



BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA

Wednesday, August 10, 2022 8:15-9:30 AM 2nd floor Conference Room
3 Washington St, City Hall
Also via Zoom Webinar

To Join the Meeting:

The public may join the meeting online or at City Hall in the 2nd Floor Conference Room. To join the meeting online, visit www.zoom.us/join or call (646) 558-8656 and enter the **Webinar ID: 863 7441 3889**.

Members:

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

- 1) Call to Order and Roll Call
- 2) July 13, 2022 Minutes
- 3) Downtown Infrastructure Project Update – Ed Roberge, Stantec
- 4) BPPAC Website
- 5) Old Business
 - Wayfinding/Amenities: North and South Bridge Signage, Downtown Bike Racks
 - Bike/Pedestrian Counts: 2022 plans
 - Public Art and the Trails Update
 - Volunteer Opportunities
 - Kiosk Map Updates
- 6) Regular Project Updates
- 7) New Business
 - Items to be included for next meeting
- 8) Adjournment
 - Next meeting date – September 14, 2022

** A Zoom link and call in info is provided as a public service; however, the public body will meet in person with a quorum present at the location, date and time contained in this notice. If for any reason the Zoom link or call in info does not work, the public meeting will continue in person.*

1 **City of Keene**
2 **New Hampshire**

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5 **BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
6 **MEETING MINUTES**
7

Wednesday, July 6, 2022

8:15 AM

**2nd Floor Conference Room,
City Hall**

Members Present:

Drew Bryenton, Chair
Todd Horner, Vice Chair
Jan Manwaring
Michael Davern
Rowland Russell
Charles Redfern, Alternate

Staff Present:

William Schoefmann, GIS Technician
Andy Bohannon, Parks, Recreation,
Cemeteries and Facilities Director (left
at 9 am)
Kürt Blomquist, Public Works Director
and ACM (left at 9 am)
Jesse Rounds, Community Development
Director

Members Not Present:

Dillon Benik
Dr. Chris Brehme, Alternate

Guests:

John Burns, visitor
Roger Weinrich, Good Fortune

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9
10 **1) Call to Order and Roll Call**

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12 Chair Drew Bryenton called the meeting to order at 8:16 AM.

13
14 **2) Approval of June 8, 2022 Minutes**

15
16 Dr. Rowland Russel noted in one area of minutes where there was an inconsistency concerning
17 inclusion of his title and misspelling of his name. Mr. Schoefmann noted and agreed to correct.
18 With no further corrections, the minutes were approved unanimously.

19
20 **3) John Burns, Norm's Ski and Bike Shop**

21
22 John Burns is the new owner of Norm's Ski and Bike. He purchased the store with his wife one
23 year ago. Previous owners have since retired and are happy to spend more time with their
24 grandkids. Mr. Burns has been living in New Hampshire since 1978. Currently, he lives in
25 Walpole and had previously been a customer of Norm's since the early 1980's. He purchased it
26 with the intention to take input from the community on product lines, and other things needed in

27 the community and has worked trying to see how they can fit it in. Bike rentals are clearly
28 desired and needed, but their current location does not allow for storage or work force. Have
29 researched and discussed it, but it is just not something they are able to take on right now.

30

31 **4) Other updates:**

32

33 On Wednesday, July 20th there will be a meeting for the Monadnock Alternative Alliance for
34 Sustainable Transportation will be at Heberton hall across from the library. Information will be
35 forthcoming. Will Schoefmann noted that there is also a membership opening and anyone
36 interested is welcome to speak to him after the meeting.

37

38 **5) Complete Streets Implementation-Road Resurfacing/Striping**

39 Mr. Schoefmann addressed that some people have noticed the re-striping taking place around
40 town. Department of Public Works, highway division and highway superintendent have said they
41 are rebooting in-house striping program for handwork and more detailed tasks. Mr. Schoefmann
42 went out last week and did some pre-marking. The hope is that with the in-house component,
43 they should be able to catch up on some of the work without as much issue. It was suggested that
44 the committee look at the roads that are up for resurfacing in the schedule.

45 Andy Bohannon and Kürt Blomquist joined at 8:48am.

46 Mr. Bohannon noted that there are several levels of different work with a pavement management
47 asset plan, which consists of a survey of all road surfaces. Discussion ensued around the question
48 of restriping for widening the shoulder width to assist in expanding the bike network. Mr.
49 Bohannon pointed out that the bottom line is really around capital as City of Keene has the
50 longer per linear foot of striping than any other town in the state. There are two kinds of cost
51 around the restriping: capital and ONM cost. This year, the budget went up 2.25%, painting
52 contractor cost went up 32%. Concerning the changing of the striping, Mr. Bohannon noted that
53 fall of each year would be a good time to talk to the engineer for the following year. The
54 schedule of striping is contained in the Community Improvement Plan and has a five-year
55 schedule.

