



BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN PATH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

8:15-9:30 AM

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

Members:

Drew Bryenton, Chair
Todd Horner, Vice Chair
Andrew Madison, Councilor
Dillon Benik
Jan Manwaring
Michael Davern
Dr. Rowland Russell

Dr. Chris Brehme, Alternate
Charles Redfern, Alternate
Janelle Satorio, Alternate
Sam Jackson, Alternate
Autumn DelaCroix, Alternate

- 1) Call to Order and Roll Call
- 2) March 8, 2023 Minutes
- 3) Downtown Infrastructure Project Update
- 4) Safe Streets for All Grant
- 5) Covered Bike Parking Demonstration Opportunity
- 6) Old Business
 - Public Art and the Trails Update
 - Volunteer Opportunities
 - Earth Day
 - Greenup Keene/Trail clean ups
 - Bike Friendly Community
- 7) Regular Project Updates
- 8) New Business
 - Items to be included for next meeting
- 9) More Time
 - BPPAC Website
 - Wayfinding/Amenities: North and South Bridge Signage
 - Bike/Pedestrian Counts
 - Kiosk Map Updates
- 10) Adjournment
 - Next meeting date – May 10, 2023

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

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

8 **Wednesday, March 8, 2023**

9 **8:15 AM**

10 **2nd Floor Conference Room,**
11 **City Hall**

12 **Members Present:**

13 Drew Bryenton, Chair
14 Todd Horner, Vice Chair
15 Dillon Benik
16 Jan Manwaring
17 Michael Davern
18 Dr. Rowland Russell
19 Dr. Chris Brehme, Alternate

20 **Staff Present:**

21 William Schoefmann, GIS Technician
22 Andy Bohannon,
23 Kürt Blomquist,
24 Staff Member Name, Title

25 **Members Not Present:**

26 Andrew Madison, Councilor
27 Chuck Redfern
28 Janelle Satorio, Alternate

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

Chair Bryenton called the meeting to order at 8:16 AM. Dr. Chris Brehme will be sitting as a full member and will have voting privileges. Two guests attended; Andrew Bower and John Mathews. Mr. Bower shared that he bikes a lot and had received Andy Bohannon's number from someone at Pathways of Keene. In speaking with Mr. Bohannon, he was informed of the meeting and decided to attend. Mr. Mathews has lived in town for almost three years and had a question he was hoping to have answered. He uses most of the trails in town when they are passable and was curious why the Apple Way trail was never clear. Chair Bryenton asked if they could address that question during project updates.

Chair Bryenton asked about updates on new members. Mr. Schoefmann plans to look at the Council Actions and Referrals e-mail and get back to the group.

2) Approval of Minutes- February 8, 2023

Chair Bryenton asked for any corrections to the minutes. With no corrections, Mrs. Manwaring moved to accept and Dr. Russell seconded the motion. Motion to accept was unanimous.

30 **3) Downtown Infrastructure Project Update**

31
32 Mr. Bohannon announced a workshop next Tuesday night at 6pm in Council Chambers. The
33 meeting will begin with a council workshop discussion and then open to the public. There is a
34 hard stop for that meeting at 9AM. He said there will likely be additional meetings, but is unsure
35 of dates having just returned from vacation.

36 It was asked if there was any expectation of delay. Mr. Bohannon said his understanding was that
37 the city is looking to delay the year related to approval of grants. He briefly explained the grant
38 process and requirements and how prior to applying for grants, the plans and procedures must be
39 clearly laid out and ready to be implemented. A decision about design must happen to be able to
40 submit for grant monies.

41 Chair Bryenton asked if he saw any value for the committee to continue to provide support. Mr.
42 Bohannon responded that he believes the committee remains useful and pertinent as long as they
43 continue to advocate and offer a shared voice for pedestrian and bike access.

44 Mr. Blomquist was welcomed to the meeting. Chair Bryenton asked if he had anything to add.
45 Mr. Blomquist recommended continued advocacy. He said it is still unclear what the ultimate
46 process will be. There will likely be workshop(s) to culminate in a recommendation. That
47 recommendation will be presented to MSFI and then MSFI will make a decision, which he hopes
48 to happen sometime between May and early June.

