

Bicycle Pedestrian Committee
Meeting Agenda
July 29, 2019

PRESENT

Dan Lipson, Judy Mage, Janelle Peotter, Rich Souto, Michele Zipp

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm.

Agenda:

1. Approval of minutes from previous meeting
2. Letter to Town Planning Board re Trans-Hudson proposed development: members support the submission of letter to the Town Planning Board, Ulster County Department of Public Works, and New York State Department of Transportation advocating the following:
 - a. Removal of the proposed vehicle entrance from Main Street (Route 299) into this development,
 - b. Reduction lanes from three to two for the entrance/exit from N. Putt Corners Road in and out of this proposed development,
 - c. Reduction of the speed limits on the adjoining sections of both Main Street (Route 299) and N. Putt Corners Road from 45 mph to 30 mph, and
 - d. Requirement that Trans-Hudson build a safe and attractive bicycle/pedestrian path around the rear of this proposed development for cyclists and pedestrians to be able to traverse the Empire State Trail without risking their safety at this busy corner.

3. Update on Dan Lipson's Fri Jul 26 meeting with County Executive Pat Ryan, Deputy County Executive Marc Rider, and Director of Planning Dennis Doyle:

Pat Ryan, Marc Rider, and Dennis Doyle were all receptive to our committee's request to lower speed limits on Putt Corners Road (both North and South), Plutarch Road, Main Street near the proposed Trans-Hudson development, Route 299 from the Carmine Liberta Bridge to Springtown Road, Libertyville Road, and Route 299 near the to-be-built new Mohonk Preserve Gatehouse trailhead. They have made these requests to New York State Department of Transportation previously, and each time the requests have been denied. **Marc Rider** will made the request again for North Putt Corners given the change of use – namely the Empire State Trail as well as the proposed Trans-Hudson development. He will also request a reduction in the speed limit on Route 299 from the Carmine Liberta Bridge to Springtown Road to 40 or 45mph.

The four of us discussed the idea of approaching the Ferrante family (who own the Wallkill View farm) about reviving a long-existing proposal from the 1980s to build a bicycle/pedestrian path along the Wallkill River from the Carmine Liberta Bridge to the Ulster County fairgrounds. *Dan will write up this proposal.* Then both our committee members and the county officials can reach out to the Open Space Institute to pitch this idea.

They also shared that Stewart's and the New York State Department of Transportation have agreed to Stewart's moving to the former Citgo gas station at the corner of Henry W. duBois

Drive and Route 32N. Stewart's and the New York State Department of Transportation will split the \$400,000 cost of installing a traffic light. Vehicles will only be able to enter Stewart's from 32N via right-hand turn. Vehicles will only be able to exit Stewart's onto 32N via a right-hand turn heading north. There will be a two-way entrance on Henry W. duBois Drive.

The design for the **expanded shoulders on Route 299** from Butternville Road to Route 44/55 is underway. This project requires approximately 40 right-of-ways in one year. The state pays for some of the costs of this project, but the county incurs substantial costs (upwards of \$4.8 million!). The current expected completion date is 2022. *County Executive Pat Ryan will ask the New York State Department of Transportation once more to speed up the pace of this project by taking charge of the land appropriations (bypassing the need for easements).* If the New York State Department of Transportation does this, then it can just appropriate the land for the right-of-ways instead of seeking permission from the landowners. The shoulders from the Springtown Road to Butternville Road are 3-feet wide. They will remain this way until the next paving of this stretch of road. The goal is for the shoulders from Butternville Road to Route 44/55 to be 4-feet wide.

The county has committed to add 4-foot shoulders to all new county bridges. This is partly to improve bicycle/pedestrian safety and partly to improve snow removal as well as traffic flow while there are accidents on the sides of roads.

Dennis Doyle encouraged us to send him photos of unsafe pavement in the county. He has a good relationship with the New York State Department of Transportation Regional Director Dave Corrigan. He volunteered that Libertyville Road has one of the highest fatality rates for bicycle/pedestrian collisions with vehicles in the county.

Dennis Doyle also emphasized the importance of us not intervening with landowners, even if our intentions (to speed up the installation of shoulders on Route 299) are good.

4. Repaving of Route 44/55 through the mountain ridge:

The state legislature passed new legislation ([S1549](#): "Enables safe access to public roads for all users by utilizing complete street design principles") requiring any new road overhaul must take into account bicycle/pedestrian safety. Judy wonders whether this was done for the recent repaving of 44/55 through the mountain ridge. Perhaps this project was exempt from the new requirement given that it was surely approved prior to the passage of this legislation. The very last section of the legislation reads as follows: "§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately, provided that it shall not apply to transportation projects undertaken or approved prior to the date on which this act shall have become a law." *Judy will inquire with our state Senator Jen Metzger.*

5. Information on recent bicycle collision on Shivertown Road

Mark Rafael had just turned off of N. Putt Corners Road heading westbound (downhill) on Shivertown Road. The motorist claimed that he never saw the cyclist because of the angle of the sun in his eyes and reflecting on the front windshield. Mark didn't suffer any broken bones, but he was airlifted because he was unconscious. He was hit so hard that he flew up in the air and landed through the windshield of the car. He is proceeding with a lawsuit

against the driver. The speed limit on Shivertown Road is 35mph, but vehicles routinely drive far faster on this road.

