



General BPAC Meeting
March 14, 2018 10:30am to 12:00am
Rutgers University
33 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ

Executive Council:

Elise Bremer-Nei
Gary Poedubicky
Emily Amstrong
Brandee Chapman
Caroline Trueman
Keith Hamas
Doug Gilbert

Cassidy Boulan
Valeria Galarza
Jennifer Buison, Chair, Safety Subcommittee
Betsy Mastaglio, Chair, Design & Infrastructure
Cyndi Steiner, Chair, Education & Outreach
Janna Chernetz, Chair, Legislation & Policy

Summary:

General meeting began at 10:30 with introductions going around the room. The Executive Council and all others in attendance announced their name and organization they were representing.

First Order

The meeting began with Elise Bremer-Nei providing updates to the Advisory Council from the New Jersey Department of Transportation. These announcements included the release of grants for municipalities and counties, updates on the interviewing process for a new Bicycle and Pedestrian planner, the need to standardize legislation covering e-bikes, and the fact that the internal implementation of the master plan was progressing steadily.

Second Order

After the NJDOT update each of the Subcommittee chairs spoke about the meetings they held earlier that morning.

Betsy Mastaglio spoke on behalf of the Design and Infrastructure subcommittee. The subcommittee discussed best practices for corridor improvements. These case studies looked at issues such as securing funding, best designs, and methods of implementation. Also looked at why some projects stalled or were never completed.

Cyndi Steiner spoke for the Education and Outreach subcommittee. Cyndi presented a resolution for the Advisory Council to vote on, which called for the creation of a range of informational materials that were aimed to be used by the general public.



For the Safety subcommittee Jennifer Buison spoke. The safety subcommittee discussed the important differences between Vision Zero goals and Complete Street policies. The main difference identified that Vision Zero is a goal for an area, an overarching aim to strive for, while Complete Streets are physical street improvements to foster multimodal use. Complete Streets can be one tool to reach Vision Zero.

Janna Chernetz spoke for the Legislative and Policy subcommittee. The updates from this subcommittee were focused on a white paper that was generated and submitted for the Murphy Administration. The paper, which was moving through the DOT and NJtransit, included details 6 primary objectives.

Third Order

Susan Blickstein, AICP, PhD, presented a report of case studies looking at improving equity in adult bicycling. The study looked at four groups, Brick City Bike Collective, Girls on Bikes, D&R Greenway Land Trust, and Urban Bike Project. The first 3 groups are located in New Jersey and final one is in Delaware. Blickstein concludes that bicycle groups need to be community driven, with physical space and planned cycling events. Partnership with government and an explicit equity goal were also important.

Fourth Order

The update from the Safe Routes to School Team came from Sean Meehan. The main report from the SRTS team was the fact they would be running a Safe Route Academy on March 24th during the 2018 New Jersey Bike and Walk Summit. Sessions would be held covering walking audits, community messaging, and funding opportunities. May is also National Bike Month and each TMA will have someone in charge of organizing bicycle events. If anyone is looking to run a bicycle event, they can go to the Safe Route website at <http://guide.saferoutesinfo.org>.

Fifth Order

The session was opened up for general announcements from the gathering. The first announcement was about the 2018 Walk and Bike Summit to be held on March 24, 2018. The featured speaker for that event is Oboi Reed, President & CEO of Equiticity. The summit will feature 18 breakout sessions on a wide variety of topics and is held at Mercer County Community College. The second announcement came from Alan Huff, SJTPO. They are looking to move forward on creating a regional trail plan. The third announcement was from Charles Brown. He reminded the council that on February 13 the Walking While Black forum discussion was held at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy. This forum looked at the issues black pedestrians have been facing in Jacksonville, Florida. The next announcement came from the Bike Coalition of Greater Philadelphia which has expanded their county affiliation program. Will Yarzab from NJTPA announced that the organization will be holding a Street Smart Seminar on March 29. The final general announcement was from the East Coast Greenway which would be holding their committee meeting later that day, March 14.



Long Notes

Charles Brown called the meeting to attention and began a round of introductions. The executive council introduced themselves and their organizations first and then the general assembly introduced themselves. After the introductions Elise Bremer-Nei spoke, providing the BPAC with updates from New Jersey Department of Transportation.

1. The first update from NJDOT was the release of their municipal and county grants.
2. Next Elise told the council that they were getting close to hiring another member to their Bicycle and Pedestrian team. They were completing the interview process soon and hoping to have the new trainee hired by April.
3. NJDOT was looking to create some standardized legislation regarding e-bikes. In some places in New Jersey a e-bike user can get a ticket just for riding it.
4. The final update was that the DOT was moving forward on the internal implementation of the state master plan.

After the NJDOT updates the Subcommittee Chairs gave updates from their meetings held earlier that day. Full expanded notes from these subcommittee meetings can also be read. Below is what the chairs reported to the general meeting.

