



BPAC Policy Subcommittee Meeting
January 25, 2023, 10:15 am to 11:05 am
Online Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

- Corey Hannigan, TSTC (Chair)
- Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT
- Leigh Ann Von Hagen, VTC
- Hannah Younes, VTC
- Monika Pal, VTC
- Debra Kagan, NJ Bike & Walk Coalition
- Jim Hunt, Morris County
- Anne Heasly, Sustainable Jersey
- Emmanuelle Morgen, Hudson County CS Advocacy Group
- Jessica O'Connor, NJMVC
- Joe Rapp, NJDOT
- John Boyle, Bike & Walk Coalition of Greater Philadelphia
- Kimberley Irby, New Jersey Future
- Lindsey Sigmund, New Jersey Future
- Lyndsey Scofield, City of Jersey City
- Mackenzie Piggott, NJDEP
- Peri Nearon, NJDHS
- Ryan Williams, Hudson County CS Advocacy group
- Tim Evans, New Jersey Future
- Tricia Dunkak, New Jersey Future

Meeting notes:

I. Legislative Updates - Bills Related to Active Transportation

The subcommittee chair presented a document listing legislation related to bicycles and pedestrians. The following bills were highlighted during the meeting:

- *Bill A273 - Permits police departments to donate unclaimed bicycles to nonprofit organizations.*
 - This can be of interest to TMAs or groups that are looking to distribute bikes.
- *Bill A459 - Exempts sale of recreational safety helmets from sales and use tax.*
 - A Mandatory Helmet Law for adults is currently in the legislature.
 - Bike & Walk Coalition of Greater Philadelphia shared the bill numbers for mandatory helmet laws.
 - *Bill A4894 - Requires helmet while operating bicycle, scooter, or motorized scooter.*
 - *Identical Bill Number: S3494A4894*

- https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2022/A5000/4894_11.PDF
- *Bill A609 - "Drew's Law"; establishes a 15 mph speed limit in or near certain public parks.*
- *Bill A630 - Provides gross income tax credits to taxpayers who purchase certain low-speed electric bicycles.*
- *Bill A116 - Requires NJDOT to implement a Complete Streets policy that considers persons with certain disabilities.*
- *Bill A1860 - Provides for lower speed limits on certain residential access streets.*
- *Bill A4296 Aca (1R) – Establishes a "New Jersey Vision Zero Commission."*
 - *NJ Bike and Walk Coalition is working on an action group for this bill.*
- *Bill A4343 - Prohibits the State from disclosing New Jersey driver license holders' personal information to other states seeking to issue speed camera or red-light camera citations.*
- *Bill SJR20- Establishes a "Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizen Transportation Services Task Force" to examine ways to improve transportation services for persons with disabilities and senior citizens.*

II. Current bills

- **Mandatory Helmet Law for Adults**
 - NJ Bike and Walk Coalition (NJBWC) recently met with one of the co-sponsors of the bill regarding the mandatory helmet laws for adults. The conversation with her was positive overall.
 - Though the intention of this bill is safety, there are a lot of comments about why it is not recommended to make adult helmet use mandatory. Many organizations supported the use of helmets, but they objected to the legislation making it mandatory for various reasons.
 - NJBWC has a meeting planned for Friday 01/27/2023 with Assemblyman Reginald Atkins, who introduced the legislation. They plan to present their arguments on why making the use of bicycle helmets mandatory for adults is not considered good idea by many bicycling advocates.
 - NJBWC also mentioned several resources regarding the debate on mandatory helmet laws for adults.
 - The League of American Bicyclists and the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals wrote to the Surface Transportation Board, who came out with the recommendation for helmet laws nationally. The letter listed several issues associated with the mandatory helmet laws with references to different studies.
 - There is a recent article by an advocate on discriminatory practices that are popularized by mandatory laws like the proposed helmet law.
 - Charles T. Brown, Founder & CEO of Equitable Cities, has a podcast on similar issues.
 - NJBWC is going to put together a blog that summarizes these issues in the next couple of weeks.