***Michael** will follow-up with Mark to see whether he would support us writing a Letter to the Editor to the New Paltz Times about this serious collision.*

6. Update on Complete Streets Training this Fall

The New York Bicycling Coalition will provide a Complete Streets training on Thu Sep 26 in the main room upstairs in Village Hall, including a walk-through on one or more streets in the village. The training is schedule from 9:30am through 4pm.

Michele mentioned a conflicting event on Wed Sep 25 though Sun Sep 29: the Hasbrouck Park build. This will require hundreds of volunteers working to build the park.

Janelle will be meeting with Dan Suraci (who will be leading the Thu Sep 26 training) on Wed Aug 7 at noon in Village Hall. Janelle and Dan Suraci will work out a route for the walking/cycling areas to audit during the training.

We should provide lunches and refreshments. **Dan L** will ask the town whether our committee has any funds in our annual budget to use to pay for food for this event.

This training will not be open to the public. The goal is for between 20 and 25 people to attend so the event can function as a serious working group.

7. Update on Proposal to allow one-way cycling against traffic on N. Front Street

This section is controlled by the New York State Department of Transportation, so **Dan L** will submit this request to Sandra Jobson.

8. Update on signaling request for both Cherry Hill / 299 and also for N. Putt Corners / 299

- a. **Dan L** contacted the Town Supervisor Neil Bettez and is waiting to hear back.

9. Update on ADA project to install curb cuts and crosswalks on 299

- a. Michael asked Chris White about this. The county pushed Tom Nyquist as mayor two decades ago about need for sidewalk in front of Sunoco. Chris White said the Village Planning Board dropped the ball in requiring then Citgo and now Sunoco to install a proper sidewalk. The New York State Department of Transportation won't approve a crosswalk at Prospect Street until this proper sidewalk in front of Sunoco is installed. Cory Wirthmann (the village building inspector) would be able to pull the site plan to find out what the planning board required in terms of sidewalks. **Michele** can reach out to Cory about this.

10. *Let's meet with our state Assembly member Kevin Cahill about 3-foot passing rule.* This might be the moment to pounce given the new Chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee. The previous chair David Gantt (D-Rochester) was resistant to this proposed legislation. The new chair William B. Magnarelli (D-Syracuse) is expected to be more receptive to this proposed legislation. **Michael** will reach out to Kevin Cahill.

11. Action items before our next meeting:

- a. Janelle suggested that our members regularly submit letters to the editor to the *New Paltz Times*. Let's have one of us write a letter to the editor for the *New Paltz Times*. **Michael** will keep us posted about potentially writing a letter regarding Mark Rafael's collision.
- b. **Janelle** will send us a blurb about the Complete Streets training so that we can reach out to key stakeholders, especially on the village and town planning boards. Each of us will contact members before August 7:
 - i. **Dan L** will invite Matt DiDonna, Stana Weisburd, and David Brownstein.
 - ii. **Michael** will invite Adele Ruger, Jan Schanberg, David Duke (Gardiner government), and a leader from Rosendale government.
 - iii. **Rich** will invite Eve Walter, Ed Rogers, John Liton, and Denis McGee.
 - iv. **Michele** will invite Noelle Kimble McEntee.
- c. **Michael** will reach out to Assembly member Kevin Cahill.
- d. **Michele** will reach out to Building Inspector Cory Wirthmann to access the site plan for the Sunoco (lack of a) sidewalk.
- e. **Dan L** will submit the letter regarding the proposed Trans-Hudson development to the Town Planning Board, Ulster County Department of Public Works, and New York State Department of Transportation.
- f. **Dan L** will write up a proposal for reconsidering a river trail from the Carmine Liberta Bridge to the Ulster County Fairgrounds.
- g. **Dan L** will submit a request to Sandra Jobson to consider allowing bicycles to ride against the direction of vehicle traffic on N. Front Street between Main Street (Route 299) and N. Chestnut Street (Route 32N).
- h. **Dan L** will ask the town whether our committee has any funds in our annual budget to use to pay for food for this event
- i. **Judy** will follow up with Jen Metzger about whether the 44/55 repaving was subject to the new complete streets state legislation.

Adjourned 8:33pm.

Next meeting:

Mon Aug 26

Then

Mon Sep 23

Mon Oct 28

Mon Nov 25

[No Dec meeting]