1. Design and Infrastructure Subcommittee: Betsy Mastaglio
 - a. The subcommittee discussed case studies on corridor improvements.
 - i. Looked for information on the design, implementation, and funding for a number of corridor improvement projects such as one that occurred in Hoboken.
 - ii. Also looked for information about why projects stalled or were never fully implemented, and next steps when issues arise.
2. Education and Outreach Subcommittee: Cindy Steiner
 - a. Subcommittee Chair Cindy Steiner opened with a resolution for the council.
 - i. Call for Complete Streets Informational materials for general use by public. This would include brochures, handouts, and social media directed for everyone.
 - ii. Motion to open for discussion
 1. Suggestions were made to include materials in several different languages. The resolution did not explicitly say to have the materials in a number of languages. Another suggestion was to hold public training sessions or workshops to help in the understanding of Complete Streets.
 2. Subcommittee had gathered information, focusing mostly on New Jersey, to best transmit this type of information. When asked how soon they wanted to produce these materials, Cindy responded "as soon as possible." She said she would really like to have the materials completed for the Complete Street Workshops coming up soon.
 - iii. Motion to Vote
 1. Motion Passed.



1. Brick City Bike Collective – Newark, NJ
 - a. Goal of the collective was to “make Newark streets safer and more welcoming for bicyclists by promoting additional bicycle infrastructure and a connect network, educating the city and citizens on cycling issues, and assisting with group rides”
 - b. The group rides that were organized include the Tour de Newark and Cherry Blossom Bike Ride.
 - c. The group lost their physical residence, which was used as a bicycle exchange, in December of 2015 to flood damage.
2. Girls on Bikes – Newark, NJ
 - a. Group focused on promoting women and colored peoples use of bicycles.
 - i. *“Girls on Bikes intends to produce a new benchmark of strong and fearless women ready to conquer the world. By doing so we will continuously increase the power of girls and young women for many generations to come”*
 - b. The group also is using innovative methods to attempt to attract new riders, such as integrating cycling with fashion. Have done photo shoots with models to attempt to make riding more cool.
3. Dollar Campaign / D&R Greenway Land Trust – NJ
 - a. The dollar campaign was an intercept campaign in which the organization handed out cards that had a dollar and some piece of bicycle safety information.
 - b. The group had some challenges during this campaign though, namely they lacked Latino volunteers which led to issues overcoming cultural barriers.
 - c. The cards proved to be a very effective conversation starter.
4. Urban Bike Project – Wilmington, DE
 - a. The group has explicit equity and resiliency goals for their communities.
 - i. *“bicycling is a building block of resilient communities, which means a community that is connected, that nurtures a strong social fabric”*
 - b. The group views bicycling as a viable option for people seeking employment, given the right environment.
5. Lessons Learned from the case studies
 - a. Organization needs to be community driven.
 - b. Physical Space and riding together matter a great deal.
 - c. Partnerships with local government leaders is incredibly important.
 - d. Organization should have an **explicit** equity focus.

After this presentation Valeria Galarza stood to give updates about the Camden Bike Share.

1. The RFP process began last fall, written by the Penn Foundation.
2. The Voorhees Transportation Center was hired to lead the process for planning the Camden Bike Share.
3. The Steering Committee has been growing steadily since its establishment. This group has been working on the details and logistics figured out by May.



4. The VTC is working with ofo to organize a pilot program, which they hope to have between May and September.
5. A member of the general meeting asked if there was a push for additional bike facilities in Camden.
 - a. The hope for the project is that the DVRPC will provide more funding for such projects as the bike share takes off.

Sean Meehan provided updates on behalf of the Safe Routes to School Team

1. The team would be running the Safe Routes Academy at the 2018 Walk and Bike Summit, held on March 24 at Mercer County Community College.
 - a. The Academy would include lessons on completing walkability audits, talking about issues to community members, and looking for funding opportunities.
2. May is national bicycle month.
 - a. Each TMA would have a person in place to help groups organize bicycle and pedestrian events.
 - b. If anyone was interested in hosting such an event a number of informational videos could be found at the Safe Routes to school team's website. <http://www.saferoutesnj.org>

The last round of announcements for the general meeting was open to the gathered assembly.

1. The first announcement was in regards to the 2018 NJ Bike & Bike Summit to be held on March 24 at the Mercer County Community College Conference Center. The key speaker for the Summit would be Oboi Reed, President and CEO of Equiticity.
 - a. There Will be 18 breakout sessions, with panels covering equity and Vision Zero
 - b. Bike Share Demos will also be at the summit.
2. Alan Huff from SJTPO announced that the organization would be working on a regional Trail map.
 - a. The RFP is open through the 27th of March.
3. Charles Brown made announcements about the Walking While Black Forum discussion.
 - a. The forum brought two reporters who reported on discriminatory ticketing practices in Jacksonville, Florida.
 - b. The full audio/visual recording of the forum can be found below
 - i. https://ru-stream.rutgers.edu/media/Walking+While+Black/1_bwbnswm1
4. Will Yarzab with North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority spoke to remind everyone of the Street Smart Seminar the organization was holding on March 29.
5. The Bike Coalition of Greater Philadelphia announced that they were expanding their county affiliate program, allowing them to widen their goals to reach more people.
6. East Coast Greenway would be having their committee meeting after the conclusion of the BPAC general meeting on March 14.