

MONADNOCK ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

March 21, 2017

4:30 p.m.

Keene Parks and Recreation Center (Room 12)
312 Washington Street, Keene, NH 03431

Subcommittee Members Present: Will Schoefmann, *Chair*; Andrew Madison, *Keene resident*; Drew Bryenton, *Keene resident*; Peter Hansel, *Filtrine Manufacturing*; Sam Hawkes, *Monadnock Cycling Club*; Susy Thielen, *Keene resident*.

Southwest Region Planning Commission staff member present was Henry Underwood, *GIS Specialist/Planner*.

I. Welcome

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

II. Meeting Summary of February 21, 2017

A meeting summary of the February 21, 2017 meeting was provided to attendees.

III. Focus Areas and Action Items

Will Schoefmann summarized the three programs of the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) discussed in the previous meeting of the subcommittee: Bicycle Friendly Communities, Bicycle Friendly Universities, and Bicycle Friendly Businesses. With respect to the City of Keene's feedback from LAB, he suggested the subcommittee focus on opportunities for improving education and encouragement.

Sam Hawkes provided a brief summary of LAB's "League Cycling Instructors" certification and "Smart Cycling" classes, which are aimed at helping people feel more secure about riding. The certification requires an intense 3-day seminar training held out of state. He said there was a \$350 registration fee and also pointed out that attendance would require a participant to pay for other costs associated with travel. He suggested the subcommittee pitch the idea to the City of Keene Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries Department through Andy Bohannon. Will Schoefmann pointed out that someone trained could offer a "train the trainer" peer learning opportunity as a way of increasing the impact of LAB best practices. He mentioned that Emily Coey of 365 Cycles had participated in a training opportunity offered through or supported by the Granite State Wheelmen, a New Hampshire cycling membership organization. Attendees discussed funding opportunities including Healthy Monadnock, the City of Keene, Pathways for Keene (including specific board members), and other organizations as potential funders or candidates for training. Peter Hansel asked if more information could be provided on what would be taught as part of the LAB training. Attendees were unsure of the extent participation would assist the City in a future Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) application.

Attendees discussed opportunities to improve encouragement of cycling in Keene, which was a key recommendation of LAB's feedback to the City. Attendees discussed the popularity of off-road trails, riding with traffic, Keene Green Bikes, and various bike share models. Peter Hansel suggested the subcommittee could play a role in convening related groups such as Monadnock Cycling Club, Healthy Monadnock, businesses, bike shops, schools, universities, and others to discuss what was currently being done and what could be learned. Bike to work/bike to school events, a bike-specific portion of the MAST website, producing a video, and the temporary closure of certain streets to vehicle traffic to encourage bicycling were all suggested as options. Drew Bryenton mentioned recruitment strategies like live demonstration events that could be led by a local bike shop. Will Schoefmann added that adding a cycling component to an already-established event like Art in the Park or Music Fest could be considered. Ideally, a community ride would include all ages and be family-friendly. Sam Hawkes commented that although he was impressed with some of the larger charity bike rides, the Monadnock Cycling Club found it challenging to sustain their "Pedal for the Pantry" ride in the past.

As a way of considering opportunities to improve encouragement, the group discussed barriers to cycling. Drew Bryenton listed cold weather, road condition, and lack of awareness as key barriers. Peter Hansel mentioned the aging population, inadequate facilities, and lack of awareness about existing routes and connectivity as key issues. The group discussed the City's work to promote bike routes, paths, and trails via KeenePaths.com as one existing effort to increase awareness. Establishing wayfinding signage (including time estimates, place names, and public facilities) was also discussed. Among barriers to cycling, Sam Hawkes mentioned fear as a major deterrent. Will Schoefmann noted that the City's recent efforts to understand bicycling "level of stress" is a way to understand people's fear of bicycling.

IV. Expansion of Bike Friendly Programs - Other Communities, Universities and Businesses

Because the subcommittee focused their discussion on education and encouragement strategies, the expansion of bike friendly programs with other communities, universities and businesses was not addressed in detail. Will Schoefmann suggested the subcommittee consider contacting Keene State College, Antioch University of New England, and River Valley Community College to locate a faculty member to join the conversation on LAB Bicycle Friendly Universities. He suggested connecting with 1-2 businesses regarding the Bicycle Friendly Business program.

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 16th at the Keene Parks and Recreation Center (Room 12).

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry Underwood
GIS Specialist/Planner