

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)
4:00 PM, TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Colin Smith (Chair); Amy Chan; Adams Carroll (remote); Clifton Below (Alt) (remote); Sean Dittrich; Marie McCormick; Jake Kelleher

MEMBERS ABSENT: George Sykes (City Council Alt); Gregorio Amaro; Haynes Bunn; Dave Koch; Erling Heistad (City Council)

STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Owens (Associate Planner)

1) CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM. The Committee conducted a roll call attendance.

2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. August 2, 2022

A Motion was made by Ms. McCormick to accept the meeting minutes of August 2, 2022, as amended. Seconded by Mr. Dittrich.

- *Page 3, Line 29 – Change Ms. McCormick to Ms. Chan*

**The vote on the MOTION was approved by Roll Call:*

Kelleher - aye, Chan - aye, Smith - aye, McCormick - aye, Dittrich - aye, Carroll – aye; (6-0-0).

3) OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: None at this time.

5) OTHER BUSINESS – *The Committee took up this item at this time.*

A. State Active Transportation Update

Nick Sanders, Active Transportation Engineer with New Hampshire DOT, shared that the Bureau of Rail and Transit is planning to publish the finalized Statewide Rail Trail Plan this week. New Hampshire DOT is also working on the Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan; this is being led by the Highway Design group, with the emphasis on active transportation. In 2018/2019 there was a robust public input process, and the group has been in communication with all of the Regional Planning Commissions. Hopefully, in September there will be one last opportunity for project reviewers to review the final draft comment. The intention is to publish the Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan at some point this fall.

Ms. Owens explained that the Walk Bike Ride Lebanon Multimodal Plan is underway, and the Committee would like for it to be as useful a tool as possible. Mr. Sanders stated that he believes the two most important things coming from the Plan are identifying the projects and gaps in those networks, keeping them current, and speaking up about them whenever possible. The Committee should also continue to investigate all potential grant opportunities.

Ms. Owens noted issues with rail trail use and user conflicts, partly due to the rise in overall popularity of rail trails but also with consideration of how E-bikes are a new dynamic. Education and signage have been identified as the top solutions currently. Mr. Sanders stated that he agrees that being courteous and proper rail trail etiquette are the most important solutions to help with this item. He will reach out to Vermont to see if similar issues are occurring there and to discuss potential other solutions. The Bike Walk Alliance of New Hampshire has stated that it is happy to help with educational partnerships.

It was noted that the City does not have the ability to regulate and enforce the speed along the rail trail.

The group discussed the extension of the Mascoma River Greenway to the Rail Trail. Mr. Sanders stated that advocacy groups are looking to help fill those gaps. Rail with trail will be addressed to a certain degree in the Rail Trail Plan coming out this week.

Regarding the Safe Routes to Schools program, Mr. Sanders stated that he spoke with the Director of Planning and Assistance at DOT and these programs have generally been rolled into the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP). He encouraged communities to work with the local regional planning commission regarding staffing and funding.

The group discussed State updates. Mr. Sanders noted that the Complete Streets Advisory Committee typically meets approximately 6 -10 times a year and all regional planning commissions are invited to attend the meeting. This is typically a good way to receive information about what is going on at the State level.

Mr. Sanders stated that the State is looking to continue to refine the footprint of vehicle and bike/ped lanes through resurfacing projects. He advocated for active transportation and stated that he is happy to be a source of information on the topic.

4) STUDY ITEMS

A. Updates from Other Boards

- Planning Office - Planning Staff / Planning Board / CIP Meeting

Ms. Owens explained that an application for a large multifamily project in downtown Lebanon, near Foundry Street, will be heard soon by the Planning Board. This is being framed as a walkable community with an emphasis on common open space connecting the different structures. She stated that she believes the proposal is for approximately 190 units. There will likely be discussion regarding how to tie this into existing infrastructure and also enhance it to some degree.

The group discussed a proposed project on Mechanic Street. Mr. Below explained that the project is proposing a middle section of road to not have vehicular traffic but to allow for emergency vehicle access. A large parking garage is proposed, with the potential for residential units on the upper levels. The applicant is also proposing a publicly accessible area, with a river walk and bridge out to the island. Mr. Carroll stated that this project may be a great change to improve transit and pedestrian interactions in this area.

Ms. Owens noted that David Brooks is now a Deputy City Manager. Tim Corwin is now the Interim Planning and Development Director.

- Safe Routes to School - Planning Staff

This was previously addressed.

- City Council - Erling Heistad

Mr. Below noted that the City Council is generally supportive of seeking legislation to allow for control of speed along the Greenway. The Council continues to invite input on the Strategic Plan.

- Planning Board/CIP Meeting - Gregorio Amaro

This item was not addressed at this time.

- Police Reports - Alan Schnur

Ms. Owens explained that Mr. Schnur has shared that two crashes involving pedestrians and/or bicyclists occurred in July. This brings the year-to-date total for 2022 up to six crashes. The 2021 year-to-date total

by July was only one crash. The group discussed that it might be helpful to know causes, when possible, for the crashes.

- Mascoma River Greenway Coalition - Colin Smith

Ms. Owens stated that the Recreation Department is hoping to add new signage shortly.

- Class VI Roads - Colin Smith

The group met to discuss the portion of Class VI road off Dorset Lane.

- State of NH Updates – Vacant

This was already addressed.

- Rails to Trails - Amy Chan

Ms. Chan explained that surfacing has begun on the northern part of the Rail Trail. The group would like to pursue a project to paint a bike lane from the end of the multi-use path that extends from Spencer St. Ms. Owens suggested that the group write a letter to the Public Works Department and/or City Manager's Office regarding this item. Ms. Chan stated that the group would also like to be kept up to date regarding the speeding issue along the Greenway. The trishaw has been acquired, pilots are being trained, and the intention is to begin rides within the next month or so. She noted that volunteers will be resurfacing a section of the Riverside Drive intersection in October to create a smoother transition from the trail.

- Communications Plan - Marie McCormick

Ms. McCormick suggested that there be some communications regarding bike/ped safety and back-to-school. The group discussed the possibility of a project with the Walking School Bus and/or a tour of some of the facilities near the school.

The group discussed the difficulties of biking to the Middle School from certain areas of the City.

Mr. Kelleher noted a story from Hoboken, New Jersey, which has reduced crashes within the City to zero, mainly via on reducing the speed limit to 20mph and communicating this information. Ms. Owens noted that a Vision Zero policy is being considered for discussion in Lebanon.

- B. Update on multimodal and complete streets implementation plan

This item was not addressed at this time.

- C. Review and Discussion of Draft Strategic Plan

This item was not addressed at this time.

5) OTHER BUSINESS

- A. State Active Transportation Update

This item was previously addressed.

- B. Updates on City and NH DOT Projects

This item was not addressed at this time.

- C. Bike Friendly Community Designation Renewal - new application

This item was not addressed at this time.

- D. NYC Safety Measures Ranking

This item was not addressed at this time.

- E. Rail Trail User Conflicts

This item was not addressed at this time.

F. E-bike Charging Station Locations
This item was not addressed at this time.

6) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & FOLLOW-UP NEEDS: - *These items were not addressed at this time*

- A. Bike racks/Repair stations
- B. CIP Project Proposals
- C. Update Communications Plan and Calendar

7) ADJOURNMENT:

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

Seconded by Ms. Chan.

Kelleher - aye, Chan - aye, Smith - aye, McCormick - aye, Dittrich - aye, Carroll – aye; (6-0-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Patenaude, Recording Secretary