

**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
BIKE PEDESTRIAN PLAN BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE**



**MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2026, 4 pm
City Hall Council Chambers, 1 Junkins Ave., Portsmouth**

For the Zoom recording: <https://youtu.be/zP498gRrLNM?si=nEByukA9zSAJUziU>

1. Meeting called to order at 6 pm. Roll Call:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilor Annie Hopkins, Ryan Harper, Annie Poubeau, Patrick Daley, Matt Glenn, Tyler Garzo, Stephen Longstaffe, Dawn Przychodzien, Bill Lyons, Ann Torrez

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Robin Lurie Meyerkopf, Stella Whitehouse, Freddy Petrone, Colleen Garcia

STAFF PRESENT: Peter Rice, Eric Eby, Stephanie Seacord, Susan Morrell,

2. Introductions: name, residence, interest in serving on the BRC

- Councilor Hopkins, Portsmouth, seeks to build the infrastructure that allows a mom and toddler to bike safely through the city, e.g. from Atlantic Heights to Elwyn Park.
- Ryan Harper, Elwyn Park Portsmouth. Loves the city and hopes to get more safe bike/walking networks that become a magnet drawing people to Portsmouth.
- Tyler Garzo, Elwyn Park Portsmouth, goal is to make the city less car-centric.
- Matt Glenn, Elwyn Park, Portsmouth, focusing on safe routes to school
- Dawn Przychodzien, 23 year resident of Portsmouth, now Newburyport, owner of Port City Bike Tours for 11 years, wants to ensure safe and comfortable riding for tours.
- Stephen Longstaffe, Atlantic Heights, focusing on connecting Point A and Point B to get around by bicycle with a 5th grader.
- Patrick Daley, 34 yr resident of Portsmouth, walking all his life from Wibird St. around town.
- Annie Torres, Exeter resident works and recreates in Portsmouth, seeking greater bike/ped safety and awareness in the greater Seacoast for long term change in the culture and attitudes around bike/ped.

- Annie Probeau, West End Portsmouth, never thought to see this day so very grateful. Seeks ever-better bike infrastructure between neighborhoods and downtown
- Bill Lyons, retired from USDOT (Cambridge) Multi-Modal Center. Hopes to make Portsmouth multi-modal, seeking a balance, all about connectivity for recreation and utilitarian purposes.

Eric, Matt, Bill, Ann were members of the 2014 and 2026 Bike/Ped plan development and bring a depth of understanding. Eric Eby, City Engineer for Parking, Transportation and Planning, hopes the committee will provide input on issues – “you see things that I don’t.” Peter Rice, DPW Director and founding member of SABR – looking forward to Committee’s input.

3. Review of Committee Handbook for Volunteers – City Attorney Susan Morrell:

https://www.portsmouthnh.gov/sites/default/files/2025-02/Volunteer%20Handbook%20Portsmouth%20to%20Governance_01-15-2025_REVISED.pdf

Regarding quorums – members were reminded not to ‘reply all’ or discuss business in gatherings of more than 7 of the 14 members. The Work Groups being formed must be limited to the same number. Members can speak as citizens on public forums including social media, and can speak in support of initiatives such as Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects, but not as representatives of the Committee. Councilor Hopkins, as chair, is the spokesperson.

Lyons asked if the Planning & Sustainability Department will be involved in the Committee’s work and Director Rice said they would.

Agenda items/emails for Committee discussion should be sent to Chair Hopkins for distribution to the committee. councilor.hopkins@portsmouthnh.gov

Susan Morrell Contact: sgmorrell@portsmouthnh.gov, 603.610.7204

4. Election of a chair and vice chair

- On a motion by Harper, seconded by Glenn the committee voted unanimously to elect Councilor Hopkins as chair.
- On a motion by Lyons seconded by Garzo the committee voted unanimously to elect Glenn as vice chair.

5. Vision and Goals

Chair Hopkins suggested that the priorities for the BRC over the next 18 months should be

based on those presented in the 2025 Bicycle Pedestrian Network Plan Update. [Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan Update Final Accepted080425.pdf](#) Harper commented that the work would be shaped by the frequency of meetings and other impacts.

Vision: Portsmouth residents, workers, and visitors will view walking and bicycling as comfortable and convenient ways to get around the City. Walking and bicycling will be a part of Portsmouth's culture, making the City a healthy and vibrant place to live.

Goals

GOAL 1: Improve the safety and awareness of walking and bicycling in Portsmouth for all ages and abilities.

GOAL 2: Increase the number of walking and bicycling trips in Portsmouth.

GOAL 3: Advance Portsmouth's reputation as a City where walking and bicycling are a visible part of everyday and year round life and there are high-quality facilities that are well-maintained.

