



BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA

Wednesday, September 14, 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

Todd Horner, Vice Chair

Dillon Benik, Chair

Jan Manwaring

Michael Davern

Dr. Rowland Russell

Dr. Chris Brehme, Alternate

Charles Redfern, Alternate

- 1) Call to Order and Roll Call
- 2) August 10, 2022 Minutes
- 3) Downtown Infrastructure Project Follow Up
- 4) NH Trails Plan
- 5) BPPAC Website
- 6) 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
- 7) Regular Project Updates
- 8) New Business
 - Items to be included for next meeting
- 9) Adjournment
 - Next meeting date – October 12, 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, August 10, 2022

8:18 AM

2nd Floor Conference Room,
City Hall

Members Present:

Drew Bryenton, Chair
Todd Horner, Vice Chair
Rowland Russell
Dr. Chris Brehme, Alternate
Charles Redfern, Alternate

Staff Present:

William Schoefmann, GIS Technician
Kürt Blomquist, ACM/Public Works &
Emergency Management Director
Andy Bohannon, Parks, Recreation,
Cemeteries and Facilities Director
Jesse Rounds, Community Development
Director

Members Not Present:

Dillon Benik
Jan Manwaring
Michael Davern

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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 8:18 AM. Alternates filling in for regular
13 seats. Mr. Ed Robarge to present to the group.
14

15 **2) July 13, 2022 Minutes Approval**
16

17 Rolland Russell noted a slight correction to the notes as his name has two L's at the end.
18 Correction noted. Chair Bryenton motioned to approve minutes, motion seconded by Mr.
19 Charles Redfern.
20

21 **3) Downtown Infrastructure Project Update- Ed Robarge, Stantec**
22

23 Ed Robarge, of Stantec, started his presentation using a slide show. Slide two of his presentation
24 was a utility upgrade map, which shows the general the project area. He explained that the
25 project area was dictated by the amount of utility work they will be doing. They plan to start
26 slightly north of Central Square head, and then make their way down south. In doing so, they
27 will pick up parts of Lamson Street and Church Street. The project area does not include much of
28 Roxbury or West Street, just enough to tie some of the utilities and lines (water, sewer, or storm
29 drain). The map showed water lines as blue lines, sanitary sewer as red and storm drains as
30 orange. Not included in the map were individual services to each of the buildings, which was

31 intentional as it would have made the map too busy. Additional project areas are Gilbo Avenue
32 all the way to School Street and the mapping cut of just before Saint James Church. There will
33 be some significant large replacement of utilities along that street as well as with Railroad Street
34 out to Wells Street. Parts of this project will be looking at public open spaces at Central Square
35 as well as Railroad Square. As well as potential of what could happen along the rail trail and
36 public pieces of property along Gilbo Avenue. The project extends southerly down to Water
37 Street from the utility perspective. There has been some extension a little further down Water
38 and picking up parts of Emerald as well as Eagle Court. The project limits are continually being
39 defined as the project moves forward.

40 Mr. Robarge explained that this project has really been a two-part effort. The first part was to
41 look at the condition and status of all of the downtown utilities. Some of these lines have not
42 been touched in a while. Some sections of water and sanitary sewer are being looked at to
43 evaluate for re-lining or replacement. The second part is determining what is going to be done
44 with all the surface infrastructure.

45 They are scheduled to be at Steering Committee next Tuesday, August 16, 2022 and hope to get
46 feedback from them about these goals. The goals were selected from the requests for proposals
47 document and conversations they have had. They range from advance priority utility
48 improvement to define and expand the downtown district. Mr. Robarge said they really looked at
49 how to create and embrace the opportunities for more sustainably built environments and how to
50 improve multimodal transportation access. While these are broad goals, the hope is to drill it
51 down to how to make it easier to walk, bike or use a bus through the community. What are the
52 connections? How does the bike path (whether organized or just part of the street system) allow
53 people to get to and from downtown? In their conversation, they heard a lot about right size
54 parking in downtown. Downtown merchants are very worried about each space. There is
55 generally about 140 feet building to building. The more pertinent question is what does the
56 community want to do with those 140 feet? Is it Parking, bike lanes, open space, open sidewalks
57 to improve access? Mr. Robarge and his group will be working with the Steering Committee on
58 these goals and objectives.

59 As part of their information gathering process, they posted information regarding their plan and
60 goals to ask the public if they were missing anything. The public was asked to respond and
61 provide feedback. They are in the process of summarizing the feedback right now and will put all
62 that together. In the public workshop that was offered by Stantec, they incorporated a fun
63 exercise in which asked participants to use five dots to vote for elements of interest. The
64 feedback received ranges from curb extension to storage facilities/bike facilities to bathroom,
65 way finding, flexible street space, bike lanes, outdoor dining or activities and street furniture.
66 This provided a bunch of additional ideas, but of note was that the top two suggestions were
67 outdoor dining or activities and flexible open space. Also included in the top third of suggestions
68 was street furniture. Bike lanes and bike lane enhancements were in the middle third.