56 Jesse Rounds joined by Zoom at 8:39AM. Mr. Rounds introduced himself and stated he was
57 excited to be on board with the committee. Bikes and pedestrian access are near and dear to his
58 heart. He just moved to Keene from Boulder, Colorado, and is looking forward to working with
59 this group to improve the network.

60

61 **6) Downtown Infrastructure Project- Central Square Park Concept**

62 Mr. Schoefmann discussed the attachment that Roger Weinrich had originally submitted to the
63 City Council earlier this year. Vice Chair Horner had requested the committee look at this to
64 evaluate especially since the downtown infrastructure project happening right now. Vice Chair
65 Horner reintroduced Roger Weinrich. Mr. Weinrich said the concept is to create a park in
66 downtown Keene and put in a new around about. He has had a business in Keene for over 30
67 years along with living in downtown. Central Square was the happening place to have a business.
68 That shifted years ago when traffic picked up and lower Main Street became a little more
69 popular. At the same time, he used ride in to downtown Keene from Gilsum on bikes and always

70 had a horrific experience with kids having to walk their bikes because of the increased traffic.
71 Establishing the downtown as a biking headquarters, would make it so that people bike out of
72 here rather than in. Barry Crown helped design two other roundabouts in Keene. Mr. Weinrich
73 had a conversation with him on the future of roundabouts. In this conversation, he asked Mr.
74 Crown about the downtown square. Mr. Crown noted one would eventually be needed just past
75 the circle park and how doing so would create more usability for the downtown park. By
76 encapsulating it and making it contiguous with the turf on the head of the square, it increases the
77 walkability and use of the area. It is not a battle, but it really comes down to pedestrian versus
78 motor vehicle. If there is an intention to limit or reduce MV traffic, the pedestrian traffic just
79 flourishes. Idea is really to slow down traffic in downtown Keene. A roundabout will slow the
80 traffic down. With such a wide main street, we can have travel lanes for bike, plenty of space for
81 fire trucks etc.

82 Vice Chair Horner asked if there were any questions for Mr. Weinrich? It was asked by Chair
83 Breynton who else has Mr. Weinrich has shopped this idea round? Mr. Weinrich said the
84 Council sent it to the new infrastructure committee, but does not know the status of that team.

85 Smaller lanes generally equals slower traffic. While there is a business aspect or hoping
86 businesses survive the construction, they already see the change in traffic and mixed use and the
87 speed slows down the lingering in town.

88 Dr. Rowland Russel added a 2.0 version of this would be to designate and remunerate the
89 parking spots. If you can demonstrate there is not a net loss of parking spaces for those business,
90 might go a long way in obtaining buy in. A single roundabout is a cornerstone to be able to do
91 protected bike lanes along Main Street. Talking about this project in terms of its key bike safety
92 would also be helpful.

93 Mr. Redfern asked Mr. Weinrich if he had full support of this committee what would be the ask
94 of this group or ideal that would help further (bearing in mind the committee advises city
95 council) the project. Mr. Weinrich responded that those were good questions and appreciated Dr.
96 Russel's comment about the parking. Any dialogue the committee can do amongst themselves
97 about bike safety and pedestrian safety would be helpful. Around the country when things like
98 this spring up, it is usually from people in the municipality that have a staked interest. He hopes
99 enough people put a stake in this dream to go ahead and do it. Roundabouts can be done in so
100 many ways and integrate the bike path into it, but it is only going to happen if enough people
101 step forward and say they support it and want it. Mr. Schoefmann said he believes there is some
102 visibility to it already, but Mr. Benik would be the best to get an update from on status.

103 Vice Chair Horner got an e-mail yesterday that the consultant is holding more information
104 sessions one being this Friday, June 15th at 8:30AM and the other is Wednesday, June 20th at
105 5PM, both by zoom or in person at the chamber.

106

107 7) **Old Business**

108 a) Wayfinding/Amenities: North and South Bridge Signage, Downtown Bike Racks

109 Mr. Schoefmann updated that north bridge/south bridge signage. Mr. Redfern was asked if he
110 had any ideas with how to move forward with it. Mr. Redfern chose to start with an update of
111 current state. It went through MSFI committee and they approved of the idea or recommending
112 that the city manager be authorized to negotiate with NH DOT for rights of way to put up four

113 signs. One sign would be on each side of each bridge for identification of the trail near the
114 bridge.

