



BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

8:15-9:30 AM

**2nd floor Conference Room
3 Washington St, City Hall**

Members:

Drew Bryenton, Chair
Todd Horner, Vice Chair
Dillon Benik
Jan Manwaring

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

- 1) Call to Order and Roll Call
- 2) February 8, 2023 Minutes
- 3) Downtown Infrastructure Project Update
- 4) Safe Streets for All Grant
- 5) Old Business
 - Public Art and the Trails Update
 - Volunteer Opportunities
- 6) Regular Project Updates
- 7) New Business
 - Items to be included for next meeting
- 8) More Time
 - BPPAC Website
 - Wayfinding/Amenities: North and South Bridge Signage
 - Bike/Pedestrian Counts
 - Kiosk Map Updates
- 9) Adjournment
 - Next meeting date – April 12, 2023

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

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

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

8:15 AM

2nd Floor Conference Room,
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Members Present:

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

Members Not Present:

Councilor Andrew Madison

Staff Present:

William Schoefmann, GIS Technician
Andy Bohannon, Parks/Rec/Cem
Facilities Director
Kürt Blomquist, ACM/EMD/Public
Works Director

Guests:

Jeanelle Sartorio
Sam Jackson
Autumn DelaCroix
Mike Kowalczyk (zoom)

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

11 Chair Bryenton called the meeting to order at 8:17 AM. Mr. Mike Kowalczyk and Mr. Charles
12 Redfern joined by zoom. Roll call and introductions provided for new members.
13

14 **2) Approval of Minutes- December 14, 2022**

15 A motion to approve the minutes from December 14, 2022 was provided by Mr. Dillon Benik.
16 Dr. Rowland Russell seconded the motion. Minutes were approved by unanimous roll call
17 approval.
18

19 **3) Elections- Chair and Vice Chair**

20 The committee discussed options for Chair and Vice Chair. Dr. Rowland Russell nominated Mr.
21 Drew Bryenton for Chair and Todd Horner for Vice Chair, this was Seconded by Ms.
22 Manwaring. Nominations were approved with a majority vote. The committee discussed board
23 membership and that Chair Bryenton and Vice Chair Horner would be terming out at the end of
24 2024. Mr. Schoefmann stated he was working with the Clerk's to find out if Vice Chair Horner's
25 first term as partial counted. The committee agreed they needed to fill all five (5) alternate slots.
26
27
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30 **4) Downtown Infrastructure Project Update**

31 Chair Bryenton shared that he walked around at the beginning of the Downtown Infrastructure
32 meeting and heard numerous comments regarding community members questioning numbers of
33 cyclists. He reiterated to the BPPAC group the need to have data in order to counter that stance.

34 Dr. Russell added that he spent his time around the cluster around Central Square and the
35 engineering cluster. He attended the first grouping of Central Square meeting and reported that it
36 was very lively and contentious. He stated that Ms. Dorrie Masten spoke explaining that 300
37 people reside in her building and how she believes this proposed design would lengthen fire
38 response time resulting in greater damage and a potential loss of life. Dr. Russell reported that
39 the City engineer responded to Ms. Masten explaining the fire trucks would indeed be able to get
40 through with no greater time.

41 Dr. Russell added that the loss of parking spots seems to be a concern for not only business
42 owners, but also patrons. Safety concerns were another topic often brought up, according to Dr.
43 Russell. He noted that numerous studies have proven that they are safe and that car/bike
44 interactions go way down with focused bike lanes. Dr. Russell focused a lot on flood water
45 management with the engineers and he found them to be very open to ecoengineering ideas like
46 rain gardens, bioswales, tree wells, planting beddings being sunken- things that leave more water
47 in the ground and less going into the system.

48 Mr. Andy Bohannon added that he attended at the Railroad Square and Gilbo Avenue. Many
49 people had positive feedback about the connections and trails coming up. Some were concerned
50 about elevation related to the bike lanes and where they would be placed, whether street or
51 sidewalk level. He received positive comments around the fact that Cheshire rail trail was out of
52 railroad square and put on edge allowing for a plaza area for larger events. The other comment
53 that he got was from a woman who had lived in NY City around how bicyclists do not follow
54 traffic laws and run rampant. Mr. Bohannon addressed the concern and tried to reassure that the
55 majority of the cyclists in Keene are respectful and adhere to the laws. Other than those
56 particular comments, it seemed positive. The only other thing that came up in his section was
57 traffic flow and parking in Gilbo Avenue.

58 Mr. Dillon Benik responded to the point about safety and cyclists not following the rule, the lack
59 of traffic safety enforcement and education does not mean you do not improve traffic
60 infrastructure. They are two different things.

