

Transportation Implementation Committee

Minutes

October 25, 2016

In attendance: Supervisor Bettez, Harry Ellis, Gail Gallerie, Mark Sherman and Tom Weiner

Also attending: Chris Marx and Josh Tabak

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Center

After minor editorial revision, the minutes of the September 27 meeting were approved as distributed.

Chair's Report

Gail thanked Allan for serving in her absence as chair pro tem for the September meeting and Mark for preparing the minutes.

Note was taken of the Town Board's recent approval of annual contract and Trailways funding costs associated with NPPD providing traffic control during Thanksgiving week's high demand for bus service. Gail commented on the desirability of more traffic generators would making similar arrangements.

Gail shared background on Highway Superintendent's recommendation to close the rail trail bridge on Springtown Road. Chris Marx explained that plans to upgrade this bridge using New York Rising funding had been scuttled due \$1.8 million price tag for the final design on which \$30k of the expected funding had been spent.

Ulster County had recently approved the installation of a crosswalk on the Springtown end of the bridge which triggered an inspection revealing that the bridge is unsafe for continued use. A consulting engineer had inspected the bridge this morning and confirmed that the structure is unsafe for current use. Chris has recommended closing the bridge and the committee concurred that safety concerns required closing. When the bridge is closed it will be for an indeterminate period since funding for repairs has yet to be obtained. When the bridge is closed, there will be no access to the rail trail from west of the Wallkill. During the ensuing discussion, the committee recommended to Chris that an announcement of the closing be placed, in advance if possible, in the *New Paltz Times*, and signage posted. Concern for rail trail users from Rosendale and Chris reported that he'd alerted the appropriate officials there.

BPC

In the absence of Trustee Rocco, there was no committee report. However, note was taken of the BPC's successful advocacy for bike/ped shoulders on Rt. 299 which resulted in those being installed in September, well in advance of the Ulster County's plans to do these. Harry shared an episode he'd recently had when these new shoulders proved to be a life-saver. Mark spoke of his concern about the

need for shoulder improvements on Rt. 208 and other state roads. Tom explained that lack of funding in recent years has prevented DOT's creating bike/ped shoulders but that DOT does repair existing shoulders in conjunction with scheduled road repair work.

Loop Reports

Reports for September and third quarter establish modest increase in both college and community ridership. Harry drew attention to a UCAT ad recently published in the *New Paltz Times* and highlighted the disadvantages of the print size, etc. to its effectiveness. He suggested that the college's public communications department be called upon to assist with ads to be placed with campus radio and TV stations. He suggested that UCAT consider placing a free ad with the weekly *Times Herald Record* circular mailed to New Paltz residents. He also urged that efforts be made to expand underutilized weekend service to include periodic runs to the Preserve and Minnewaska. Gail will ask the college to convene another meeting with the representatives of the students and UCAT to discuss these suggestions.

Updates

Road Safety

The recommendations adopted at the September meeting had not yet been conveyed to the Town Board. At its October 20 meeting, the Town Board had agreed to pursue the recommendation of the Town Planning Board to request of DOT an investigation of safety improvements and speed limit reductions on Rt. 299 west of the Wallkill. It is expected that the requested study would include review of the Butternutville/Albany Post Road intersection issues. Gail will express the committee's appreciation for the town board's action on this.

Harry suggested that "stop" be painted in yellow (to be visible when roads are covered with snow) at the Albany Post/Butternutville intersection. Chris reported that he had already ordered a stencil for this purpose was awaiting receipt from the vendor and hoped to do the work this year. After discussion, it was agreed that white paint will be used and yellow considered if experience supports Harry's concerns. A question was raised about whether there is a "stop-ahead" sign on Albany Post.

The recommendations made at the last meeting requesting a speed limit reduction on Rt. 208 and a stop sign at Mountain Rest/Springtown were reviewed. Noting Neil's caution about flooding the county with requests and Josh's questioning the advisability of a third stop sign on Springtown, the previously adopted recommendations were reaffirmed.

Henry W. DuBois Shoulders

A bicyclist having been hit by a car on Rt. 299 east of Butternutville Road with resulting serious injuries for the bicyclist had been a catalyst for the county's advancing its schedule for shoulders on Rt. 299 (see above) and also for planned shoulders on Henry W. DuBois. Chris' 3 yr. plan to do this work was dramatically escalated so that the work has been nearly completed in this the first year. Chris and Village DPW head, Bleu Terwilliger, were commended to this outstanding example of inter-municipal

assistance and cooperation. Tom noted that the painting of sharrows on these shoulders had begun but should not be used because sharrows indicate shared use of roads by cars and bicyclists. Chris noted that bike symbols should be substituted for sharrows on these shoulders.

Rt.208/Mohonk Avenue intersection (cf. Mayor Rogers' 8/15 email)

While noting that the Village Planner had identified issues that need to be addressed, the committee was supportive of the Mayor's proposal to close-off one section of the dual access. During the discussion of pedestrian safety concerns which prompted this proposal, concern was expressed again about the need for a sidewalk on Rt. 208 beginning at the west entrance to the college and continuing north.

New Business

Village crosswalks (cf. Mayor Roger's 10/12 communique to DOT).

The Village had formally requested installation of crosswalks at Main/Prospect Streets, Main/Church Street and Rt. 32 near Gateway Industries and Bonticou Drive. Note was taken that DOT had responded to previous requests for the first two of these crosswalks by identifying extensive and expensive work the Village would have to undertake before crosswalks at these locations could be approved.

Harry asked that "rumble strips" be added to the next agenda. Tom reported that DOT has begun adding these where the speed limit is 45 mph or greater.

Mark's announcement that the increasing demands of his other commitments have led to his deciding to retire from the committee at the end of this calendar year was received with expressions of dismay.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail K. Gallerie