



City of Keene
New Hampshire

BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, December 8, 2021 8:15-9:30 AM

2nd floor Conference Room
3 Washington St, City Hall
Also via Zoom Webinar

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86374413889>

- This meeting will be conducted in person and using the online meeting platform, Zoom. The public may view the meeting online by visiting www.zoom.us/join and enter the **Webinar ID: 863 7441 3889**. Or by calling the toll-free **(888) 475-4499** and enter **Webinar ID: 863 7441 3889** to listen to the meeting.
- More info on how to access this meeting is available on the Bicycle Pedestrian Path Advisory Committee webpage at ci.keene.nh.us/bicycle-pedestrian-path-advisory-committee. If you encounter any issues accessing this meeting, please call **(603) 209-4697** during the meeting.

Members:

Dillon Benik, Chair
Drew Bryenton, Vice Chair
Brad Dufresne
Councilor Jan Manwaring

Michael Davern
Todd Horner
Dr. Rowland Russell
Dr. Chris Brehme, Alternate
Charles Redfern, Alternate

- 1) Call to Order and Roll Call
- 2) November 10, 2021 Minutes
- 3) Master Plan Update
- 4) Kiosk Map Updates
- 5) Old Business
Wayfinding/Amenities: UNH Downtown Trails Update; Other updates
Sidewalks: Council Proposal
Bike/Pedestrian Counts: 2022 plans
Walldogs – Potential for Additional Mural along trails
- 6) Regular Project Updates
- 7) New Business
- Items to be included for next meeting
- 8) Adjournment
Next meeting date – January 12, 2022

1 City of Keene
2 New Hampshire

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5 BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
6 MEETING MINUTES
7

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

8:15 AM

2nd Floor Conference Room,
City Hall

Members Present:

Dillon Benik, Chair
Drew Bryenton, Vice Chair
Councilor Jan Manwaring
Michael Davern
Todd Horner
Rowland Russell
Dr. Chris Brehme, Alternate
Charles Redfern, Alternate

Staff Present:

William Schoefmann, GIS Technician
Andrew Bohannon, Director of Parks
and Recreation Department

Members Not Present:

Brad Dufresne

Guest present:

Mike Kowalczyk

8 Vice Chair Bryenton called the meeting to order at 8:19 AM.
9

10 1) **Call to Order and Roll Call**

11 Roll call was conducted. Dr. Brehme sitting as a regular member for the meeting.
12

13 2) **October 13, 2021 Minutes**

14 *Councilor Manwaring moved to accept the October 13 meeting minutes, Mr. Davern*
15 *seconded and the motion was passed by unanimous vote.*
16

17 3) **Staff Support**

18 Mr. Schoefmann stated that there are several changes occurring in the Planning
19 Department. Ms. Kessler and Mr. Lamb are leaving their positions before the end of the
20 new year. He stated moving forward, he may not be as able to support the committee as
21 he has been. He said he will attempt to continue supporting the committee as much as
22 possible, but he may not be able to attend the morning meetings. Mr. Bohannon will
23 represent the city in his absence. Mr. Schoefmann will continue developing the agenda
24 and provide support. Mr. Horner asked how the minutes will be transcribed and Mr.

25 Schoefmann said they will continue to be recorded on Zoom, however, if he needs help
26 recording the meetings on Zoom, he will provide training to committee members.

27

28 Mr. Russell joined the meeting remotely.

29

30 Councilor Manwaring shared that the trails are now featured in front of the post office
31 through a collaboration between the City Clerk and Keene State College (KSC).

32

33 Chair Benik joined the meeting remotely.

34

35 **4) Old Business**

36

A) Wayfinding: UNH Downtown Trails Update, Other updates

37 Mr. Bohannon stated the process is going well with the UNH Extension project, they are
38 getting a good amount of survey results, however, not as many intercept survey results as
39 they had hoped for. The survey was distributed to several local entities, and as of
40 Wednesday of last week, there were over 40 survey results and he provided her with
41 paper copies. Mr. Schoefmann noted that there are about 25 surveys he still must collect
42 from Prime Roast. Mr. Bohannon said they are coming in slowly and they will then
43 determine whether they need more or if they have enough. He said they have over 140
44 GPS points of interest. Mr. Bohannon said he gave Ms. Rogers from UNH the survey
45 information that Mr. Davern had collected as well so they should be in good shape when
46 they meet next week. Mr. Russell added that the meeting in next Thursday morning, and
47 they are hoping to get more coverage up by North Bridge and down by South Bridge. Mr.
48 Bohannon noted that they should not go too far out, however, as this is a Downtown
49 study. Mr. Russell has not been able to connect with Antioch University New England
50 about the student participation yet, but he will attempt to reach out again.