115 A couple of comments about the signs were around expense. Mr. Redfern pointed out that two
116 signs cost just under \$400. They are asking for four signs so should be under \$1000. Council was
117 struggling to find ways to come up with the funding. One councilmen pointed out that times are
118 tough. Mr Redfern pointed out that this is an easy reach and how the City has already put in
119 significant amounts of money towards making the city more bike friendly.

120 Mr. Redfern was asked if they would be affixed directly on the bridge. He responded they would
121 not- they would instead be attached to the side near the bridge because they do not want to
122 increase the likelihood of rust or anything like that on the bridge itself.

123 Mr. Redfern mentioned that one councilor made a comment that they were not fond of the green
124 and white signs. They preferred the recreational appearance, but NHDOT considers it a
125 traffic/transportation thing so NHDOT insisted they be green.

126 It ended up passing that committee unanimously with the full council. Not sure of timeline, but
127 Mr. Blomquist would have a better idea of that. We can check in with him before the next
128 meeting.

129

130 b) Bike/Pedestrian Counts: 2022 plans

131 Mr. Schoefmann did a walking audit through downtown collecting and updating locations that he
132 had for bike racks. Seems like they are fewer out within the sidewalks area. If people have
133 comments about locations they believe could use or benefit from one- please send those to him
134 and he will work with DOT to get those placed. None south of Cheshire rail trail (near Thai
135 garden, south side of The Colonial). North of Railroad Street, there were a similar amount to
136 what has traditionally been there. It was asked if the info in the original map was the same as
137 current. Mr. Schoefmann will have a conversation to investigate further.

138 Bike Pedestrian counts. Mr. Schoefmann got an e-mail that Southwest Regional Planning
139 Commission was doing a count at some of those locations. He plans to check in with Henry
140 Underwood there to see where that is happening. He did confirm the locations looked good. He
141 believed that they should be getting done as was envisioned and that it does not seem like
142 manual counts will be needed. Mr. Schoefmann suggested seeing how the counts look before
143 committing to manual counts. Mr. Redfern added that there is a kiosk going up. Pathways
144 donated \$3500 to the City to build the kiosk with wayfinding, safety, reminders, etc. Mr. Redfern
145 is hoping it will be aesthetically done. This is for the new parking area at the bottom of the
146 Ammi Brown rail trail.

147

148 c) Public Art and the Trails Update

149 Walldogs executive committee had a meeting and Mr. Russell talked to Peter Poanessa.
150 Mentioned there might be interest in railroad signal he retrieved from the Rail Trail .The
151 emerging idea is to temporarily install that at one of the historical society sites like Wyman and
152 Bruder and perhaps make that the focus of fundraiser efforts to fully restore and fix up the
153 railroad signal. Ideally, this would happen before the Historical Society's brew fest so that
154 people see it. Then wherever it makes sense as a sculptural element, to place it. Have not

155 formally presented it to The Historical Society, but will informally present to the Director to see
156 if it makes sense as something to work with. It is at the shop right now, taking up room and Peter
157 and Mary would like to get it into action at some point.

158

159 d) Volunteer Opportunities

160 Mr. Schoefmann put that in there as a placeholder. No, activities from him yet. Mr. Davern
161 mentioned he is on the Greater Goose Pond stewardship committee. They will be planning future
162 work days and trail days and could use that to promote them. Mr. Redfern added that in very near
163 future there will be a ceremony to open the Amy Brown trail and will have the ceremony at the
164 trail head where the new kiosk will go. City staff will be there as well as members of Pathways.
165 Will send out an e-mail when they get a date on that. Having members from this committee there
166 will add diversity to the promotion of the trail heads. Another member brought up potential to
167 promote Rail trail clean up days.

168

169 e) Kiosk Map Updates

170 Andy should have copies of those next week and hoping to get them run and installed.

171

172 **8) Regular Project Updates**

173 Already covered

174

175 **9) New Business**

176 Mrs. Manwaring spoke and said a little birdie told her that IT is looking at the City of Keene
177 website. She would like to add an agenda item of what the committee would like to see for a
178 landing page. Had the discussion in the human rights committee and the group wondered why no
179 one knows who they are and what they do and it is because there is nothing easily accessible for
180 public to know the who/what/ when why and where?