49 **4) Safe Streets for All Grant**

50
51 Mr. Schoefmann asked Mr. Blomquist if there was any more movement on the Safe Streets for
52 All grant. Mr. Blomquist shared that the city had applied for and received a three hundred and
53 fifty thousand dollar grant through what is referred to as Safe Streets and Roads for All (SR4). It
54 is part of the IJO money/funding. The "Getting to Zero" program is the federal highway and
55 safety program with the goal of reducing highway deaths to zero. It will look at all streets within
56 the city of Keene including state routes and identify potential improvements. There is public
57 education component included with the idea that you are working towards vehicle pedestrian
58 deaths towards zero. Within the next ten to twelve months, they will be developing this plan and
59 then in 2024/2025, they will be applying for more money for implementation.

60 Dr. Russell asked if there was potential to help add implementation funds for protected bike
61 lanes. Mr. Blomquist hopes the money could be utilized for that.

62 Mrs. Manwaring asked what happened to the Marlboro street project. Mr. Blomquist responded
63 that the money would become available in 2024 in the state plan. They are finishing final design
64 with the state right now. The project is currently over budget by six hundred thousand than what
65 is available for 2024. A committee in the state will review the updated estimate and they do not
66 anticipate any issue with approval. The state has indicated they have funding they can shift. The
67 staff has placed into the FY24 capital improvement program the additional money for the
68 twenty percent match needed for this.

69 Mr. Schoefmann shared that there is a larger meeting planned for Friday. We will know more
70 about it next month.

71

72 **5) Old Business**

73 **A) Public Art and The Trails Update**

74 Dr. Russell shared that friends of public art is having their first meeting tonight after a pause in
75 meetings. A number of things they will be discussing could touch upon this group.
76 He still has not gotten a cost of Peter Poanessa's railroad signal. They are exploring a sculpture
77 exhibit on the grounds of the Historical Society. They would have voting for the community's
78 favorite sculpture. Mr. Poanessa's signal would be mounted as a keystone for that.
79 He previously mentioned the mural at the back of Antioch was taken down and put into storage.
80 They thought they could fit it into the annex, but they would have to cut it down to make it fit.
81 They have been looking at other potential locations and investigating options. Ideally, they prefer
82 locations visible from the rail trail. Asked Mr. Bohannon to share if he had any locations that
83 might work. Mr. Bohannon suggested including community development and approaching John
84 Rogers of building and code for approval as anything that goes onto a building, even if privately
85 owned, needs to go through them for approval. Dr. Russell asked if people had suggestions,
86 please let him know where and he will investigate.

87

88 **B) Volunteer Opportunities**

89 Green up Keene and Earth Day will be April 22, 2023.
90 Pathways and Mike's group had teamed up with a table on Railroad Square. Would be happy to
91 have some BPPAC people representing. Dr. Russell discussed how Antioch had adopted West
92 Street to Winchester Street. Since they have moved, Pathways volunteers to do that stretch so
93 there is opportunity to combine forces with Mike Kowczyk's group and do the cleanup together.
94 He noted they would need to pick up bags and supplies ahead of time.
95 The rock-climbing group reached out to the Mountain Bike club on cleaning up the corridor near
96 the landfill on Route 12 North.

97

98

99 **6) Regular Project Updates**

100

101 Chair Bryenton wanted to address Mr. Mathews's earlier question about plowing on the bike
102 path running from Court to Wheelock. Mr. Bohannon stated that since Apple way is a
103 recreational trail, they only maintain corridor Eastern Avenue to West Street due to limited
104 capacity. Mr. Blomquist added that Keene has fifty-two miles of sidewalk and five units to do
105 plow all of that. It takes fourteen to sixteen hours to do one round of sidewalks. It generally takes
106 ten to twelve days after a snowstorm to do the cleanup in its entirety. With limited resources
107 (staffing), they have to prioritize. In those areas, where there is multi-use trails, there are not
108 convenient sidewalks. In spring, if snow has not been significant and there are complaints, they
109 will do a run through.

110 Chair Bryenton asked if there was some way to highlight the importance of maintaining the
111 trails. Mr. Blomquist noted that the type of trail (recreation versus transportation) would depict
112 the priority. Another aspect is expectation as this is more than just plowing, and will require
113 determining what is the expectation for the condition of these facilities/pathways.

114 Mr. Mathews asked what they would recommend for next steps. Mr. Blomquist said at the end of
115 the day this is budget and resources. He added that the City council policy for the past ten years
116 has been no tax increase beyond the CPI.