51 Mr. Bohannon asked members to follow up with businesses and individuals that they
52 have dropped survey offs at so they can collect the remaining surveys. Mr. Horner stated
53 that he has about a half dozen paper surveys that he can scan and submit to Mr.
54 Bohannon. Mr. Schoefmann and Mr. Bohannon can also provide additional copies of the
55 surveys to members.

56

57 **B) Amenities: Survey, Shade Trees**

58 Mr. Horner stated that he did not receive an enthusiastic response on amenities except for
59 lighting. He said the difference between the resident and visitor surveys was regarding
60 money; the visitors he spoke with had just spent a bunch of money, but the residents
61 generally said that walkability is one of the primary reasons they moved to Keene. He
62 stated that the survey is not capturing that, and he is not sure what framework of analysis
63 that UNH is using but it appears that many residents moved to Keene for walkability and
64 cycling. Mr. Schoefmann suggested emailing the link to realtors. Mr. Russell said some
65 of the ideas are not incorporated now could become follow ups for the future. Mr.

66 Bohannon added that he mentioned that this survey is a steppingstone to future research
67 to Ms. Jones and in the future, they can tie in groups like the mountain biker homeowners
68 to get valuable information.

69

70 **C) Sidewalks: Council Proposal**

71 Mr. Schoefmann stated that there is a report that is due to come out from Engineering that
72 will revolve around when the CIP goes to Council in January. Mr. Bohannon stated that
73 the Council discussed a goal section and sidewalks was a hot topic, so it is on the
74 Council's radar. Mr. Schoefmann stated that ranking regarding proximity to services is
75 part of a proximity analysis, but he has not seen the final results. Mr. Horner stated that
76 sidewalks improvements on West Street would be included in the 10-year plan for that
77 corridor. He asked if the prioritization analysis is in Council minutes and Mr.
78 Schoefmann replied not yet because they are waiting for the CIP hearings.

79

80

81 **D) Bike/Pedestrian Counts: EcoCounter Grant**

82 Mr. Davern stated that he wrapped the project up at the end of October and pulled the
83 counters. He said he wanted to end with the back of Goose Pond but was unable to so the
84 counters remained at West Keene. He said there were 6400 counts, some of the trailheads
85 were lower volume and some were higher, for example, West Keene. The peak day was
86 268 on Sunday, October 31, and that shows the counting location, Drummer Road, Green
87 Acres, and the dog walk trailhead. He showed the data on a screen. Overall, he said the
88 data is aligned with what you would expect to see, weekends are busier than weekdays,
89 lunch breaks, and late afternoon. Mr. Russell said he will check with his friend who
90 teaches Intro to Environmental Studies for KSC to see if the Ammi Brown Road counts
91 are correct. He asked if the report can be sent to members. Mr. Schoefmann replied that
92 he will make the data available to the committee. Mr. Davern said he got a quote for the
93 Ecocounters and they are over \$7K, which is more expensive than he had anticipated. Mr.
94 Horner reminded the committee that Southwest Community Regional Planning
95 Commission owns a few Ecocounters and can provide them if requested. Mr.
96 Schoefmann said they can use more data at the Transportation Heritage Trail and 101.
97 Mr. Brehme proposed counting sidewalk traffic at West Street as well, however, Mr.
98 Horner replied that it is difficult with traffic, but it could be possible. Mr. Davern noted
99 that it would be interesting to get more work at Goose Pond now that they have trailhead
100 data, but he will apply again. Mr. Schoefmann said they can ask SWRPC in the fall.

101

102 **E) Walldogs – Potential for Additional Mural along trail**

103 Mr. Russell stated that the full Board is voting next Monday on transferring the funds
104 from the fiscal agent Arts for Life to the Historical Society. He said there is a
105 convergence from the Historical Society education committee that is looking at

106 promoting the use of walking tours of Walldogs to collaborate together with other groups
107 to get a card that the Chamber of Commerce publishes to show visitors what they can do
108 out on foot in Keene.

109
110 **5) Regular Project Updates**

111 **A) Jonathan Daniels Trail**

112 Mr. Schoefmann stated that there were some improvements done on the Jonathan Daniels
113 trail after storm damage.

114 **B) Cheshire Rail Trail-Park Avenue**

115 Mr. Schoefmann stated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been
116 determined with the Bureau of Rail. He said Park Avenue has been repaved but not yet
117 striped and crosswalks have been striped. There are new placements on either side of
118 Arch Street and there are now two crossings instead of one. Mr. Redfern asked when
119 construction is expected to start, and Mr. Schoefmann replied most likely in the spring.
120 Mr. Schoefmann stated that Department of Public Works (DPW) just filled the highway
121 superintendent position so there is a lot of catch up to be done. Members stated that the
122 supply chain could be of concern as well.

