



**CITY OF ESSEX JUNCTION  
BIKE WALK ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES – FINAL  
APPROVED JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

*Online &  
6 Lincoln St. (Kolvoord Room)  
Essex Junction, VT 05452  
Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>  
2025, 7:00 PM*

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

John called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. In attendance: David Achee, Eric Bowker, Philip Bieber, Russ Miller-Johnson, John O'Brien, Lauren Philbrook, EJ City Planner Michael Giguere and Local Motion representative Jack Evans. [7:00 PM]

**2. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES**

Michael added 3 items to the Staff Updates portion of the meeting: Traffic Calming Policy, Connect the Junction master plan draft, and UVM engineering student Park Street reconfiguration.

**3. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

- a. April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – Motion made by Phil, seconded by David to approve April minutes. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

**4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

Jack from local motion updated us on a few items working their way through the Vermont legislature including a stop = yield bill, as well as a bill that would allow bikes to follow pedestrian signals at intersections. Jack says that both of these are generally the behaviors that cyclists do anyway and will merely bring the laws up to date. A third bill will clarify the usage of stoplights that are intended specifically for bikes but that will only pertain to limited municipalities excluding Essex Junction. It was recommended that members of the committee contact a local representative that has been reluctant to support this bill thus far in order to see them passed during this legislative session. Jack will email the group additional information for them to consider this action.

**5. BUSINESS ITEMS**

- a. Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) application review

The deadline for the application to renew our status as a Bike Friendly Community is June 25th, so between this and the next meeting it must be completed. David provided an update that there remains a number of details, primarily municipal information and data, that need to be tracked down to meet this timeline. Given this update Michael asked the task force if the city staff would be better suited to take on the remainder of the application, and the committee agreed. Michael then provided an update on other illuminating data that has come to light through the application process so far. He then provided guidance on how we will proceed between these next 2 meetings, including a request for any of the remaining areas that the committee might be interested in looking into during the next meeting. John expressed interest in looking at the data on Equity and Accessibility and David expressed interest in reviewing the Encouragement section, which will be reviewed during June's meeting.

- b. Wayfinding signage project

Michael provided an update on discussions that have occurred in the city offices regarding this project with several hopeful indicators that the city is enthusiastic to proceed. It was decided that we will focus on producing a simple handout map that will give us the guideline for sign placement in the future as a first step; the committee will also consider a name for this route that can apply to the first area of focus (Northwest quadrant) as well as the city as a whole. Lauren proposed a simple name of "Junction Bikeway" - the committee agreed to consider this and other ideas before deciding.

The committee looked over the list of locations for the signs that we have been working on, with ideas on how they would be presented. The pros and cons of directing bikers between these destinations via Mansfield Ave or a route that includes Rivendell Drive was discussed considering hills and the number of turns was also considered. Other ways to encourage bikers on these future routes by using pavement markings were discussed, as designating the routes may serve as the first step towards greater adoption by bicyclists at large.

Eric added that it was important for the committee to keep in mind for the future the Hiawatha neighborhood as a good candidate for future routes and signage as there are few that exist at this time but will be needed as the elementary school consolidation occurs in the fall.

c. Regional advocates meet up planning

Jack provided information regarding an informal meetup between bike advocacy groups at Local Motion on August 2nd at 10am (rain date of the 3rd) for a casual ride / social hour with guided discussions about unified needs between our communities. Jack also mentioned that other committees in Chittenden County have been holding joint bike rides / meetings as a collaboration between neighboring towns as a means of connecting their communities and recommended that we consider doing the same. Jack recommended that we reach out to our colleagues in Williston as a great first step and the committee agreed - Michael will make contact and will also look into ensuring that these meetings are in compliance with public meetings laws before they are scheduled.

d. Volunteer opportunities

- Veterans Memorial Park traffic count
- Brownell Repair Café

Michael presented two opportunities for engagement including a traffic count for the small “sliplane” intersection next to Veteran’s Memorial Park between Main Street and Lincoln Street. Details that need to be collected will need to include the time that the surveying is done, the number of cars that use the lane, bikers that cross the intersection, and pedestrians that use the intersection. The committee was receptive to the idea and will be collecting and providing data to Michael over the next month.

The chance to participate with a Brownell Library repair cafe event in September was also brought up. The event will feature a variety of handy folks providing their services to members of the community and our committee members are invited to provide guidance on bike maintenance and repair as a part of this event. Michael will forward an email with details to the committee for them to consider their individual participation.

**6. MEMBERS UPDATES**

John reminded the committee that any members of the public can request a “Keep Kids Alive, Drive 25” sign from the city to place in front of their homes. These signs can be requested by calling the city manager at (802) 878-6944 and those who have them must follow criteria defined in the city’s traffic calming policy.

**7. STAFF UPDATES**

- a. Michael updated the group on the latest traffic calming policy that has been ongoing; the document will be finalized by Community Development and circulated to other departments for review soon.
- b. Connect the Junction Master Plan draft - the final report was presented May 1st at a collaborative meeting between City Council and Planning Commission, it was recommended that the committee revisit the recording of this meeting as many aspects of the plan will directly impact the city’s bike and pedestrian facilities on the Route 15 corridor between the fairgrounds and Five Corners.
- c. UVM Capstone presentation - Michael attended the presentation by the students for the Park street redesign project which featured their considerations for redesigning the traffic lanes in the strip between the Williston Bridge and the Crescent Connector on Park Street. Based on the timing of their project and when their data was collected (winter months), it was recommended that more data be gathered before the city considers moving on any changes to this strip of road, but the initial design is promising, meets the criteria and addresses the problems that we had voiced to the students at the start of their project.

d.

**8. ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn made by David at 8:24pm, seconded by Phil. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).