69 Mr. Redfern noted that in a previous slide, there was note of protected bike lanes. Mr. Redfern
70 asked Mr. Robarge if it was safe to assume that refers to a dedicated bike lane and asked him to
71 elaborate on writing beneath the picture. Mr. Robarge clarified that it said, "Protected bike lane

72 includes space for buffer and space for cars.” Mr. Robarge added that the buffer can include
73 vertical elements, such as curbs or posts. Mr. Redfern also noted that there is a bike path that
74 goes through Railroad Square and questioned whether that will be protected. Mr. Robarge
75 explained that there has been a lot of conversation either as the TRC level or the Arts Alive in
76 trying to better identify the crossing and how that hubs into downtown along with ideas for
77 increasing visibility. He noted it seems understated now, but there is definitely a good future
78 conversation there. As far as this project goes, that path will remain retained and protected. Mr.
79 Robarge loaded a slide of vehicle patterns and mentioned how the traffic pattern is really a
80 guidance tool on how people come and go. The map helps to start looking at street capacity. Mr.
81 Robarge noted that they did full traffic, pedestrian and bike counts. They are finishing those
82 counts now and should have more information on that soon. Slide 36 of the presentation was a
83 map showing the critical fire access. Mr. Robarge said maintaining that movement is critical to
84 their response time. Slide 38-40 helped to identify some of the challenges in traffic. There are 23
85 crosswalks within this project zones and some of them are critical. There are significant delays at
86 West, Roxbury and Central Square. Their group is evaluating all of the crosswalks and midblock
87 crossings to see if they can create some efficiencies and improve the safety aspects. It was noted
88 that bike facilities are limited. There are some bike racks included in the Cheshire Rail-Trail, but
89 as you move north and south, there is a dedicated bike lane on Washington Street outbound and
90 some shared use arrows on Court Street. Beyond that, the overall infrastructure for biking is
91 limited. They identified some clear gaps in pedestrian facilities along Gilbo Ave, Cypress Street,
92 Eagle Court and within Dunbar Street. Mr. Robarge said he is Interested in hearing feedback
93 from the group on some of the constraints, issues, and what the BPPAC committee is thinking
94 about for the future and potentially, how that can be implemented into Stantec’s plan for the
95 future.

96 Mr. Rowland Russell thanked Mr. Robarge for his presentation and wanted to reinforce that
97 bikes can get in, but it is tricky to move through the Main Street area and keeping the bikes safe
98 as the move through the area should be of importance.

99 Mr. Robarge asked if the committee has discussed expanding way finding in terms of signage
100 and broadening the wayfinding signs. Mr. Will Schoefmann clarified that they have focused on
101 the trailside of that, but have stayed away from the downtown wayfinding signs. Mr. Andy
102 Bohannon added that he had sent the wayfinding study. Right now, the City is going through a
103 rebranding. Once that is completed, the City will be doing a wayfinding upgrade within the
104 downtown.

105 Mr. Chris Brehme asked Mr. Robarge to go back to slide 47. He pointed out that as the Rail-Trail
106 goes down Gilbo Avenue, it dog legs at School Street and picks up past Ralston Street. Mr.
107 Brehme offer to make some corrections and send them to Mr. Robarge. There was discussion of
108 the group of what was the possibility to take it down Emerald? Mr. Schoefmann mentioned that
109 many people do not take the official route and travel through the parking lots.

110 Mr. Redfern asked Mr. Robarge what kind of counters were used for the recent bike counts done
111 on the rail trail. Mr. Robarge responded that they used radar counters instead of tubes, as they are
112 able to pick up pedestrians and bikes individually. Mr. Robarge was asked how and who will

113 make the decision around which design will be implemented and how will the process move
114 forward. Mr. Robarge responded that the scope was determined in collaboration with Kurt
115 Blomquist, Director of Public Works. As part of their deliverables, they are also looking at
116 alternatives for each location and the potential for public spaces along Gilbo Avenue. This
117 includes things like public space components, intersections treatments/alternatives, street
118 segments and options for areas between West Street/Gilbo Avenue and from Emerald Street to
119 Water Street, and streetscape options along Gilbo Avenue. They are trying to capture all of the
120 comments from both public and city and determine how best to balance and incorporate the
121 suggestions or come up with acceptable alternatives. The process will be that their staff will
122 review them and it will then be passed to the Mayor's ad hoc committee. From there, it will go to
123 public for feedback, which will likely result in changes. All of the input from the various
124 stakeholders will be factored in and used to determine what the disturbance impact is of their
125 project. At present, they are looking to hold some upcoming public workshops right now as well
126 as in the later part of September. Next week, they are meeting with the Steering Committee as
127 well as again in September. The hope is to get the information to the public in the later part of
128 September. Ultimately, it would go to the full Council for a vote. Chair Bryenton thanked Mr.
129 Robarge for his time and the informative presentation.