181 Vice Chair Todd Horner shared that he is helping Hannah Grimes on the Radically Rural
182 Summit. One session will focus on walkability in rural downtowns and bringing in Mark Fenton
183 who is a nationally known walkability expert and faculty at Tufts University. He will speak to
184 how increasing walkability helps downtowns. He has a process for helping community members
185 understand where certain members of our street scene are struggling with access. Hoping to set it
186 up so that people can attend this particular presentation rather than the entire event. That
187 particular workshop is happening September 22, 2022. More information will be forthcoming.

188 Mr. Schoefmann will forward an e-mail from Charles Redfern on the Active Transportation
189 Infrastructure and Invest Program. It is an opportunity that will not come about until next year,
190 but should start poking around now. Minimal grant award will be 15 million and will likely have
191 to be a regional award. Chair Bryenton suggested adding this to the agenda as an item for next
192 month.

193

194

195 **10) Adjournment**

196 Next Meeting date- August 10, 2022

197

198 There being no further business, Chair Bryenton adjourned the meeting at 9:17 AM.

199

200 Respectfully submitted by,

201 Amanda Trask, Minute Taker

202

203 Reviewed and edited by,

204 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	Spring 2014	Fall 2021	Behind	Scope of work developed and funding available to work with Southwest Regional Planning Commission to finish work on the plan in 2022. Awaiting SWRPC draft contract and timeline. Granite State Wheelers Grant submitted for funding.
Complete Streets			Working			N/A	2018	N/A	Behind	Sharred Lane Markings (Sharrows), Bike Lanes and Bike Boxes being repainted as part of the city striping contract.
Bike Racks	AMENITIES	P21	Working	N/A	N/A	ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A	DPW Highway have put out some racks, Will is confirming rack locations for summer/fall 2022. Gaps in where historically placed.
Appel Way Trail Paving	MAINTANANCE	P22	Planning	\$ 104,900.00	Even	2023	N/A	N/A	On Schedule	Appel Way repaving project, CIP Budgeted in Parks and Rec Trail Maintenance Program.
Cheshire Rail Trail - Park Ave. Loop	N/A	N/A	Working	\$411,615.51	Over	Spring 2019	Fall 2022	N/A	Behind	Engineering division of DPW is managing this project now. Repaving and striping of Park Ave completed. Trail work project is underway.
NHDOT TAP Grant 2018	N/A	BE22	Hold	\$674K	N/A	Winter 2018	Summer 2022	N/A	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	Working	N/A	N/A	Ongoing	N/A	N/A	N/A	Arts Alive, Jess Gelter, have taken on a scaled down version of the Arts and Culture Corridor concept Gilbo Avenue to School Street still part of the scope.
Bicycle Mayor	N/A	N/A	Hold	Safe Routes to School	Even	Winter 2018	Fall 2019	N/A	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. Not Active. Meeting upcoming with Tiffany Mannion to go over new program updates.
Sidewalks	N/A	N/A	Submitted	CIP	Even	Spring 2022	N/A	N/A	On Schedule	Summer 2022 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.
Downtown Infrastructure Project (MAIN STREET)	AMENITIES	P14	Planning	CIP	Even	Summer 2023	Fall 2027	N/A	N/A	Large amounts of GIS and Engineering plans shared with consultant Stantec. Discussion in July regarding "Central Square Park" concept. Presentation from consultant at August meeting.
Lower Winchester Street (Roundabout - City Line)	N/A	N/A	Planning	CIP	Even	Summer 2024	Fall 2027	N/A	N/A	Potential for bike/pedestrian improvements to the Route 10/Lower Winchester Street Corridor and Gateway area via Swanzezy into Keene. Potential steering committee.

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MASTER PLAN PROJECTS									
Jonathan Daniels Trail Maintenance	TOP 7	P3	Planning	\$25K	Even	Summer 2020	2022	N/A	CIP Budgeted in Parks and Rec Trail Maintenance Program.
Wayfinding Signage Facilities and Plan	TOP 7	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. UNH Downtown Trails Initiative final report prepared and submitted for review at April meeting. Next steps signage design and placement.
↓Transportation Heritage Trail ↓									
THT Phase 1 - CRT Eastern Ave to NH 101 (Transportation Heritage Trail)	TOP 7	P1	Planning	\$ 386,400.00	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 received 9/1. Photo opp held with Maggie Hassan
THY Phase 2 - Prowse Bridge - CRT NH 101 Overpass to Stone Arch Bridge (Transportation Heritage Trail)	TOP 7	P4	Planning	\$ 381,685.00	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 7	P4	Planning	\$ 321,195.00	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 7	P4	Planning	\$ 1,862,310.00	N/A	2027	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 7	P19	Planning	\$ 785,275.00	N/A	2027	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 7	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. TRAIL LIGHTS NOW INCLUDED HERE

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