



**Safety BPAC Subcommittee Meeting
September 15, 2021 10:25am to 11:25 am
Online Zoom Meeting**

Attendees:

Federal

Christopher Paige, FHWA
Sutapa Bandyopadhyay, FHWA

State

Yvonne Mikalopas, NJDOH
William Riviere, NJDOT
Andras Holzmann, Passaic County
Ken Wedeen, Somerset County
Brandee Chapman, DEP
Kayt Hester, Hudson TMA
Alan Huff, SJTPO
Frank Neary, NJDHTS

Eric Heitmann, NJDHTS
Jeniffer Buison, NJ Transit
Kristen O'Rourke, Point Pleasant Beach
Linda Rapacki, RideWise TMA
Lisa Lee, EZ Ride TMA
Reba Oduro, NJDOT
Mohammad Islam, NJDOT

Private

Charlie Romanow, WSP
Anthony Durante, Michael Baker International
John Federico, WSP
Siannah Yang, SGB Planning

Subcommittee chair Jennifer Buison began the meeting by thanking Lisa, Mike, Keith, and others for presenting on demonstration projects during the general session. She then moved on to provide updates on the work plan items discussed at the previous (July 21) meeting.

- Brandee Chapman provided an update on NJDEP's statewide trail mapping effort. The vendor is wrapping up and should be done by the end of September. NJDEP then needs to perform quality assurance/quality control for the data, before publishing it in a variety of ways, including on GIS platforms. Brandee also exchanged emails with Shawn Megill Legendre from DVRPC regarding their trail mapping efforts and discussed potentially creating a point-based file for further analysis. The map could include "tiers" of trail crossing safety features/enhancements (signs, crosswalks, signals, etc.). Their next meeting is in November.
- Regarding the road maintenance issues reporting task, no updates are available.

Jennifer provided an update on the NJ Strategic Highway Safety Plan Transit Inventory effort led by Aimee Jefferson from NJTPA. Lisa Lee mentioned that the consultant team developed a map of about 200 randomly selected sites and asked the action team for feedback. Lisa said the list needed refinement, including more context for each selected location and pedestrian traffic data for each site.

Jennifer then asked the subcommittee about projects each member has been working on over the summer.

- Linda Rapacki from RideWise discussed her TMA's Bike Connect program, which was launched in late spring. The program provides bicycles to individuals who are employed but have no personal transportation. RideWise has partnered with Pop's Bikes in Somerville to refurbish donated bicycles and provide recipients with helmets, bells, lights, and bike locks.



RideWise gives recipients bicycle safety instruction prior to receiving their bicycle. RideWise also helps recipients map out their best commuting route. Two bicycles have been donated so far, and six bikes are in the pipeline to be gifted. Jennifer expressed appreciation that the program positions bicycles as a transportation tool.

- Ken Wedeen noted that Somerset County will be updating their circulation plan in January. Alternative forms of transportation will be an important part of the Plan, as will recognizing that biking can be essential form of transportation/commuting to work for many people.
- Linda noted that there are a number of warehouses in Somerset County where many workers have overnight shifts, and it is important to remember that people are bicycling at all times of day and night.

The subcommittee then discussed the need for bicycle parking and storage at transit stations.

- Linda noted that the area surrounding the Somerville train station has undergone dramatic transformation in recent years, and that renovations and developments have removed bike lockers. At the same time, there is an opportunity with these new developments to create a bike depot at this location for people commuting by train.
- Ken mentioned that NJ Transit is working with NJTPA to pilot projects for bike depot storage facilities at transit stations, and that Somerville could apply to be a pilot. Jen noted that NJ Transit is still developing this program, but interested parties should reach out to either her (JBuison@njtransit.com) or Mike Viscardi (MViscardi@njtransit.com).
- Linda mentioned the SoMA development in Somerville, which recently installed bike parking in the basement. Lisa noted that more developers should be capitalizing on desire for bike parking facilities.

Finally, subcommittee members highlighted upcoming events.

- Lisa mentioned that next Wednesday (9/22) is Care Free/Car Light Day. She also mentioned a bike ride event to support acquiring land for the Essex Hudson Greenway Project, to be held next Sunday.
- Brandee provided a reminder about the NJ Trails & Greenways Summit next week (9/22 and 9/23). She also mentioned the Trails Summit Facebook Page that publicizes post-Summit events and rides (<https://www.facebook.com/njtrails/community>).
- Siennah Yang provided a quick plug about BikePaterson and BikePassaicCounty. Both projects are ongoing right now and currently promoting surveys for both projects. Those interested can access the survey and wikimap tools on the BikePaterson website (bikepaterson.com) and BikePassaic website (publicinput.com/bikepassaiccounty).

Meeting closed as everyone was directed to the online general meeting room.