117
118 Chair Bryenton said it would be interesting in putting an infrared counter to identify usage. Kurt
119 suggested looking at the bigger picture to determine what the purpose of the trails is and what
120 benefit of maintaining them is.

121 Mr. Horner asked if they were to set up an infrared counter, is there be a particular location that
122 would make sense. Mr. Schoefmann suggested either end would be useful, but closer to
123 Wheelock Park might be better.

124 Mr. Bohannon said this conversation really comes down to and is part of the master planning
125 process. Mrs. Manwaring asked if they had money from the Council. Mr. Blomquist said there
126 are multiple different ways to get funding such as CIP (if thirty-five or bigger), operating budget
127 for anything below that, and using end of year funds or carryovers. It would also depend on what
128 is the plan for the funds.

129 Mr. Bohannon said he has been successful having a minimum CIP project with concept plans or
130 development. He suggested putting together a CIP, recognizing that it is FY25 and put thirty-five
131 thousand dollars in there and he believes Mr. Schoefmann would get the result they desire.

132 Mr. Horner asked if Southwest planning commission was selected as third party to do the work,
133 he thought it would translate into a robust work scope and with timing; it would be nice to have
134 an updated master plan in place. Mr. Bohannon noted that the master plan could offer
135 accountability.

136 Mr. Horner added that an updated master plan would be useful in having conversations about the
137 downtown infrastructure and there might be advantages in doing it sooner than 2025.

138 Mr. Schoefmann said he is working with Mr. Harry McKelvey in highway to establish a baseline
139 of the needs to road striping and possibly reducing unnecessary costs. He also stated they are
140 planning to try to submit the application for Bike Friendly Community at the end of summer.

141 Mr. Blomquist said he needed to visit with Mr. Don Lussier, City Engineer regarding the Lower
142 Winchester Street project. The steering committee that has been working on it just had a meeting
143 and had an update on traffic and potential intersections. They will be meeting again late April. It
144 is a unique challenge as the volume of southbound traffic is much more substantial and creating a
145 challenge of how to accommodate without creating a six-lane highway.

146 Chair Bryenton asked if the project was at a point where having someone at the meeting would
147 be helpful and he agreed.

148 Mr. Blomquist updated and shared that the transportation heritage trail has two sources of
149 funding. The first is the congressionally directed funding and the other is the transportation
150 alternative program (TAP) grant. Project estimates have increased substantially and both funds
151 will be fully utilized to fund that project.

152

153 7) **New Business**

154

155 A) **Winter count for Apple Way**

156 B) **Master Plan**

157 **C) Primer for prioritization of projects**

158 **D) Report on Website**

159 Mr. Bower asked the North Bridge over Route 12 is usually covered in snow until it gets packed
160 down. He asked for clarification on the jurisdiction of the bridge since it is plowed up to one
161 side, but then the plowing ceases. Mr. Blomquist explained that the city owns all the way to the
162 highway. The north bridge sits on that side and goes over the highway. The state takes over the
163 opposite side. They plow from the Cheshire trail up to the bridge, but they do not go over the
164 bridge because it is a wood deck. The snowmobile clubs take over on the opposite side. They
165 groom from underneath the bridge and then go up the rail trail north. He maintains the corridor in
166 spring, summer and fall. It is owned by the state including signage, benches, etc. For
167 maintenance, they do not maintain the bridge at all.

168

169 **8) More Time**

170 **A) BPPAC Website**

171 **B) Wayfinding/Amenities- North and South Bridge Signage**

172 **C) Bike/Pedestrian Counts**

173 **D) Kiosk Map Updates**

174 **9) Adjournment**

175 **A) Next Meeting: April 12, 2023**

176

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

178

179 Respectfully submitted by,
180 Amanda Trask, Minute Taker

181

182 Reviewed and edited by,
183 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	Revised scope of work developed to work with Southwest Regional Planning Commission to finish work on the plan in 2024/5. Annual project evaluation by BPPAC.
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 is ongoing - trail/sidewalk connector in Engineering Design phase.
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. Council Workshops on going.
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 completed. Next steps signage design and placement in conjunction with City branding effort.
↓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

