed limit on e-scooters and if that can make it dangerous to ride e-scooters on sidewalks.

**Second Order:**

The group discussed a variety of scenarios involving e-scooters in different situations, including the age, licensing, and speed restrictions associated with riding e-scooters. It was highlighted that women feel safer and



more comfortable riding e-scooters at night. The group further looked at e-scooter laws within the country and in European and Asian cities, and how they regulate e-scooters. Lastly, the group discussed e-scooter related social media posts on the internet before the closing remarks by the subcommittee chair.

## **Long Notes**

Jennifer Buison, Safety Subcommittee Chair, opened the meeting with a round of introductions for the group. After everyone told the group their name and organization, the meeting began with Jennifer discussing the recent legislation on e-scooters in New Jersey.

The discussion focused on the key components of the legislation, starting with the question whether e-scooters should be ridden on sidewalks. Jennifer Buison started by explaining the safety issues associated with riding e-scooters on roads versus riding them on sidewalks, to which the group members provided their views on either of the two scenarios. The group then talked about the complaints of industry leaders who say that they cannot sell their products in the state because of the legislation prohibiting riding e-bikes/e-scooters on sidewalks. Lisa Cintron, VTC mentioned that VTC was researching about the e-scooter laws in the country and abroad, identifying the state of the art practice, and what will work best for the State of New Jersey.

The group then discussed the recent e-scooter crash in Florida, and a concern was raised about e-scooter speeds and how that makes it dangerous to ride e-scooters on roads versus sidewalks. A consensus was reached that riding e-scooters on sidewalks can be more dangerous. It was established that e-scooters are much faster, and a member mentioned how women feel safer and comfortable riding them at night.

A group member asked if the legislation said anything about the minimum age or license requirements for riding e-scooters. Jennifer Buison responded that it depends on the company and municipality, following which the current approach in New York was discussed including CITI Bike's minimum age requirement of 16 years. A group member further inquired about the permissible maximum speed of e-scooters, and it was established that according to the legislation, e-scooters can only go up to 20-25 mph.

Another fact that was mentioned was that e-scooters are considered as low speed vehicles. The group then discussed about low speed vehicles with two and four wheels. A group member mentioned about Asbury Park's plan to use golf carts. The Florida example was also cited for the same. The discussion then proceeded with looking at case studies in European and Asian cities. Jennifer Buison elaborated on their experience, how long such services have been there, who uses them and how it fits the needs of the people.

The group then discussed the regulation prohibiting bikes/e-bikes/e-scooters on the sidewalk, and established that it is up to the municipalities and how they control these regulations. The group then discussed whether municipalities would want bikes/e-bikes/e-scooters on sidewalks, and it was considered that they should revise



their ordinances accordingly. Another dilemma for the municipalities that was mentioned, was related to children riding on sidewalks and how municipalities cannot ban them.

Jennifer Buison then talked about the buzzfeed video about e-scooters on Netflix. The content on social media in regard to e-scooters was discussed, including the 'Byrd' e-scooters social media video about "how you don't litter your sidewalks/streets with your Byrd" and how these videos showed the way to park e-scooters on the sidewalk/street.

Jennifer Buison then gave her final comments on updating the Google spreadsheet, including what fields would make sense in the sheet, how projects would be categorized, what information needs to be collected, and what is the application window, to get the template ready.