Bedford, New Hampshire
Pedestrian & Bicycle Connectivity Master Plan

Report to the Bedford Planning Board – February 10, 2014

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Inventory

• Bedford has:
  – 243 Miles of Roadways
  
  – I-293, Routes 3, 114, 101, South River Road (part), New Boston Road, FE Everett TPK = State Responsibility (approx. 43 miles)
  
  – Balance are Town and/or Private Responsibility (approx. 200 miles)
  
  – Currently 7.4 Miles of sidewalk
    = Town Responsibility
Policy

• The Policy has been to avoid the creation of new sidewalks.

Benefits of Alternatives

• Health
• Social/Communal
• Traffic Improvements
Current Effort’s Outreach

• **Process**
  – Events (Olde Home Day, Farmers Market)
  – Groups (Cyclists, Students, CC, Land Trust)
  – Electronic Media (survey, mapping)
  – Municipal Officials

• **Outcome**
  – Contact with 500+ individuals, 97.4% of whom were Bedford residents.
Results

• People want to walk/ride beyond their neighborhoods!

• They would like to walk/ride to schools, parks, and in/around the Town Center!

• Also, on Wallace, Liberty Hill, 101, Nashua, and County Roads!

• Make Loops, at least 10 miles!
Recommendations - Education

• Start a Program of Sharrows, Signage, Events.

• Build on the current Bike Rodeos and others.

• Get the word out! To drivers, riders, and pedestrians.
Recommendations - Regulatory

• Utilize Site Plan and Subdivision Regs.

• Require internal sidewalks on commercial & multi-family projects. Also lot connections.

• Require projects to build/contribute to sidewalks, especially on Rt.101 and South River Road
Recommendations - Physical
Physical Examples
(that respect local character)

• Sharrows

• Wider Shoulders
More Physical Examples

• Bike Lanes

• Sidewalks
Looping Options, Please!
Multi Use Path Options – Rt 101

CURRENTLY PROPOSED SECTION

ALTERNATIVE SECTION

ROUTE 101 SECTION - BIKE LANE ALTERNATIVE
Next Steps – No Cost

- Adopt Plan/Policy
  - Committee, Planning Board, Town Council

- Start the Education
  - Events/articles/etc.

- Start the Regulatory Changes
  - Site Plan/Subdivision Regulations
Next Steps – Some Cost

• **Continue 101 discussion w/State**

• **Start the Signage/Sharrows on the Loops**
  – 10 miles each
  – On the order of $20,000/each

• **Start the Sidewalk Improvements**
  – Install s/w Nashua Road, 101 to County Road
  – Complete s/w on County Road to SAU Offices
  – On the order of $960,000
Further Steps – As Roads Rebuilt

- Add sidewalks within one half mile of each elementary school
  - Riddle Brook – 1.5 miles/$1.8 Million
  - Memorial – 1.0 miles/$1.2 Million
  - Woodbury – 2.0 miles/$2.4 Million

- Add sidewalks in/around Town Center

- Expand/maintain Sharrow/Signage Program
Summary

• For 200 years, Bedford was a rural, agricultural community, with no need for sidewalks. Traffic was light.

• For the last 60 years, things have been changing.
  Traffic/Ped/Bike Conflicts
  Interests in Health, Wellbeing and Community.

• It is time for a new program that serves the needs of this evolving community.