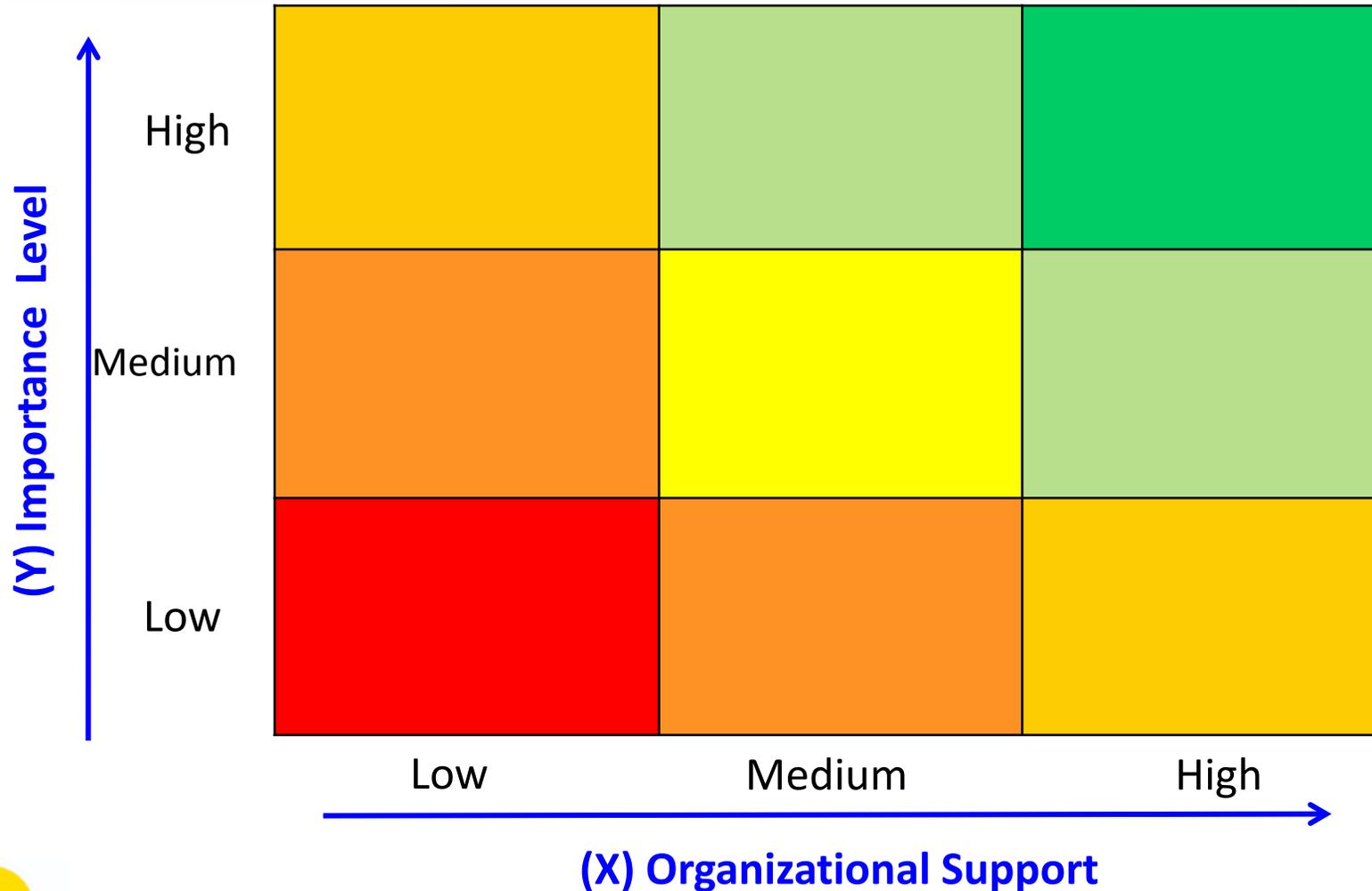
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Master Plan	N/A	N/A	Delayed	City Staff	\$5K	N/A	Spring 2014	Fall 2021	Behind	Scope of work developed and funding available to work with Southwest Regional Planning Commission to finish work on the plan in 2022. Awaiting SWRPC draft contract and timeline. 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.
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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.
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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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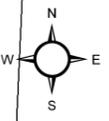
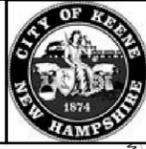
BPPAC: Project Priority Assessment Tool



(X) Organizational Support = Budget + Policy (CIP/Operational Budget + City Code/State Law + Program Opportunities)
(Y) Importance Level = Community Objectives (Safety + Sustainability + Accessibility + Availability + Connectivity)

