



**CITY OF ESSEX JUNCTION  
BIKE WALK ADVISORY COMMITTEE &  
WILLISTON ON THE MOVE  
MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT**

Online &  
6 Lincoln St. (Kolvoord Room)  
Essex Junction, VT 05452  
**Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>  
2025, 7:00 PM**

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**
  - a. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.
2. **Members Present:**
  - a. John O'Brien, Daniel Liguori, David Achee, Philip Bieber
3. **Others Present:**
  - a. Michael Giguere, (Staff Representative), Jack Evans, Marcie Gallagher
  - b. **Williston on the Move:**
    - Charlene Tallman, Kevin Batson, Scott Luria
4. **AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES**
  - a. No additions or changes were made to the agenda.
5. **BWAC MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**
  - a. The minutes from the June 12th, 2025 meeting were reviewed.
  - b. David made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Daniel.
    - The motion was approved 4-0.
6. **PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**
  - a. Members of Williston on the Move (WotM) introduced themselves, Kevin provided an overview of initiatives being undertaken by WotM.
    - **Wayfinding Project:** Working with Local Motion to install wayfinding signs to complete the path between Allenbrook School and Williston Central School.
    - **Bollard Demonstration:** A temporary installation of bollards will be placed on a section of road near Tallcott Park to create a separated bike path where a gap currently exists. The town purchased the bollards, and the goal is to have them in place for the start of the school year as part of the Safe Routes to School initiative.
7. **BUSINESS ITEMS**
  - a. Walk/Bike audit debrief
    - The group debriefed their recent walk and bike audits of the Five Corners area with Williston on the Move.
    - **Biking Group Findings:**
      1. The designated bike route through the Countryside neighborhood was described as **calm**, even at 6:00 PM, and a good alternative to busier roads.
      2. Visibility at the **289 interchange** was considered very good and felt safer than other highway interchanges like I-89 in Burlington.
      3. The need for **wayfinding signage** was highlighted to make the route easier to navigate, especially the connection from the neighborhood to the shared-use path.
    - **Walking Group Findings:**
      4. The Lincoln Terrace bollards were seen as a great, low-cost example of traffic calming, though it was noted there is not enough of a buffer on the road for pedestrians.
      5. The Crescent Connector lacks shade, making it feel like walking "in the desert."
      6. Crossing at Five Corners is unpleasant due to noise and feeling exposed to traffic.
      7. The intersection of Crescent and Maple does not provide enough time for pedestrians to cross both streets with the walk signal.
      8. Many sidewalks lack sufficient room, especially when large vehicles are parked

- nearby or construction infringes on the space.
9. There are many opportunities to activate public spaces to be more pedestrian-friendly, such as Main Street and Veterans Memorial Park.
  10. Positive elements included the social atmosphere created by people using outdoor seating at businesses and the quality of the granite curbs.
- b. Connect the Junction master plan review\*
    - Michael provided an overview of the Connect the Junction (CtJ) transit-oriented development master plan. The plan focuses on the Five Corners, Pearl Street, and Park Street corridors.
    - Key themes of the plan include adding housing, improving connections, prioritizing people over vehicles (e.g., a "road diet" for Park Street and Pearl Street), and activating public spaces.
    - The group discussed the importance of the **Park Street/Route 2A connection** between Essex Junction and Williston, noting it is a critical link for commuters that currently has significant gaps.
  - c. WOTM Lawn Sign Project
    - WotM discussed their project to place lawn signs and posters, provided by Local Motion, around Williston.
    - The signs aim to educate the public and raise awareness of Vermont's **4-foot passing law** for vehicles passing bicyclists.
  - d. Pearl Street Multimodal Improvements Scoping Study – Planning Commission meeting debrief\*
    - The committee discussed the recent Planning Commission meeting regarding proposed improvements to Pearl Street between Susie Wilson Road and West Street Extension.
    - Funding of approximately **\$1.2 million** is available for the project.
    - The proposed 2025 alternative includes:
      1. Reducing vehicle travel lanes from two to one in each direction.
      2. Adding a new bus stop on the south side of the street.
      3. Creating a 10-foot shared-use path on the north side.
      4. Adding a buffered, striped bike lane.
      5. Installing a mid-block crosswalk with flashing beacons.
    - The feedback at the Planning Commission meeting was largely positive, with many community members speaking in favor of the safety improvements for biking and walking, despite some concerns about vehicle congestion.

## **6. MEMBERS UPDATES**

## **7. STAFF UPDATES**

- a. 2025 Essex Junction Bike Map publication
  - The official city bike map has been published and printed copies are available. Feedback for future versions is welcome.
- b. Traffic Calming Policy update
  - Chris and Michael presented a draft of the modernized traffic calming policy to the City Council. The new policy includes an expanded toolkit of traffic calming measures and a scoring rubric to prioritize projects. The City Council was receptive, and the policy will move forward for adoption soon.
- c. Bike helmets and locks library update
  - Brownell Library confirmed they have an inventory of bike locks to loan but are not comfortable loaning helmets due to safety liability. The committee held a vote to not purchase these items.
    - David motioned to rescind the purchase, Daniel seconded.
    - The motion was approved 4-0.
- d. Lincoln Terrace traffic calming update
  - The temporary traffic calming installation (bollards) has been installed. Staff is working

with Public Works on minor adjustments, such as adding painted lines.

- e. Bicycle Friendly Community survey
  - The application to renew Essex Junction's status as a Bicycle Friendly Community has been submitted. A community survey is open until October 5th for residents to provide feedback.

**8. READING FILE**

- a. No items were discussed from the reading file.

**9. ADJOURN**

- a. David motioned to adjourn, Daniel seconded.
  - The motion was approved 4-0.
  - The meeting was adjourned.