123 Mr. Davern asked if the striping is a function of the Park Avenue loop and Mr.
124 Schoefmann replied no as the paving and striping are separate, however, they will install
125 the bike lane at that time. Mr. Russell asked if the triangular painted arrows are part of
126 the sharrows (shared lane markings) and Mr. Schoefmann replied that those are chevron
127 stripes to alert for pedestrians.

128 Mr. Bohannon joined the meeting.

129 **C) Transportation Heritage Trail**

130 Mr. Schoefmann stated that Phase 1 of the Transportation Heritage Trail has been CAP-
131 funded; he will send a link for the promotional video after the meeting.

132
133 **6) New Business- items to be discussed for next meeting.**

134 Vice Chair Bryenton asked how Mr. Schoefmann plans to keep up with the Master Plan
135 as he will no longer be able to work on it. Mr. Schoefmann replied that hiring a
136 consultant would be the most likely approach. He said BPPAC should seek to create a
137 CIP, as staff will most likely not be able to complete the document. Mr. Bohannon said
138 they can begin looking into costs for hiring a consultant.

139 Mr. Horner asked where the earmarked funds are located. Mr. Schoefmann replied that it
140 was included in the infrastructure bill for Eastern Avenue to 101. He asked how that
141 relates to the TAP funding and Mr. Bohannon replied that Mr. Lussier is navigating that
142 right now.

143 Vice Chair Bryenton said they can discuss the maps on the wooden kiosks as progress on
144 that not been updated. Mr. Bohannon replied that he has 10 signs that he needs to put up
145 and he can work with Mr. Schoefmann on an updated map. Mr. Schoefmann said he can
146 use the map he provided to Mr. Poanessa. Mr. Bohannon asked if they want to mount a
147 map because they can work with Gem Graphic as he has some money in his operating
148 budget to allocate towards that project. He said he will come up with a design and bring
149 those ideas back to the committee in December. Mr. Russell said there is a kiosk at the
150 end of Island Street and there is a space for a map there too. Mr. Redfern noted that the
151 maps are faded already on some of the older kiosks built by Benson Wood and Mr.
152 Bohannon said they will replace them with the new signs. Mr. Davern noted that there are
153 maps they put up on Drummer Hill printed on metal and they are super durable and still
154 look new after several years. He said the metal can be reused to keep costs down.

