

Pedestrian and Bicyclist Advisory Committee Update October 2017

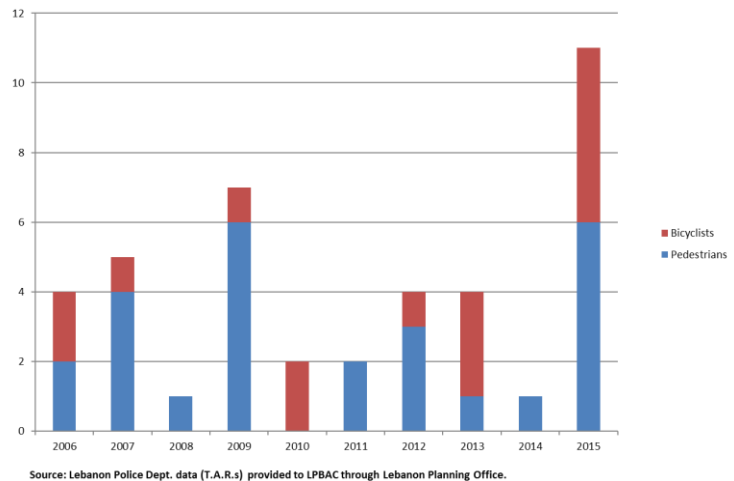
Written by Colin Smith, Chair, for the committee update session, October 4, 2017.

During the third quarter of 2017, the committee had been focused on responding to resident questions about sidewalks, analyzing pedestrian and bicyclist accident data, and reviewing the feedback from the League of American Bicyclists received as part of the successful application for the Bicycle Friendly Community designation.

In addition to this, we've been monitoring progress with Mascoma River Greenway (a project many committee members are also involved in) and are beginning a prioritization process to identify committee priorities for the remainder of 2017 and 2018.

Accident Data

Committee member Alan Schnur has been collating and analyzing accident report data provided by Lebanon Police Department (LPD). He presented initial findings earlier in the summer and at the October 3 meeting will be presenting updated analysis. During the meeting we will be discussing with Captain Cohen a refined approach for LPD to provide accident data to the Planning Department and the Ped Bike committee. The approach will



maintain confidentiality, not be burdensome for the LPD, and provide actionable and timely information to understand traffic accidents involving pedestrians and bicyclists. The figure shows the number of Lebanon NH Crashes Involving Pedestrians and Bicyclists, 2006-2015. On average there are 4 per year, with annual variations around that mean.

West Street Sidewalk

The committee has over the course of this year had several visits by residents requesting sidewalks or improvements to crosswalks – for example, on Bank Street at Welchs Gun Shop, on Eldridge Street at old Sacred Heart Elementary School, and to cross Mechanic Street at the intersection with Slayton Hill.

At the meeting on October 3rd, the committee is faced with a different situation – where the City is proposing to improve West Street between High Street and Granite Street for pedestrians by adding a



sidewalk as part of the CSO #11 project and some residents have petitioned the City because they do not want a sidewalk.

Mascoma River Greenway

Recreation Director Paul Coats provided the committee with an update on the MRG project.

Status:

- Rail has been removed from the corridor, as of September 22
- The western bridge (under Terri Dudley Bridge) complete, and the “Timken Bridge” over the Mascoma River will be finished by the end of October.
- All points east of the Timken Bridge have been graded, paving in late October. Exception is 200 foot stretch between Slayton Hill and High Street which will be paved after the Spring 2018 CSO project
- Work beginning west of the Timken Bridge to fill wet areas and stabilize banks. Estimated completion here is end of November.
- Connecting the Western Bridge under the Terry Dudley Bridge to Glen Road is being negotiated into the contract, with plans to construct that portion in the Spring of 2018.
- Final completion for the project is still anticipated June of 2018.

Next steps:

- Secure access points from private land owners
- Signage. Kiosks. Benches. Gates. Historical markers. Public Art. APD Connector trail.
- The tunnel and all points east of High St.
- Connecting from Glen Road to Riverside Community Park, and then upgrading the path to 12A.

The photos (taken September 30, 2017 by Colin Smith) show the approach to the I-89 bridge with graded surface and completed safety fence on left, and the construction in progress on the Timken bridge over the Mascoma River.