- **Vision Zero Commission Bill**

- TSTC is working on an amendment to the bill. Currently, there are some collective revisions which will be forwarded to partners working on the bill in the Office of Legislative Services.

III. Complete and Green Streets Ordinance Toolkit

- NJDOT mentioned that the Complete and Green Streets (C&GS) Ordinance Toolkit was part of Complete Streets Task Force Action in Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). However, when the task force was put on hold in anticipation of the updated NJDOT Complete Streets policy, this task was also delayed.
- It was pointed out that there are already pieces of a toolkit out there that just need to be pulled together. There is a lot of information on the Sustainable Jersey [website](#) under the Complete Streets Action for Sustainable Municipal Actions. The policy subcommittee could outline what else should be in the toolkit.
- Since those Sustainable Jersey Actions were developed, Trenton passed their Complete Streets ordinance (which can be accessed on the NJBRPC [website](#)). Trenton's C&GS ordinance is very impressive.
- There are a lot of questions on the relationship between a C&GS ordinance and Vision Zero, as there is a significant amount of funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) that is linked to the language of Vision Zero.
- This overlap between a C&GS ordinance and Vision Zero is interesting at the local level. Moreover, there is an overlap problem between Sustainable Jersey and C&GS. There is an opportunity to develop a resource that explains the relationship between these initiatives that can be used at the local level.
- When complete, the toolkit will be posted on NJ BRPC and NJ Safe Routes Resource Center websites. Since it is related to an SHSP action, it will also be available on NJDOT's Safety Resource Center website.
- Adoption of a C&GS policy is also one of the project types available as part of the NJTPA Complete Streets Technical Assistance program.
- NJDOT staff noted that there is a lot of information on Complete Streets but not as much on Green Streets. They suggested that New Jersey Future might help to gather this information.

IV. Title 39

- There are many existing resources on Title 39 which can be accessed on the NJ BPRC [website](#).
- The Policy subcommittee has previously discussed issues related to Title 39, especially the definitions and whether it may help with getting safe bicycle infrastructure.
- Title 39 has approximately 96 different definitions and there are many contradictions.
- In addition to a review of Title 39, there is a need for an action strategy.
- A Morris County official asked if the 2009 report for Title 39 can be circulated to the members of this subcommittee so that they can highlight pieces that need modifications.

V. Residential Site Improvement Standards (RSIS)

- The final Residential Site Improvement Standards report is available on the NJ Safe Routes website: [Proposed Updates to the NJ Residential Site Improvement Standards](#)
- This report will be a useful resource for improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure throughout the state, as many municipal ordinances reference RSIS.
- New Jersey Future is ready to submit the report to the NJDCA Site Improvement Advisory Board.
- New Jersey Future will coordinate with Corey Hannigan, Subcommittee Chair, on any next steps.

VI. SHSP 1.C.2.a. - Develop recommendations for education and outreach on recent updates to laws and regulations related to pedestrians, bicyclists, and scooters

- NJBWC discussed the action team for this SHSP action, which originally began with educational efforts regarding New Jersey's Safe Passing Law and updates to manuals and tests. There are some documents that the NJ BRPC has produced which will be presented in next week's action team meeting.
- NJBWC asked anyone who is interested to join the action team meeting next week, especially New Jersey Future, who can talk about C&GS.
- There are two parts of this action:
 - First, the action team has proposed expanding the original description to include the identification of other laws besides the Safe Passing Law which require updates for manuals and tests.
 - Second, the action team will propose the development of an education plan. One of the important areas of education is related to the Safe System Approach and how a cross-disciplinary team of agencies could conduct outreach on this topic.

VII. Primer about various policies and legislation in New Jersey

- This task would involve developing a primer about various policies and legislation in New Jersey that regulate bicycle and pedestrian transportation issues, including Residential Site Improvement Standards, the Municipal Land Use Law, Title 39, the Access Code, and the Functional Classification System.
- The primer will help clear up confusion and provide clarity on several policies. However, the subcommittee will need to determine where such a document would be hosted.