

FINAL

**PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2019  
CITY HALL, WEST MEETING ROOM  
7:00 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Kelleher (Vice-Chair); Erling Heistad (City Council); Alan Schnur; Marie McCormick; Megan Chapman; Sarah Crysl Akhtar; Clifton Below (Alt)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Colin Smith (Chair); Kenneth Warren (Friends of Northern Rail Trail); Shane Smith (Alt. Council Representative)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Rebecca Owens (Associate Planner); Shaun Mulholland (City Manager)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Alex Belenz

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**1) CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice-Chair Kelleher called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Clifton Below was appointed to vote in place of Colin Smith.

**2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** May 7, 2019

Page 1, line 22, delete "on May 26<sup>th</sup>"; line 24 to read, "Rebecca described the walk to school activities taking place at Lebanon Elementary Schools."; line 32, to read, "There were no crashes involving pedestrians or bicyclists in March." Page 2, line 8, delete April 6; Page 4, line 14, to read, "Ms. McCormick suggested that streetlight maps could be available..."

***MOVED by Alan Schnur to approve the May 7, 2019 Minutes as amended. Seconded by Erling Heistad.***

***\*The MOTION was approved (6-0). Megan Chapman abstained.***

**3) STUDY ITEMS:**

- A. Miracle Mile/LISTEN Safety Countermeasures and Crossing** – City Manager Shaun Mulholland updated the members on the status of the Miracle Mile project. The City applied for \$200,000 grant to leverage a potential \$1M to improve pedestrian sidewalks in the area along Miracle Mile. The City also worked with Advance Transit to get additional funds for a better bus stop. The DPW is working on the design plan for a crosswalk at Listen Center. This would include an island in the middle of road with sidewalk extending from the driveways on either side of the road. It would be a \$250K project, but no funds have been appropriated yet. Since the project involves signals, streetlights, a crosswalk, an island and sidewalks, they can't get it done quickly. It involves moving poles and guide wires, and the Miracle Mile owners have not agreed to using some property on their side. They could propose to the City Council some interim options, i.e. paint a crosswalk, install flashing lights, a new streetlight, and signage. It would be a small project for someone to do this summer, but they are not likely to find anyone to do it on short notice. Most contractors are fully booked. The real need is for safe havens on both sides, which would be difficult to keep clear in the winter. People will be walking in the breakdown

lane and may be at more risk than they are now. The City is moving as quickly as possible. Ms. Akhtar noted it is an urgent problem and asked when the project was brought to the City Council. Mr. Schnur referred to the crosswalks on Bank Street in front of the old Junion High School, which at least provide a right of way for pedestrians and questioned how much more dangerous a crosswalk at Miracle Mile would be. Mr. Below noted that J-walking is not prohibited, and drivers must stop for pedestrians that are crossing. The current plan for the crossing was displayed, and Manager Mulholland explained the current design plan, which would be updated to include full sidewalks on both sides of the road. Some items need to be on private property of the Miracle Mile. Ms. Owens stated that the DPW has researched all aspects of the project. Ms. McCormick asked if more could be done with signs for this year. Ms. Chapman inquired about applying the Complete Streets policy to Miracle Mile. Manager Mulholland stated that the Council would hear both sides and make a decision. Mr. Kelleher expressed the need for a temporary understanding. Manager Mulholland reiterated the Council could approve the funds for the temporary crossing, which is a small job hoping someone would be willing to fit it in and finish it the following year. A major factor is that it is a state road. Mr. Schnur referred to a meeting with Greg Norman at DHMC, where he offered to try to mobilize \$25,000 for a temporary crosswalk across Miracle Mile to Listen, in recognition of the importance of Listen for the community. Mr. Schnur noted that with the construction on the Mascoma Bridge, there is currently not a safe way for pedestrians to reach the Mscoma River Greenway from Colburn Park due to the need to cross Route 4 without a crosswalk or any signage at all. Mr. Mulholland advised that there is a plan to repave and remark the crosswalks on High Street and Mascoma Street, but no date has been set. Ms. Owens mentioned that other cities have used reflective tape for temporary crosswalks.

## **B. Updates from Other Boards**

1. **Planning Office** - Rebecca Owens explained the Centerra/DHMC notice of regional impact regarding the parking lot expansion near Jesse's and a new tower project on the main campus. It raises issues over the potential increase in traffic and the impact on pedestrians and bicyclists. There will also be a new Advance Transit bus stop. The project will add 127 more parking spaces. Ms. Chapman noted people are already using the breakdown lane as a turn lane. Ms. Owens added that a site is being sought for a biomass plant near there on Route 120, but there are no project updates.
2. **Safe Routes to School** – Ms. Owens made an inquiry to the Police Department but hasn't heard back yet.
3. **City Council** – Erling Heistad reported approved two block grants, River Valley College and Headrest to create more space. They also approved City Manager Mulholland entering an agreement with River Valley Community College for a Parks and Recreation office. The old space will be renovated for new IT space and a box office space for the Lebanon Opera House.
4. **Planning Board** – Ms. Owens added that David Brooks is working on the right of way approvals for the 12A sidewalks. The Planning Board Rep for Ped-Bike will now be Karen Zook.
5. **Class VI Roads** – Colin Smith – not present
6. **Police Reports** – Alan Schnur – There were no crashes involving pedestrians or bicyclists in April. Mr. Schnur reported that he and Mr. Kelleher had an informal meeting at Dartmouth Injury Prevention Center regarding data on crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists. They provided some preliminary information on the last two years, 2017-2018, which recorded 81 bicyclists and 56 pedestrians from the trauma database for the entire catchment area of Dartmouth ahitchcock.