130

131 **4) BPPAC Website**

132

133 Mr. Schoefmann noted that Mrs. Jan Manwaring had requested the website as an agenda item,
134 but she is not present to discuss. The group believed she was looking for some information. She
135 wanted more publicly available and easily access information about the various committees and
136 their interface with the rest of the city. There was also question of whether it was possible to link
137 to all the transportation heritage information, parks and rec, etc. thereby threading the
138 information.

139

140 **5) Old Business**

141

142 **A) Wayfinding/ Amenities: North and South Bridge signage, downtown bike**
143 **racks.**

144

145 Mr. Schoefmann asked if Mr. Blomquist had any information. Mr. Blomquist said road signs
146 were with DOT.

147

148 **B) Bike/ Pedestrian Counts: 2022 plans**

149

150 Mr. Schoefmann said there are a few locations where the racks had been, but they are no longer
151 there. There are still racks out, but they are just not in all the typical locations. Mr. Schoefmann
152 asked if the group felt strongly about putting the missing racks back out or at least investigating
153 the reason for removal and lack of replacement. Group was in consensus to investigate further.

154 He added that counters are out doing visible counts for Southwest Community Services. There
155 likely will not have any info until further into the fall.

156 **C) Public Art and the Trails Update**

157

158 Mr. Redfern asked Mr. Bohannon if there are still plans to do a ceremony for the opening of the
159 Amy Brown Trail head and whether there were plans to invite the BPPAC members to the
160 ceremony. Mr. Bohannon stated the date for the opening has not been set, but added that it will
161 be forwarded out to members.

162 Dr. Russell has set up a meeting with Mr. Redfern and Pathways and historical society to talk
163 about potential for restoring and installing the railway signal that Peter Poanessa has. If anyone
164 wants to be involved, let him know and he would be happy to include.

165 **D) Volunteer Opportunities**

166

167 The group had nothing of note to add. Mr. Redfern suggested trying to come up with an idea for
168 timeframe or calendar of future events and volunteered to spearhead that. Mr. Schoefmann
169 agreed to work with him on it.

170 **E) Kiosk Map Updates**

171 Mr. Schoefmann has a template and just needs to add a key. He plans to get something to Mr.
172 Bohannon before the end of this month.

173

174 **6) Regular Project Updates**

175

176 A brief update of bike racks was provided earlier in the meeting, but Mr. Schoefmann added that
177 he plans to talk with Harry McKelvey, Transportation and Storm Waters Operations Manager,
178 about getting the old map and investigating the reasoning for the removal and options for
179 replacement.

180 Cheshire rail trail and Park Avenue loop- most of the painting is done. Mr. Blomquist added that
181 the chevron and other painting work is to be finishing this month.

182 Mr. Schoefmann said there is a presentation today for the downtown restructuring. He asked if
183 there was any way for the BPPAC group to provide their opinion on the presentation today. Mr.
184 Bohannon suggested offering prioritized thoughts. Discussion ensued on the timeframe of the
185 projects and members concern around the impact to businesses. Chair Bryenton motioned to
186 provide a formal statement for Dillon Benik to bring to the Steering Committee. Motion
187 seconded by Mr. Schoefmann.

188

189 **7) New Business**

190

191 **A) Items to be included for next meeting**

192 Committee will firm up shared document and statement for Mr. Benik to bring to steering
193 committee.

194

195 **8) Adjournment**

196

197 There being no further business, Chair Bryenton adjourned the meeting at 9:31 AM.

198

199 Respectfully submitted by,
200 Amanda Trask, Minute Taker

201

202 Reviewed and edited by,
203 Will Schoefmann, KGIS Mapping Technician

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) completed, Park Ave Bike Lanes in process, Bike Boxes need repairing.
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 nearing completion. Grand opening ceremony Sept 14
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 Swanzey 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 Swanzy 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 - Swanzy 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 Swanzy Factory Road to create a safe overpass for trail users and creating continuity of the Cheshire Rail Trail towards the Swanzy 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

Project	PRIORITY	Master Plan Project #	Status	Budget *			Schedule			Updates (status changes and project notes)
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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.
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