155 Mr. Bohannon state that they installed the fix station at Emerald Street.

156

157 7) **Adjournment- Next meeting date – December 8, 2021**

158

159 There being no further business, Vice Chair Bryenton adjourned the meeting at 9:20 AM.

160

161 Respectfully submitted by,
162 Ayshah Kassamali-Fox, Minute Taker

163

164 Additional Edits by,
165 Will Schoefmann, Community Development Staff

Project	PRIORITY	Master Plan Project #	Status	Budget *		Schedule			Updates (status changes and project notes)	
				Cost	Status	Start	Finish	Status		
Master Plan	N/A	N/A	Delayed	City Staff	\$5K	N/A	Spring14	Fall 2021	Behind	Introduction and Background available for BPPAC Review, Trail Specific Maps and details regarding North Bridge inserted. Developing a scope of work and seeking funding to work with Southwest Regional Planning Commission to finish work on the plan in 2021
Jonathan Daniels Trail Maintenance	N/A	P3	Planning	\$25K	Even	Summer20	Fall 21	N/A		\$25k set aside in CIP FY' 21. 1000 Feet of trail improved with PFK Donation (Storm Damage?)
Bike Racks	AMENITIES	P21	Working	N/A	N/A	ongoing	N/A	N/A		Bike racks have been set out in the downtown footprint but may need adjusting once outdoor patio applications are processed. Brewbakers/Tera Nova rack request addressed.
Lighting	AMENITIES	P22	Completed	City Staff, PFK	Even	complete	N/A	On Schedule		Appel Way lights installed. Lighting program on hold pending Amenities Survey results and further observation of product.
Cheshire Rail Trail - Park Ave. Loop	N/A	N/A	Working	\$411,615.51	Over	Spring19	Fall 22	Behind		Engineering division of DPW is managing this project now. MOU completed with the Bureau of Rail. Repaving of Park Ave completed. Trail work contract executed, pre construction meeting held. Project will comence in Spring '22.
NHDOT TAP Grant 2018	N/A	BE22	Hold	\$674K	N/A	Winter 2018	Summer 22	Behind		City of Keene has been selected as a TAP grant recipient for Complete Street improvements to Marlboro Street that tie into other planned improvements, infrastructure, economic development goals and the Cheshire Rail Trail. Project was stripped from federal earmark in the infrastructure bill.
Arts and Culture Corridor	NA	N/A	Hold	N/A	N/A	Hold	N/A	N/A		Monadnock Economic Development Corporation has begun the community input/visioning process for an Arts and Culture Corridor from the Railroad Land Development Area on the east side of Main Street westerly down Gilbo Avenue to School Street. Project stalled - per Keene Sentinel article, alternative plans in works.
Bicycle Mayor	N/A	N/A	Hold	Safe Routes to School	Even	Winter 2018	Fall 2019	N/A		Project is inactive, program has material that could be incorporated in current websites of the City but outreach must occur to Tiffany Mannion for access to the safe routes to school material.
Sidewalks	N/A	N/A	Submitted	CIP	Even	Spring 2022	N/A	On Schedule		Next Summer expecting to replace approx. 2,000 LF of asphalt sidewalk, including Colby St. and Adams St. The CIP will request funding for about 2,000 LF / year beginning in 2023.

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MASTER PLAN PROJECTS									
Wayfinding Signage Facilities and Plan	TOP 5	P11	Working	City Staff, \$42,000	N/A	Planning	N/A	On Schedule	BPPAC Considering overall wayfinding plan with Parks/Rec, DPW and Comm Dev Departments. Complete Street Grant for 2020 returned by City of Keene; Regional sign design pilot through MRRTC and UNH Downtown Trails Initiative ongoing
Transportation Heritage Trail ↓									
THT Phase 1 - CRT Eastern Ave to NH 101 (Transportation Heritage Trail)	TOP 5	P1	Planning	\$ 587,000.00	Even	2026	N/A	N/A	Project submitted as a supplemental CIP - unfunded but in the plan book. Project includes from Eastern Ave - 101, Bridge to Span 101, improvements to Old Stone Arch Bridge and potential crossing at Swanzey Factor Rd. Notice of Award for TAP project recieved 9/1.
THY Phase 2 - Prowse Bridge - CRT NH 101 Overpass to Stone Arch Bridge (Transportation Heritage Trail)	TOP 5	P4	Planning	\$ 1,470,000.00	N/A	2027	N/A	N/A	Installation of the Historic Prowse Bridge at NH Route 101 and connecting the Cheshire Rail Trail to the Old Stone Arch Bridge and safety improvements (railings) to Old Stone Arch Bridge. Promotional website and video released with funding donation from PFK.
THT Phase 3 - Old Stone Arch Bridge - (Transportation Heritage Trail)	TOP 5	P4	Planning		N/A	2025	N/A	N/A	Collaboration with Heritage Commission to conduct research and assist with Historic Resources LCHIP application for railing/abutment design. PFK funding conceptual visuals. LCHIP grant planned for 2022 to fund Planning Study phase. Promotional website and video released with funding donation from PFK.
THT Phase 4 - Island Street Bailey Bridge - Swanzey Factory Road to Town Line (Transportation Heritage Trail)	TOP 5	P4	Planning		N/A	2028	N/A	N/A	Installation of the Historic Island Street Bailey Bridge at Swanzey Factory Road to create a safe overpass for trail users and creating continuity of the Cheshire Rail Trail towards the Swanzey Town line. Promotional website and video released with funding donation from PFK.
West Street - Complete Street	TOP 5	P19	Planning	City Staff Unknown	N/A	Planning	N/A	N/A	Designated as a Gateway Street in the Complete Street Design Guide. BPPAC discussing interim and long range solutions for bike/ped facilities along the corridor. Spring, Summer and Fall Counts completed for 2020. City submitted West Street improvement project into the DOT 10 Year Plan.
AMENITIES	TOP 5	P21	Working	City Staff, Facility and Maintenance Costs	Under	Planning	N/A	On Schedule	Staff should establish a base line of existing amenities and propose types and locations of future amenities in a plan. These should include Kiosk/Trailhead facilities, Trailside Facilities such as bathrooms, potable water and tune up stations and efforts should be made to engage the artist community to create spots along the trails for public art which will enhance the unique qualities of our system. Survey work incorporated into UNH Downtown Trails Initiative.

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