The IPC reports also include data on bike-bike and bike-ped crashes as well as bike crashes with a stationary object, possibly like a sewer grating, or slipping on gravel that was not cleaned up; crashes that would not be captured by police reports. So the IPC data is promising, but still not certain how much detail can be provided. There is room for further collaboration. They are able to sort them by zip codes. Due to privacy issues, it is only aggregated data. Ms. Akhtar asked if they can state what percent involves impairment. Mr. Schnur didn't know if they could do that, but he will have more information later. Mr. Kelleher noted that DHMC wasn't originally thinking of Rail Trail, but they are focused on safety and injury prevention on the Rail Trail. Ms. Owens asked that Mr. Schnur inquire about incidents involving electric bicycles. Mr. Kelleher stated that they are focused on electric bikes and include them in their statistics.

7. **Mascoma River Greenway** – Colin Smith – not present
8. **Rails to Trails** – Ken Warren – not present - Ken Warren is stepping down but would like to present with Dick McKay on some next steps for the Rail Trail. The members were signing a card for him. The Council is passing a resolution tomorrow night to recognize Ken's contributions. Mr. Below stated that there were originally representatives from each community through Friends of the Northern Rail Trail. He gave a history of beginnings of the rail trail regarding maintenance with representatives from the local towns. Over time, that participation dwindled. Ms. Chapman inquired about the issue of City involvement in Rail Trail maintenance. Ms. Akhtar suggested working with high school students for signage as an educational project for students to create something to inform those using the trail and ways to contribute. Mr. Schnur agreed with Ms. Chapman and asked about the City being involved in maintenance. Ms. Owens agreed that maintenance of the Rail Trail needs to be institutionalized, adding that it should not be up to an individual and suggested working with Hypertherm. The members discussed ways to maintain the Rail Trail and find leadership. It was agreed to make "Update of the Rail Trail Status" a regular monthly item.

#### 4) OTHER BUSINESS:

1. **PBAC membership updates** – Alex Belenz is waiting to be interviewed as a member.
2. **Education/Encouragement: Curb the Car Day, Bike Rodeo debriefings** – Ms. McCormick reported that despite the weather, Curb the Car Day was successful. Mr. Kelleher shared that a man at Kilton Library put his bike up that he had motorized. It cost \$600-800 to motorize any bike, and he handed out directions with sources for parts and procedure to do it yourself. Ms. Owens noted that one must be careful. There is a need for more information for the public on manufactured versus homemade electric bikes in terms of safety. Mr. Schnur stated that under the new State law there are three different categories for electric bikes, which governs where they can ride; the State law gives Lebanon the power to prohibit e-bikes on some roads and trails. The Bike Rodeo was well attended with 105 registrations plus parents and was very successful. Mr. Below added that the Police Department was involved. The members agreed that Ms. Owens did an excellent job of organizing. They will need a coordinator for next year, and it is a big job.
3. **Mall Tunnel Wayfinding** – Ms. Owens discussed the many pathways and noted that more signage is needed for pedestrians for trails and crossings, particularly near CCBA, Taylor Street, and Spencer Street. Mr. Below displayed a map to explain the position of crosswalks and paths that can be used from the Rail Trail to the Tunnel. There is definitely a need for signage for wayfinding. Ms. Akhtar suggested having a high school student group paint a map on the wall coming out of the tunnel. If it is a City project, it could be done by community members. Mr. Below noted one section that should be widened coming right off the Rail Trail in front of CCBA so a bicycle could go in either direction. Ms. Owens said it is important to have wayfinding to all the various trails, and Planning Staff will mark up the way they think paths and features should

be. Mr. Below stated that the City may be reconfiguring the entire Taylor Street and parking lot area. Ms. Akhtar asked if the consultants would be considering what the people want. Ms. Owens stated they are taking all input into account and things are continually changing. Mr. Kelleher observed this committee could have valuable input. Ms. Owens noted the next review is in July. Ms. Akhtar asked if AVA could be involved. Mr. Below suggested that Hypertherm might donate some plasma cut signs.

**4. Communications: Valley News, reflective souvenirs, social media**

Mr. Kelleher opened the discussion of communications, noting there are many issues related to communication and the importance of getting information out about the work the committee does. There are means of communication about safety available that could enhance the committee's profile. Mr. Schnur stated the importance of educating the public, both pedestrians and bicyclists as well as motor vehicle drivers, about ped-bike safety issues, by disseminating information on resources and safety. Ms. Akhtar suggesting using the local radio station. Ms. Owens offered they may want to target people with specific issues like safety, and the public could be invited to attend Ped-Bike meetings to discuss their concerns. Ms. Akhtar suggested targeting specific needs, like the need for people to maintain the Rail Trail and interviewing Colin and Rebecca on public radio. Mr. Below suggested using the center pull-out of Lebanon Times to feature a special topic or having a Ped-Bike column. Ms. Akhtar noted the importance of reaching younger people in ways they are communicating and receiving information. Ms. Chapman shared that the State has an online interactive map at [nhpedbikeplan.com](http://nhpedbikeplan.com) with access by phone to make suggestions and comments on bike routes.

Mr. Kelleher shared that there is an artist in Northampton, MA, who would design a bike rack with the Lebanon zip code, and offered to get a quote from him.

**5) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- 1. Ped-Bike Plan & Wikimap**
- 2. Development Regulation Review**
- 3. Lahaye Drive Path TAP Project Update**
- 4. NHDOT Paving Projects**
- 5. Bikeshare Programs**
- 6. E-Bikes (road and mountain)**
- 7. Bike Rack Requirements and Mall Location**

**6) OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

**5) ADJOURNMENT:**

***MOVED by Megan Chapman to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. Seconded by Marie McCormick.  
\* The MOTION passed (7-0).***

Respectfully submitted,  
Holly Howes, Recording Secretary