

Complete and Green Streets Task Force (BHCSTF)
Meeting Minutes
Oct. 28, 2024

Attendance (Task Force Members): John Leo (Chair), Dana Nigro (Vice-Chair), Lauren Perl, Gale Bradford (BHPS), Councilwoman Margaret Illis, Councilman Manuel “Manny” Couto, Steve Carrellas, Rich Caruso

Attendance (Guests): N/A

7:50 pm - Call to order

- Chair’s opening remarks on Task Force mission and developing Town Council Recommendations. A Report will be developed including the work of the Task Force, the findings and support for a list of recommendations. Tasks that require more time and resources will be captured in the recommendation for 2025 Complete and Green Streets Task Force or Committee.

Workgroup Briefing (Snapshot/Data) - John

- John reviewed work completed since previous meeting.
- Outreach Workgroup is working on the mediums to collect the necessary community pedestrian experiences and data.
- Attended NJBikePed Seminars and met with [Avenues in Motion](#)
- Attended an [NJTPA Complete Streets Demonstration](#) in Verona
- Winter Walk “Wish wall,” Task Force website and surveys will be vital to begin capturing data - Avenues in Motion assisting this effort with Comms/Outreach Workgroup - assistance is free

Workgroup Briefing (Comms/Outreach) - Lauren

- Developing a data capture feature at Winter Walk called a “wish wall,” which will provide visitors to the booth a chance to provide feedback on our selected topic: “What would make walking and bicycling in Berkeley Heights feel safer and more enjoyable?”
- Winter Walk is December 7th. We are sharing a table with EC and we reached out to them to see if they would consider speaking to the Green Streets aspect.
- Lauren is working with GL Environmental Club on the activity for kids, which is required by event organizers.
- The group discussed other options to raise awareness about road environment

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safety issues. Ideas included:

- Coffee with a Crossing Guard,
- “Trip Switch” which promotes business about town being conducted by means other than motor vehicle

Workgroup Briefing - Routes around School - Gale

- October 9th Walk & Roll to School Day: We are awaiting survey results from that day.
- We have a crossing guard now at Plainfield and Mountain Ave. This was initiated by a formal resident request.

Briefing - Councilwoman Illis

- Margaret is working with Bronny, Lauren and Dana on website launch.
- Margaret began personal evaluation of sidewalk conditions in anticipation of a future sidewalk grading tool. Many tools exist to help prioritize sidewalk upgrades.
- Margaret met with the EDC (Economic Development Committee) and briefed the group on Task Force mission and ideas.

Discussion - Data collection and Outreach mechanisms

- Discussion ensued on different campaigns for capturing community walking experience. After discussing possibilities to get people on foot or bike (ie Trip Switch), the need will then be to ensure we have several effective mediums to capture the experiences.
- John will look at signs with QR codes that bring residents to the Task Force website to elicit feedback.

Briefing - Snapshot/Data - Steve

- Steve presented crash data provided by BHPD; data consisted of ten accidents between vehicle and pedestrian (on foot, bike or scooter).
- A simple conclusion could be made that behavior change/awareness is important to all road users: vehicle operators and pedestrians, cyclists and e-ride operators.

Conclusion/Putting it All Together

- Workgroup assignments - group agrees they understand their tasks as

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discussed in open session today.

- Dana and Margaret will pursue initiation on page on town website with Liza to share basic Task Force information with the public. Feedback form complete with a text box will immediately follow.
- Lauren and Bronny will meet soon with Avenues in Motion to develop survey questions. John will attend to determine questions are relevant to data we are seeking.

Meeting ended at 9:30, proposed by John and seconded by Manuel

Next meeting date November 26th, 2024 in the Dogwood Conference Room at 7:30PM