

CRCOG
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLANNING COMMITTEE

Tuesday,
June 14, 2016
DRAFT MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Carl Gandza
Lon Hultgren
Wendy LaMontagne
Jen Rodriguz
Rob Phillips
Michele Lipe
Craig Minor
John Walsh
Chris Squires`
Matt Blume
Neil Pade

TOWN/ORGANIZATION

City of New Britain
Town of Mansfield/Bike Mansfield
Town of Suffield
Town of Windsor Locks
Town of Southington
Town of South Windsor
Town of Newington
Aetna
Bicycle Advocate
Town of Farmington
Town of Canton

STAFF

Emily Hultquist	CRCOG
Mary Ellen Kowalewski	CRCOG
Tim Malone	CRCOG

The meeting was called to order by staff members Emily Hultquist at 12:00 pm.

Public Forum:

No comments were received from the public.

Approval of Minutes:

Michele Lipe made a motion, seconded by Craig Minor, to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2016 Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Meeting. The motion passed.

Updates and News:

CRCOG has launched the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Gap Closure Study and has begun work with the project advisory committee on study vision and mission statement.

This legislative session, HB 5403, An Act Increasing Penalties for Failure to Yield to Pedestrians in Crosswalks and Failure to Exercise Due Care to Avoid Hitting a Pedestrian or Cyclist passed and has become PA 16-54. This Act increases fines from \$90 to a maximum of \$500 for drivers who don't yield to pedestrians. The Act goes into effect October 1, 2106.

CRCOG staff have completed a draft of the 2015 Bike Ped Count Report which is now ready for review. A new element of this report is a set of updated Intersection Profiles. The intersection profiles were new to the 2014 report and this year have been enhanced to include easy to read graphics explaining the data collected by the bike ped count and the active transportation audit at

select intersections across the region. The purpose of these profiles is to track and observe the activity at intersections near the region's largest transit investments (*CTfastrak* and *CTrail*) as well as on major trails and in town centers.

CRCOG staff participated in Walk Audit training offered through Bike Walk Connecticut as part of its Annual Summit in early June. The Walk Audit training was held in Hartford and was conducted by Mark Fenton, a nationally acclaimed expert in active transportation. CRCOG staff are now able to lead walk audits in communities across the region and practiced these skills at the June Summit with groups of attendees in New Britain.

CRCOG is the recipient of a 2016 Office of Policy and Management Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development Grant. \$450,000 grant under the OPM Responsible Growth and Transit Oriented Development Grant Program. Funds will be used to inventory of completed and planned multi-use trail and complete streets improvements; identify major gaps/needs and best practices for complete streets implementation on a region-wide basis; and development and establishment of a regional complete streets policy and action plan. Several CRCOG towns also received grants under this funding program: Berlin, Canton, Hartford, Windsor and Windsor Locks.

"What's new in your community?":

The following summarizes the discussion:

- Newington has received a Road Safety Audit from the CTDOT that will take place in the town center in July.
- Suffield was awarded a LOTCIP grant to work on Route 168 in an effort to improve safety in the area.
- Farmington has just finished a multi-use path project which is 2.4 miles ending at the Plainville town line. The path includes a new bridge over Route 6.
- The connection to the trail to Cheshire has been cleared. The town is looking to do a charrette to revitalize downtown Southington.
- Windsor locks received funding through the Office of Policy and Management Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development grant. The town is working on a complete streets design for Main Street. The Mill building in downtown is an opportunity for 150 apartments with connectivity to East Windsor. The town is also looking at safety concerns on Route 175 near the airport which has seen its 4th death in ten years.
- Mansfield is beginning a Bike Ped Plan process with Bike Mansfield participating
- South Windsor's Complete Streets Policy is going to the Town Council for consideration.
- In New Britain, the City is undergoing a great amount of construction for complete streets improvements. The City received a LOTCIP grant for Phase VI of its Complete Streets Plan. The City is also working on connecting bike lane gaps between its parks and its schools. The City will host a bike tour in September and is working on an event do educate adults on the use of the new bike infrastructure in town.
- Canton received an Honorable Mention through the League of American Bicyclists Bike Friendly Community Program.

- The trail near Goodwin College broke ground in April. Work on Simmons road into Rentschler Field out toward Forbes Street is looking to finish in November.
- Mansfield has adopted a sidewalk ordinance. The Bike Mansfield group has become a 501c3. A Tour de Mansfield is scheduled, a bike commuter club has formed and a Bike to Work day event was held in the town square. An effort to advocate for the Hollow to Hollow (Mansfield Hollow to Bigelow Hollow State Park) Bike connection is underway.

Presentation on Lessons Learned from the Step it Up! Institute to Increase Walking and Walkability and CRCOG Action Plan

Emily Hultquist gave a presentation on the region's participation in the Step it Up! Walkability Action Institute and the creation of the CRCOG Action Plan to Increase Walking and Walkability. CRCOG was successful in receiving a grant from the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors to attend, with an interdisciplinary team, the Step it Up! Institute to Increase Walking and Walkability. The team traveled Atlanta, April 26-28 to learn more about how to take action to make our communities more pedestrian and bike friendly and how to implement complete streets improvements.

Each team included the disciplines of planning, transportation, public health and a local elected official. CRCOG's six person team included at least one person from each of these disciplines and had representatives from the towns of Hartford, West Hartford and Bloomfield as well as the State Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board.

In addition to attending the Institute to learn from experts in the field of active transportation, the CRCOG team was charged with creating an Action Plan of 3-5 goals toward implementing complete streets improvements in the Capitol Region. Please see attached CRCOG's Action Plan document. This Plan is considered a living, working document that can be revisited as goals and actions evolve and are accomplished. The list of main goals developed in this plan are as follows:

Goal 1: The Step it Up! Action Team recommends CRCOG shift its current Bike Ped Committee to an Active Living/Active Transportation/Complete Streets Committee.

Goal 2: The Step it Up! Action Team recommends educating the public and decision makers at the local, regional and state level on the link between public health outcomes and transportation decisions.

Goal 3: The Step it Up! Action Team recommends working with a representative sample of CRCOG municipalities (Urban, Suburban and Rural) to implement pilot projects.

Goal 4: The Step it Up! Action Team Recommends CRCOG update the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan to become a Complete Streets/Active Transportation/Active Living Plan for the Capitol Region.

Goal 5: The Step It Up! Action Team Recommends CRCOG involve Public Health Representatives in Transportation Decisions.

Presentation on Update Process for CRCOG On-Road Bicycle Network Map

Tim Malone gave an update on the CRCOG On-Road Bicycle Facility Map. This map is currently being updated by CRCOG as a parallel effort to the CTDOT's statewide mapping and plan update process. About half of the region's towns had submitted update information to CRCOG by the time of the meeting. Staff will be seeking data from the remaining towns in the upcoming weeks.

Other Business No other business was brought to the attention of the committee.

Next Meeting September 6th or 20th, 2016 – stay tuned!

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.