GOAL 4: Improve connectivity for walking and biking throughout Portsmouth and equitable access to key destinations like employment, schools, and transportation.

GOAL 5: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and household transportation costs through the implementation of walking and biking improvements, and support complementary City priorities such as the Climate Action Plan's climate targets and supporting affordable housing.

- Lyons suggested there may be tweaks to these goals. It's important to look at the big picture (eg Goals 4 and 5) as well as the infrastructure.
- Garzo urged the inclusion of the 2013 Complete Streets Policy and 2017 design standards with consideration of all modes of transportation, as appropriate, for every street.
- Torres asked whether the Committee has any budget for signage, etc. and Director Rice explained the Committee does not have spending authority through the budget but that signage, striping, paving, etc. are budgeted through the CIP; but the Committee can recommend items in the CIP eg a particular intersection, buffered lanes, etc. The next round of CIP review and project recommendations will start soon, now that the FY27 Budget has been approved.
- Lyons noted that the Master Plan referenced in the Bike/Ped Network Plan is the old plan and there may be opportunities for partnerships (eg School for Safe Routes to School) along with the infrastructure projects in the CIP.
- Director Rice outlined completed/ongoing CIP initiatives:
 - Borthwick Avenue side path
 - Hodgdon Way side path
 - Bike/ped path along North Mill Pond connecting AC Hotel to Market St – eventually to the Seacoast Greenway/MA border

- Christmas Tree Shop project – Prescott St. – to Woodbury Ave. with a corridor trail to Market St. and past Atlantic Heights to Gosling and from I-95 to Market Basket on Woodbury
- Peverly Hill Road construction in Spring 2027 – sidewalk on one side and multi-use path on the other
- Elwyn Road
- Constitution Ave. to the Seacoast Greenway plus ‘park & ride’ area off Banfield and Borthwick Ave. trailhead
- Goal is to connect the neighborhoods with safe passage, recognizing that Wamesit and Gosling are currently ‘stranded’
- Downtown/Market Square bike lane will be designated with sharrows.
- Fleet Street – one way between Congress and Hanover – with input from the Committee. Immediate next phase of this project is Maplewood Avenue drainage and a North Mill Pond outfall
- Middle Street/Middle-Miller intersection will be paved with minor adjustments; Richard Ave. flashing beacon made more visible but not enough width to include a bike lane, adding a sidewalk past the Sunoco near park on Lafayette, widen sections where possible -- but there will be opportunities for committee input in the future.
- State Street sharrows
- Congress Street – wider sidewalks

Daley asked if, when there is an infrastructure project, is it incumbent on the City to take bicycle and pedestrian needs into consideration.

Glenn suggested attending P&TS and project meetings (e.g. Peverly Hill Road) where there’s more ability to implement incremental changes such as adjusting the striping. Proposed working groups to work in parallel on specific issues:

- Safe Routes to School
- Complete Streets
- Bicycle/pedestrian/transportation connectivity
- Paving/striping projects for 2026-2027. Maybe this is an all-committee effort?

Director Rice explained that the paving schedule moves quickly as funds are available, to make repairs before total reclaiming is required:

- Crack sealing
- Micro-surfacing with a seal-coat produce
- Reclaim – mill and then repave with possibility to re-stripe or remove parking

Director Rice noted that the Middle Street bike lane project was not well received by all but that waiting for design consensus can delay positive projects. The public process shapes decisions on striping, medians, etc. Przychodian suggested the Committee have site walks. Chair Hopkins

agreed on identifying tangible, realistic steps:

- Advocate the implementation of the Bike/Ped Plan
- Provide advice to staff and City Council
- Champion bike/ped outreach events
- Review plan progress
- Explore funding opportunities
- “Education, encouragement, enforcement”

Lyons recommended the group not lose sight of the big picture, prioritizing significant projects, getting more background and think the projects through as a committee.

Chair Hopkins agreed that the committee’s top goals should combine high priority and low cost.

- Establish committee structure
- Identify 2-3 infrastructure projects to champion in CIP and make recommendations to Council via Chair Hopkins
- Create bicycle-pedestrian network map
- Work with the School Department on Safe Routes to School
- Explore partnerships with SABR and other groups

6. Working Groups

Chair Hopkins has created a Working Group google doc for people to access: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qsSfN9mNnqnRagOBmYrnnv8umelREdkORFBokO9DfFtU/edit?usp=sharing>

Working Groups can meet in person or via zoom or hybrid as long as the number of Committee members is 7 or less. 8 of 14 constitutes a quorum.

7. Meeting Schedule

Seacord will review the City calendar to see what options are available. She subsequently suggested the **First Thursday of the month at 6 pm in City Hall Conference Room A.** Members are signaling their availability.

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 pm.