

MONADNOCK ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES

February 21, 2017

Subcommittee Members Present: Will Schoefmann, *Chair*; Drew Bryenton, *Timken*; Tammy Dwyer, *Healthy Monadnock*; Peter Hansel, *Filtrine Manufacturing*; Susy Thielen, *Keene resident*.

I. Welcome

Will Schoefmann called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

II. Determine 3-4 Focus Areas and 3-4 Action Items for Each

Will Schoefmann presented feedback that the League of American Bicyclist (LAB) gave the City of Keene during the past two Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) awards and applications. The subcommittee asked many questions to clarify what the City had included in the BFC application and how it responded to LAB feedback. Will Schoefmann answered them to the best of his ability.

The subcommittee continued discussions. Of the “5 E’s” or essential elements, according to LAB, there was agreement that “Engineering” seemed to be in the hands of the City of Keene (the other essential elements include: education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation & planning). It was not necessary for MAST to work on this element as the City’s Complete Streets Ordinance and Design Guide were produced in the last year and a half and seemed to be “on the right track”. However, they believed that adoption and implementation of a new Bike Plan was important. In addition, parking standards that conform to the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals standards was something the subcommittee could find and share with the City. The subcommittee also suggested the City should continue to provide and expand quality bicycle parking throughout the community (this may be accomplished in conjunction with Healthy Monadnock). The City should also continue to expand the bike network along arterials per the LAB’s “Key Steps to SILVER” section of feedback.

The committee looked at the City’s current rankings from LAB and noted that scoring in categories was quite low. With that in mind, the subcommittee discussed focus areas outside of “Engineering” that MAST and the subcommittee could change in preparation for the City’s reapplication for silver designation.

The subcommittee agreed that “Education” was an area that they could provide support. Some action items the subcommittee brainstormed included:

- Outreach to SAU 29 and other schools regarding bicycle-safety education
- Outreach to Keene State College, Antioch University, and River Valley Community College regarding bicycle education and other opportunities to leverage the Green Bikes Program
- Work to establish a “pool” of locally based instructors (Healthy Monadnock/Monadnock Cycling Club/City of Keene, Parks and Recreation)
- Create a web page (web portal) and toolkit for safe riding
- Outreach to Keene State College and other local companies such as 710 Main Productions to produce an education video or materials

- Provide content to Cheshire TV for bicycle safety and education which conforms to their standards of production
- Utilize Healthy Monadnock's "Lunch and Learn" to demonstrate safe riding and etiquette

The subcommittee also believed that efforts could be made and be well spent on "encouragement" efforts and "enforcement".

III. Discuss Potential for Outreach to Other Bike Friendly Programs (Other Communities, Universities, and Businesses)

The subcommittee discussed opportunities to reach local colleges (Keene State, Antioch and River Valley) and get them on board with the LAB Bicycle Friendly Campus program as well as looking at what could be done to encourage local businesses to participate and apply for the Bike Friendly Business program. The group agreed that after learning more about those application types, MAST or the subcommittee could act as resources for guidance to colleges or businesses completing their applications.

Some ideas on how to conduct outreach and encourage participation in the Bicycle Friendly Business program included:

- Outreach to Cheshire Medical Center and Clinic (Healthy Monadnock)
- Utilizing the Bicycle Benefits program to source potential businesses
- Designating a MAST or SWRPC point person or web site for assistance on completion of applications
- Tie becoming a Bicycle Friendly Business into the Healthy Monadnock Champions program as a pledge item

IV. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 21st at Keene Parks and Recreation Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Will Schoefmann
Chair