BIKE-PED MASTERPLAN PROJECT LOCATIONS

Updated: January 2019



Proposed 2019

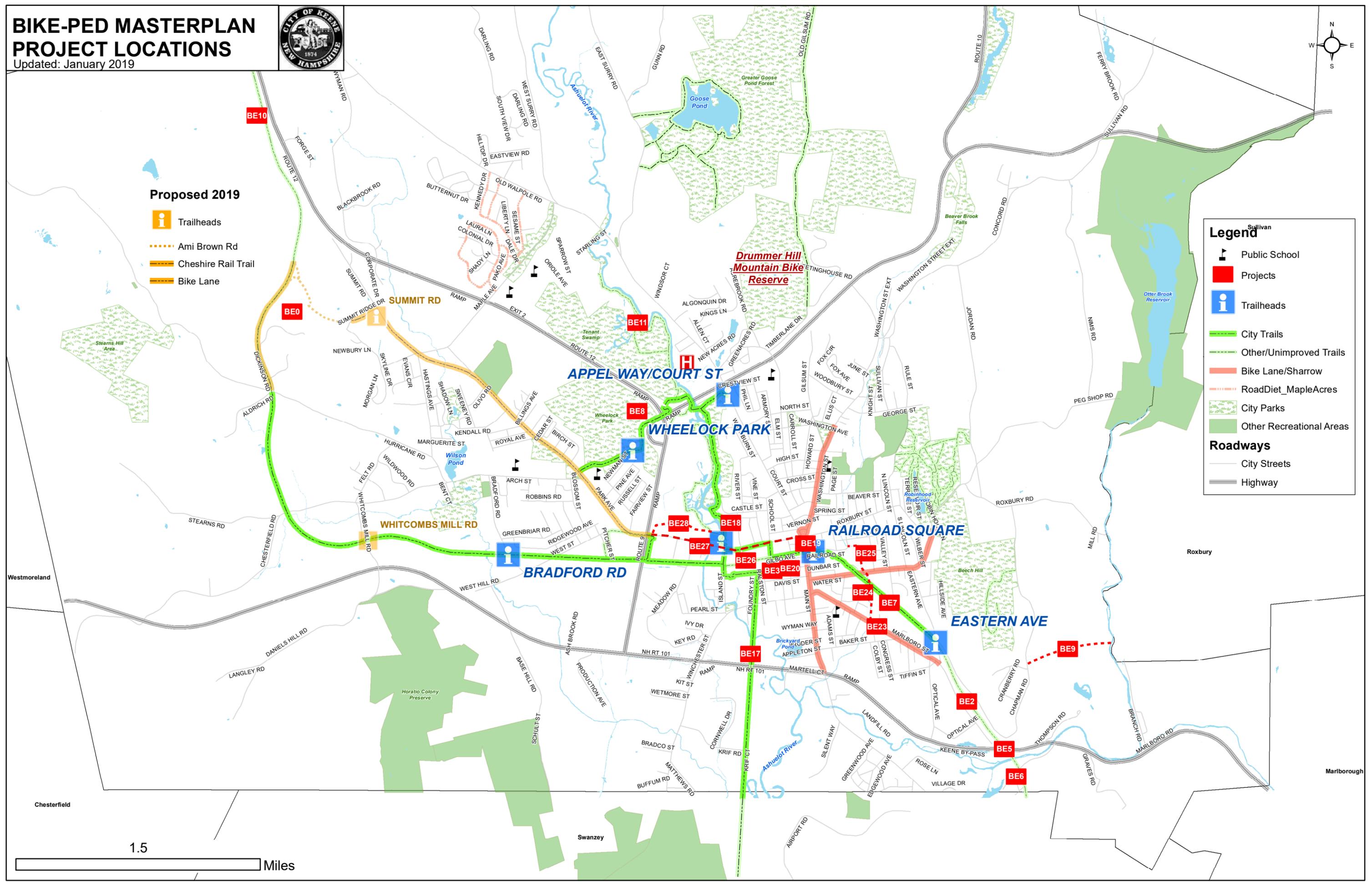
- Trailheads
- Ami Brown Rd
- Cheshire Rail Trail
- Bike Lane

Legend

- Public School
- Projects
- Trailheads
- City Trails
- Other/Unimproved Trails
- Bike Lane/Sharrows
- RoadDiet_MapleAcres
- City Parks
- Other Recreational Areas

Roadways

- City Streets
- Highway



1.5 Miles