61 Mr. Bohannon shared that he drives up Washington Street three to four times a day and
62 constantly sees people using the wrong lane. He believes there needs to be increased education
63 so that individuals do not follow the path of least resistance as traditionally done. The Kiwanis
64 Bike rodeo is in May and currently, that is the only education done in the City. Expanding the
65 education and finding collaboration might be a good focus for this group.

66 Mr. Kowalczyk shared that the Swanzey Rail Trail advisory committee wrote a letter with their
67 recommendation in support of the expanded square area. The letter is with the select board for
68 approval and they will be discussing it in their meeting scheduled for this evening. At minimum,

69 it will get to the City of Keene from the Swanzey Rail Trail group. The best scenario is it gets to
70 Keene from the town of Swanzey.

71 Mr. Kurt Blomquist said he floated around different areas during the meeting. The majority of
72 people being vocal are people who have issues with the project in general. He agreed with Mr.
73 Bohannon that some of the other vocal individuals are folks new to the area or folks who had a
74 bad experience. Unfortunately, many of the folks who do use it are not the ones speaking up. He
75 expressed the need for the committee to spread the word in an effort to get those folks to speak
76 up and share their voices. He noted that there would be a public input session at Keene High
77 School of February 21 following a 15-20 presentation. He encouraged the committee to continue
78 their comments regarding the economic side, future, and safety. After this, it will go to the full
79 council to begin their process.

80 Mr. Kowalczyk shared that he is working with the Chamber. At present, work has started to have
81 a bike event in the fall and current thought is to start in railroad, out to the top of the Andy
82 Brown trail and then turn around and come back. If that happens, it would be a great opportunity
83 for bike education.

84 Mr. Bohannon pointed out that Keene is silver level league of bicyclists. Keene is the only silver
85 one in NH. He wondered given that the group has looked at creating a master plan, whether this
86 infrastructure will raise the level to a gold standard and if there are things that they could offer us
87 concerning language for public engagement and advocacy.

88 Mr. William Schoefmann said that he will be reaching out to them, as the City needs to reapply
89 to maintain status and will include those questions in his outreach.

90 Dr. Russell reached out to the administrator at Antioch currently tasked with coordinating and
91 gathering information about the Antioch building project down by Keene State College. Dr.
92 Russell encouraged him to share with the community and how important public bike lanes will
93 be to them and their student body.

94 Dr. Russell also suggested any members who are Keene State Alum to reach out and encouraged
95 members as a whole to reach out to business owners in the downtown area. There was discussion
96 within the committee around encouraging a discussion between Keene State President, Melinda
97 Treadwell and City Manager Elizabeth Dragon.

98 Ms. Manwaring stated that as a former city councilor, people come up to her all the time and
99 share their opinions. She fields many questions. She works with a couple of sight challenged
100 individuals and has learned that not all lights have audible alerts. She wondered whether the
101 proposed design would include accommodations.

102 Mr. Blomquist responded that they are working to get audible alerts, but roundabouts generally
103 do not have an all stop. While a complete stop is not out of question, it does defeat the point of a
104 roundabout concerning the continuous flow of traffic. They are investigating options but have
105 not come up with solutions.

106 Mr. Chris Brehme questioned whether Keene housing or Southwestern Community Services had
107 taken a position on this. Two committee members agreed to reach out to them.

108 Chair Bryenton asked if any of the substantial design had changed. When he was shown the
109 roundabout, it was told to him that bicyclists could just ride through without any yield. For him,
110 that makes him uncomfortable not to have any sort of yield.

111 Mr. Blomquist responded that things are currently at a conceptual design point. He is trying to
112 get a basic decision from the council on whether they want or do not want bicycle lanes. When
113 he goes to the next level that will be where the details of what will work will be worked out.
114 There are multiple ways to get through, but there has been no decisions made on which one is
115 preferred.

116 Chair Bryenton suggested that as members, as long as they are comfortable, that they stand up
117 and share at the upcoming meeting.

118 Mr. Kowalczyk suggested better signage for parking located off Main Street. He mentioned that
119 he is a member of the Southwest Regional Transportation Advisory Committee and his objective
120 is always to be looking at ways to provide infrastructure for bike and pedestrians.

121 Dr. Russell shared that the city chamber of commerce and downtown business group is having a
122 meeting Friday in council chambers from 8:30-10 AM for brainstorming ways to support
123 businesses during the construction time. He has been invited to attend and will be bringing up a
124 number of arts related things, but the transportation related item is the idea of Bike Bombs
125 (biking groups coordinate and all go to the same restaurants/store and share with the business
126 that they biked there).

127

128 **5) BPPAC Website**

129 Mr. Schoefmann updated that including Jan's suggestions is on the list of things to do.

130 Ms. Manwaring added that she checked the website and dates listed are for 2021. She will
131 continue to advocate for that to be updated.

