

FINAL

**PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLIST ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 51 NORTH PARK STREET &
REMOTE VIA WEBEX [LebanonNH.gov/LIVE](https://lebanonnh.gov/LIVE)
7:00 PM, TUESDAY OCTOBER 5, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Colin Smith (Chair); Erling Heistad (City Council); Alan Schnur; Amy Chan; Clifton Below (Alt); John Kelleher; Marie McCormick (Vice-Chair)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sarah Crysl Akhtar; Gregorio Amaro (Planning Board); George Sykes (City Council Alt)

STAFF PRESENT: Tim Corwin (Senior Planner)

1) CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

A roll call was conducted to confirm attendance as two members participated ~~online~~ virtually: Mr. Schnur and Ms. Chan.

Mr. Below was appointed to serve as a regular member in place of Ms. Akhtar.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES: none

3) OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: none

4) STUDY ITEMS:

A. Updates from Other Boards

- Planning Office – No updates.
- Safe Routes to School – No updates.
- City Council – Mr. Heistad noted that a community nurse position was approved. This position could be shared by as many as four people. The Police salary plan and policy were also approved. There was discussion that the Council approved the Lebanon Community Power Aggregation Plan. Also, on October 1, 2021, 14 communities, 3 cities, and 10 towns in Cheshire County joined in a joint agreement for the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire. The Council approved Lebanon's involvement in this agreement and adopted the necessary bylaws.
- Planning Board/CIP – Mr. Corwin reviewed an application for Spencer Street that is currently before the Planning Board.
- Police Reports – Mr. Schnur shared that the August City Manager report shows zero pedestrian and bicyclist crashes. There has been a total of two crashes this year so far; there was five crashes by this time last year.
- Mascoma River Greenway – No updates.
- Class VI Roads – Chair Smith indicated that this group would meet towards the end of the month. He noted that there is a small, short road that links between Old Kings Highway and Poverty Lane. The upper portion of this road is still clearly there.
- State of NH Updates – No updates.

- Rails to Trails – Mr. Schnur stated that Paul Coats is working on trail etiquette signs. The intention is to have these signs up along the trail by the end of the fall. He noted that AT&T has fixed three erosion points in Lebanon. There are map and website updates being worked on. Chair Smith explained that the Ruth Shepard Trail may be resurfaced and widened to match the new trail DPW built leading up to the school.
- Communications Plan – Ms. McCormick suggested that the group start thinking about Back-to-School safety reminders, and reminders regarding daylight savings time at the end of October.

B. Multimodal Plan / Multimodal Plan Advisory Committee (this item was taken at this time)

Chair Smith noted that the project has been taken up by the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Commission and the City.

Ms. McCormick explained that educational outreach was performed at the Farmer's Market. The feedback received spoke to people wanting to put time and money into making locations around the City safer for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Chair Smith stated that the City is forming a Project Advisory Committee, made up of 8 members. The Pedestrian & Bicyclist Advisory Committee is being asked to select one representative to the new Committee. The Committee will meet approximately four times in Phase I.

Mr. Corwin noted that, if Phase II is funded, these meeting will occur next summer. In October, the Committee will discuss the project overview. In December, the Committee will focus on a presentations of analyses. The February meeting will focus on the presentation of corridor conditions analyses, etc. The April meeting will focus on the public involvement plan. Other members of the Committee will be a representative from City staff, Christina Hall (city engineer/DPW), Paul Coats, City Council, Ped/Bicyclist Committee, Planning Board, Advanced Transit, and a number of Friends of the Committee.

Ms. McCormick and Chair Smith agreed that they would like to both volunteer to sit on this Committee, depending on timing of meetings.

C. NHDOT Rt. 120 / I-89 Exit projects alternative matrix

The Committee reviewed the Rt. 120 projects alternative matrix.

Mr. Heistad asked if there is two-way traffic anticipated on the bike path, as mentioned in the option to possibly be located on the east side of Rt. 120. He noted that having two- way traffic in this area is much different than in other locations in which a grassy strip separates motor vehicle traffic from cyclists/pedestrians.

Chair Smith stated that the intersection at Hanover Street appears to be almost failing with the current stop sign in place. A traffic light might have a calming effect in this area and slow traffic as it moves onto Hanover Street. He noted that there are letters from members of the public that express concern about this intersection.

Ms. McCormick noted that all of the options presented for the Hanover Street intersection, as well as several other intersections, fail to meet the goals for both bicycle and pedestrian mobility in this area. This is a problem. Chair Smith agreed and stated that ideas are needed to enhance these project options, or new options are needed.

Mr. Heistad stated that the outcome of the options still leading to a failure for bicyclists and pedestrians means that more needs to be done to take action to protect the citizens.

The group discussed a possible island at the Heater Road intersection with pedestrian/cyclist signal controls, and/or extending a sidewalk to this area.

Mr. Heistad stated that he believes people need to rethink the way roads are designed, with an eye towards pedestrians and cyclists, versus only motor vehicles.

Chair Smith noted that the Evans Drive intersection has no traffic signs or crosswalks.

Chair Smith stated that the current median at the Heater Road intersection could be improved. There are long right turn lanes in this area, but they are not striped in a way to protect the bike lane for straight across the intersection movement. He noted that this intersection appears to be failing considerably and it is unclear as to what the potential improvements could be.

There was discussion regarding the safety of cycling through roundabouts.

Chair Smith noted that a crosswalk seems to be important for the Etna Road / Rt. 120 intersection.

Chair Smith noted that there is mention of Transit / TDM on the matrix. This involves reducing the travel demand on infrastructure through possibly encouraging people to work from home or to work during staggered shifts. This also involves a discussion regarding improving parking at bus stops and the ability of buses to carry bicycles.

The group discussed why the option to install a traffic light at Hanover Street intersection is not included on this matrix. The group agreed to continue to push this forward as a necessary possibility to be included.

The group agreed to continue to discuss this matrix and other options in the future.

5) OTHER BUSINESS: None.

6) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & FOLLOW-UP NEEDS: None.

7) ADJOURNMENT:

A Motion was made by Mr. Kelleher to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Mr. Heistad

Roll Call Vote:

Members voting in favor included Mr. Below, Mr. Heistad, Ms. Chan, Ms. McCormick, Mr. Schnur, Mr. Kelleher, and Chair Smith.

None voted Nay.

****The vote on the MOTION was unanimously approved (7-0).***

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Patenaude, Recording Secretary