



BATH
MAINE *City of Ships*

February 2025 Bath Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Transportation Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 4:00 pm; Bath City Hall

Members present:

- Tim Blair, Co-Chair
- Karl Best, Secretary
- Kevin Shute
- Nancy Sferra
- Chief Andrew Booth, Bath Police Dept
- Rick Kessler
- Travis Wolfel

Members absent:

- Megan Mansfield-Pryor, Co-Chair, City Council
- Chris Marks, City Council
- Connor English
- Rod Melanson, Bath City Dir. Sustainability
- Larissa Holland

Guests present:

- Misty Parker, Bath City Development
- Jean Twomey
- Mercedes Laboa
- Sean Ireland
- Brian Salter, BIW
- Ronlan Balboni, Bath PD intern

1. Introductions

2. Meeting Minutes, Action Items and Updates from Previous Meetings and Subcommittees

- Approval of January 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Motion, second, approved.
- Review of Action Items from January 15 meeting

- none
- o Subcommittee Reports and Committee Business
 - Outreach/Advisory
 - Met on Feb 5; discussed Riverwalk presentation and Transportation Plan. Prepared calendar for the Bike-Ped-Trans committee for the rest of the year. Reviewed 2025 committee work plan.
 - Help Bath Thrive Drive 25
 - Members not present today; home sick. The committee was working on materials for this weekend's WinterFest, but there may possibly not be a table.
 - Richardson Street Project
 - Outreach and Advisory subcommittee would like the full committee to review City plans for this project and provide comments before the next meeting. **Tim will circulate a form to collect comments.**
 - Riverwalk Project
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 - Staff Updates
 - Rod on vacation. PD attended Richardson Street presentation; traffic calming features sound reasonable. 2024 accident report later on agenda.
- o Visitor Comments about Parking
 - Sean Ireland (owner/developer of downtown buildings) shared information from a memo he drafted regarding the parking needs for downtown. Many old buildings were built prior to cars; parking was not originally included, but current City policy requires some amount of off-street parking. Sean highlighted that the City's statement "that there is enough parking" is based on a limited concept that does not include the needs of the tenants of the second and third floors of buildings downtown.
 - Sean asks the City to consider how we support both ground floor downtown retail as well as the occupation of second and third floors.
 - Mercedes Laboa (owner of Solo Pane bakery) Two hour parking limit is not viable for employees working a full shift. Some employees are local, but many are not, and require parking. Some employees park a ways away and walk.

- Chief Booth points out that there is non-time limited parking available a few blocks away. A year-long wait list for the parking spots next to the Police Department building. There are options, but just not directly in front of any particular business.
- Co-Chair Blair explained that addressing parking issues like this is one of the strategies in the City's Comprehensive Plan. Blair will check with City Staff on timing of when this can be looked at in more depth, and what approach would be used.
- Ireland offered to participate in any subcommittees that may be created to support this effort in the future.

3. Committee Discussion Items

o 2024 Crash and Traffic Report (Chief Booth)

- Most crash data is available from [Maine DoT's online tool](#).
- Reduction in crashes from previous year, even with adjustment in what constitutes a crash (\$1k to \$2k damage). Very few incidents resulting in hospitalization; no fatal incidents since 2017. 281 incidents in 2024. From 3-4pm is the highest time of day; summer tourist traffic. Six total involving bicycles; four the fault of the bicyclist, failure to yield. Four pedestrians; minor.
- Rt 1 on/off ramps are high incident locations.
- Successful result from making High/North a four-way stop.
- Most warnings and tickets are for excessive speed, hand held cell phone, or failure to yield to crosswalk.
- Traffic calming is an ongoing issue; still experimenting. Fog lines on Washington are not effective, and have resulted in confusion about parking. Kevin Shute highlighted however that these fog lines are very helpful for people riding bikes in this area to make them more comfortable.
- Parking permits provide some City revenue, but benefits in freeing up parking for residents rather than BIW workers. Potential for increase in fees to balance long wait time for permits.
- Tim Blair suggested that it would be helpful for the City to not just focus on the parking permit revenue, but also get a better understanding of the actual costs for providing the parking.
- Maine DoT guidance on setting speed limits on city streets is included in a new resource from MaineDOT; Tim will distribute.

o Updated Workplan Review

- Tim shared a spreadsheet of Committee activities. Warned about keeping clear what Committee members are responsible for accomplishing vs. City Staff. The committee's responsibility is to make recommendations to the council and provide advice to staff when requested, but we don't have the expertise, authority, or budget to do actual work.

- Suggestion that priorities at the Committee and Subcommittee level could be added. Identify those items where we can proactively accomplish something. Tim suggested that in the end, the City Manager really drives the priorities and these can change regularly. Our role as committee members is to do the best we can to keep up and provide advice.
 - Reviewed and edited items. Some items that were previously Committee priorities are no longer activities that the Committee will work on e.g. educational activities such as conducting workshops, work with RSU1, etc.
 - Tim requests **Committee members to review and provide comment.**
- o Active Transportation Plan Scope
 - Replaces what the committee was previously calling a Complete Streets Plan.
 - Rod has been working on the scope of this Plan, with input from BIW and MDoT.
 - Tim distributed previously; requests **Committee members to review and provide comment.**
 - o Other
 - Brian Salter (BIW) expresses interest in joining the Committee, but is not a Bath resident. **Tim and Megan to look into options for his continued participation and will discuss at the next meeting.**
4. Items proposed for future meetings
- o A2K trail status
 - o Cruise ship issues
 - o Fire station
 - o Active Transportation Planning Process
5. Action Item Review

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm