

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Committee Meeting
241 Main Street, 4th Fl. Hartford, CT, CRCOG Large Conference Room
Tuesday, September 19, 2017
12:00 p.m.

Name

Rob Phillips
Lon Hultgren
Patrice Carson
Doretta Andonucci
Kevin Sullivan
Mary Ellen Thibodeau
Jahriq Knighton
Joshua Roman
Mike D'Amato
Ken Shooshan-Stoller
Anthony Cherolis

Jordan Polon
Ginny Hole
Bill Hawkins

CRCOG Staff

Mike Cipriano
Mary Ellen Kowalewski
Tim Malone
Emily Hultquist

Affiliation

Southington
Bike Mansfield
Bolton
Leadership Greater Hartford – Quest
Bike/Walk Wethersfield
West Hartford Ped/Bike Commission
Transport Hartford
Transport Hartford
Newington
FHWA – CT
Transport Hartford, Center for Latino
Progress
Hartford Business Improvement District
South Windsor Walk and Wheel Way
Suffield

Roll Call

1. Call to Order: Tim Malone called the meeting to order at 12:05pm. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

2. Public Forum

There were no public comments.

3. Approval of Minutes of the March 28, 2017 Meeting

Tim Malone requested a motion to approve the minutes.

Patrice Carson made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2017 meeting. Mary Ellen Thibodeau seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4a. Presentation on Bike Share Initiatives and Hartford Business Improvement District's Roadside Assistance Program

Jordan Polon from the Hartford Business Improvement District described the BID's new bike roadside assistance program. The BID has been providing vehicular roadside assistance for 10 years. They determined that bicycle roadside assistance would be a natural extension of the program.

BiCiCo trained the ambassadors on bicycle repair and the program costs under \$500. They have six ambassadors.

After researching the program, they realized that nobody else was doing it and that it appeared to be the first of its kinds in the nation. AAA has a program where they will pick you up and take you somewhere else, but not repair your bike.

This innovative program has received attention from Streetsblog, Associated Press, other national news sources, and even some international newspapers.

So far they have done 42 roadside assistance calls and are on pace to eclipse the number of repairs they do for cars. 60% of the calls they have responded to have been for "utility cyclists".

The following questions were asked by the committee:

Question: How do the ambassadors like the program?

Answer: they seem to like the program.

Question: What are the boundaries for the program? How is "Downtown Hartford" defined?

Answer: the boundaries are the same as the BID's boundaries. A map is available on our website. It goes up Farmington Avenue to the insurance companies.

Question: how are people hearing about it?

Answer: we have been handing out cards to business, residents, etc. Many of the large companies are on the BID's board and are helping to get the word out.

It was also noted that the BID is working to get a fix-it station in front of the Wadsworth Atheneum. Also, the Hartford BID is starting a strategic planning process.

4b. Discussion of Bike Share Initiatives

The next item on the agenda was a discussion of Bike Share Initiatives in the region. Mark Moriarty from New Britain explained that New Britain Bike Share has been going

for three years. It is a partnership with Simsbury Free Bike and is run out of the New Britain Museum of American Art. Local artists painted the bikes that are used in the program. Right now Bike New Britain is focused on working with the city to have a retail space downtown.

It was asked if the bikes are located on public or private property.

Mark replied that they are on private property, owned by the museum.

A member of the committee asked if they have lost any bikes. Mark replied that they have not.

Kevin Sullivan noted that Wethersfield would be supportive of bike share, but has not had any conversations about it. Rob Phillips of Southington noted that someone is privately looking at it in town.

Doretta Ananucci from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and Leadership Greater Hartford – Quest, gave an overview of a her organization's efforts to support bike share. As part of the Quest program, five taskforces each focused on taking on an issue to improve quality of life in Hartford. Her group looked for the intersection of transportation and health and decided to focus on bike share. They are hosting a forum on Wednesday, October 11 @ 10:00am at the Hartford Public Library. They will present the idea and ask about what they missed, why hasn't it been done yet, and how to move forward.

It was noted that this is now expected in cities, not just in places like Seattle and Portland. It was also noted that a few micro programs exist in the city (City Place, 777, Spectra Apartments, Goodwin College).

Jordan Polon noted that the BID would be willing to host information about bicycling in the city and add information on where bike racks are and where bike share systems are. A member of the committee asked if the forum only include Hartford or are you considering bike shares with surrounding communities?

Doretta replied that they are only looking at Hartford as a pilot right now.

It was noted that the 2014 CRCOG/GHTD Regional Bike Share Feasibility Study report had a phased approach that involves other communities. That report also projected an operational deficit for the program, necessitating a subsidy of some sort.

Tony Cherolis added that there was a meeting with New Haven's vendor for its bike share system, which involves advertising. New Haven is interested in having a single membership between systems in the state. Tony also noted that the private companies have advertising and other revenue streams built in to cover the shortfall. Doretta Andonucci noted that zipcar has an option that is coming online and Tony noted that UConn has a short-term bike rental program for the semester. Kevin Sullivan asked if operational costs have come down since CRCOG's study was done.

5. Updates and News

Mike Cipriano of CRCOG gave an overview of the 2017 Bike/Ped count project. He reported that 70 counts were performed and that all locations were counted. Most locations also included an intersection audit.

Emily Hultquist reported on outreach events for the CROG Complete Streets Plan. Three events are planned for the fall:

- Night Fall (Hartford): October 7
- Coventry Farmers Market: October 8
- Simsbury Spooktacular Chili Challenge: October 28

Tony Cherolis noted that the Nightfall event will have organized ride-ins from surrounding towns.

Emily Hultquist also noted that CROG submitted comments on the draft Statewide Bike/Ped plan.

6. What's New in My Town

Individuals used this time to update the committee on news in their town:

Rob Phillips, Southington: Solvents Recovery Systems section of the FCHT is having a ribbon cutting soon. The town will be finishing the rest of the trail next year. They are also installing a bike repair station at Mill Street.

Lon Hultgren, Mansfield: The town has adopted a complete streets policy and filed a bicycle friendly city application. The town also agreed to duce the cost of the bicycle commuting facilities in Storrs Center from \$15/month to \$35/year. The Eastern Gateways study is moving along.

Patrice Carson, Bolton: Construction of the trail through Manchester to Bolton is progressing quickly. The DOT just completed the area that comes up the off-ramp. The town is continuing work on the Nathan Hale Greenway study (along with Coventry).

Ginny Hole, South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways: The town received CT Greenways designation for the trail along the Eversource corridor north-south into East Windsor. The next step is an application for the recreational trails grant program to design and build it.

Bill Hawkins, Suffield: The town is hosting a Discover CT ride in October. The town received LOTCIP funding for a multi-use trail to connect the school sidewalks on Mountain Road. He also noted that Phelps Road parking lot on the FCHT has a bike repair station and that the town engineer has been getting comments about the surface being bumpy.

Tony Cherolis, Hartford/BiCiCo: CTtransit recently began running a connection from UConn Storrs to Hartford. Transport Hartford is holding a dinner and information session about the service on Wednesday, September 27th. BiCiCo is hosting a bike, walk, and bus to work meetup on October 6. Two interns from BiCiCo reported on their efforts, which included five bike/ped counts last week, doing audits this week, and doing outreach work (hanging up flyers and such).

Mark Moriarty, New Britain: Bike New Britain is getting a storefront in downtown. The city is working on the Stanley Loop Trail, a 5.5 mile loop, in two phases. One phase is in design and one is out to RFQ. New Britain's Complete Streets Phase 4 project is in construction. The city has decided to break the Beehive Bridge project into two projects. Sustainable CT initiative being launched in the next couple of months.

Ken Shooshan-Stoller, FHWA: FHWA has been putting together resource material on bike/ped issues over the last couple of years. Ken handed out some information about the materials.

Mike D'Amato, Newington: the town is working on getting people to think about bike/ped, but they don't have anything in place yet. Working to get information on where people are coming from and going to in town.

Mary Ellen Thibedeau: Bike West Hartford hosted its second West Hartford Center event. Bike West Hartford had a booth at Celebrate West Hartford and lots of people were interested in where they can bike around town. The town has an adopted bike facilities plan and recently took away a parking lane outside of King Phillip Drive to install a bike lane. Mary Ellen reported that DOT has been installing rumble strips on 187, but put them in the shoulder where they make cycling difficult. Mark Moriarty noted that this is a big deal and a big regional issue. Ken Shooshan-Stoller offered to bring it up to the safety committee at CTDOT.

Kevin Sullivan, Wethersfield: the Central CT Health District bought bike repair stations for the towns it serves.

7. Other business

No other business.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:30pm