132

133 **6) Old Business**

134 **A) Public Art and the Trails Update**

135 Dr. Russell said nothing new from Peter Ponessa. He expressed desire to connect with Mr.
136 Bohannon regarding the mural at the bike path by Antioch that was taken down. It is currently in
137 storage and they would like to discuss re-installing that.

138

139 **B) Volunteer Opportunities**

140 Nothing new. Dr. Russell asked if the committee wanted to have a table at the Earth Festival on
141 April 22. The group expressed interest and it was suggested that they combine with Pathways to
142 have a shared table. Mr. Kowalczyk shared he had already reserved two tables and offered that it
143 could be part of that or reserve a third table if need be.

144 Dr. Russell discussed Green Up Keene event, which will happen the same day and encouraged
145 members to participate.

146

147 **7) Regular Project Updates**

148 Mr. Blomquist shared that the City had received a \$350,000 grant for doing an evaluation of the
149 street network to identify improvements for multi-users and will be starting up process for that
150 planning grant. Once planning is done, they will be eligible for an implementation grant
151 sometime in 2024.

152

153 He shared that Cheshire Rail Trail phase 3 is complete. They still have some remaining signage
154 to complete. There is a meeting today about Lower Winchester Street. There is also a scheduled
155 meeting with the committee next month to go over the two input sessions (one in Keene and one
156 in Swanzey).

157

158 The Transportation Heritage Trail (Eastern Avenue to Route 101) is in phase one, and just
159 starting to work with Department of Transportation on the Congressionally Directed Spending
160 allocation. The money has to be allocated by 2026 and executed by 2030.

161 Concerning the Marlboro Street project, the city engineer has to go to the state estimating
162 committee as Marlboro Street has significantly increased in cost.

163

164 **8) New Business-Items to be included for next meeting**

165 Safe Streets For All grant award will be an item in the future

166

167 **9) More Time**

168 **A) Wayfinding/Amenities: North and South Bridge Signage**

169 **B) Bike/Pedestrian Counts**

170 **C) Kiosk Map Updates**

171

172 **10) Other**

173 Mr. Bohannon added that tomorrow night they would have two different donations coming in.
174 The first being from Pathways of Keene and other from Keene Rotary Club for up to \$35,000 for
175 wayfinding.

176 Dr. Russell discussed the lack of Facebook presence for pedestrian groups in the area and
177 wondered the possibility of creating one. He requested that if anyone is interested in assisting, to
178 reach out to him.

179 The guests gave some information about their backgrounds and level of interest in the
180 committee. All were locally raised and had experience and specific interests with walking and
181 biking in both the town and region. Mr. Schoefmann said he would email the guests the weblink
182 to volunteer for positions for boards and commissions after the meeting.

183 **11) Adjournment**

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

185 Respectfully submitted by,
186 Amanda Trask, Minute Taker
187
188 Reviewed and edited by,
189 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	GIS Tech working with Highway to inventory in street bike markings for budget purposes.
Bike Racks	AMENITIES	P21	Working	N/A		N/A	ongoing	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	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	Completed	\$411,615.51		Over	Spring 2019	Fall 2022	N/A	Engineering division of DPW is managing this project now. Repaving and striping of Park Ave completed. Trail work completed. Grand opening ceremony occurred Sept 14. Monitor for Winter/Spring maintenance.
NHDOT TAP Grant 2018	N/A	BE22	Hold	\$674K		N/A	Winter 2018	Summer 2022	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	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.
League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Program & other community ranking programs	N/A	N/A	Planning	-		N/A	Winter 2022	Spring 2023	N/A	City of Keene's designation as a "Bicycle Friendly City" has lapsed and needs to be renewed. The process includes data gathering for a report/application. Aiming for Summer/Fall submittal.
Sidewalks	N/A	N/A	Submitted	CIP		Even	Spring 2022	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	Open letter from Vice Chair Horner out for promotion; Square expansion, bikelanes, roundabout options recommended from Steering Committee - Council. Formal letter from the committee submitted. Working on info/faq for project to help with confusion and facts.
Lower Winchester Street (Roundabout - City Line)	N/A	N/A	Planning	CIP		Even	Summer 2024	Fall 2027	N/A	Potential for bike/pedestrian improvements to the Route 10/Lower Winchester Street Corridor and Gateway area via Swanzey into Keene. Listening sessions held Oct 24/25.

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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	2024	2025	N/A	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. Federal Earmark funds for this project.
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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Complete Streets			Working			N/A	2018	N/A	Behind	Sharred Lane Markings (Sharrows) completed, Park Ave Bike Lanes in process, Bike Boxes need repairing.
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