

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, December 13, 2016
12:00 p.m.

Members and Alternates

Emily Anyzeski
Sara Bronin
Jim Cassidy
Andrea Drabicki
CJ Gandza
Abby Kenyon
Craig Minor
Rob Phillips
Stuart Popper
Kevin Sullivan
Mary Ellen Thibodeau
Jonathan Thiesse

Town/Organization

Canton
Hartford
Plainville/Greenway Alliance
Columbia
New Britain
Windsor
Newington
Southington
ECG, Bike Walk CT
DEEP and Wethersfield
West Hartford
Bloomfield

Staff

Mike Cipriano
Mary Ellen Kowalewski
Tim Malone
Brittany Stephenson

CRCOG
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Roll Call

1. Call to Order: Tim Malone called the meeting to order at 12:05pm. He recognized the newest Bike Friendly Community, the City of Hartford, and began introductions for the committee, staff, and guests.

2. Public Forum

There were no public comments.

3. Approval of Minutes of October 5, 2016 Meeting

Tim Malone requested a motion to approve the minutes.

Craig Minor made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2016 meeting. Andrea Drabicki seconded. Motion carried unanimously, with an abstention from Jim Cassidy.

4. Updates and News

Tim Malone briefed the committee on updates and news:

CRCOG Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program. The region recently solicited and received projects for FFY2016-2020. Towns included are Rocky Hill, Hartford, New Britain, and Ellington. The combined projects total \$6.1 million dollars. There are four contingency projects submitted at the request of DOT which include East Hartford, Southington, Farmington, and Columbia/Windham.

Complete Street Grants. The complete streets grant has been signed and a grant in the amount of \$450,000 has been received. The scope of this project includes assessing existing infrastructure, conducting a needs assessment, conducting research in best practices for complete streets policies, and developing model policies.

HB5403. Andrea Drabicki asked the committee what their towns were doing related to the new house bill for safer streets. Columbia continues to put in requests for signage and is interested in any local or regional efforts regarding utilization of this bill. Columbia would like support from CRCOG, where possible, regarding implementation and regulation of HB5403. Columbia will first coordinate with CTDOT staff in District 2 and see where that goes. It was noted that West Hartford had received some pushback from DOT regarding “share the road” signs on a state route.

5. Presentation on Initial Count Results

Tim Malone presented this report to the committee. The 2016 Bike Pedestrian count has finally been completed. The bike-ped count began in 2009 as a part of the NBPD project. The goal of the count is document usage and demand similar to other modes. The count has taken place each year with the exception of 2013. In 2014, the CRCOG region expanded by 8 towns and some of those towns have also been incorporated in the count. The count was taken September 13-18, 2016. It was a two hour allocation period and included intersections and screen line counts. There were 52 volunteers, 61 counts, and 20 towns.

With a fairly significant decline in numbers, Tim discussed the outcomes and results of this year’s count, highlighting differences including the dividing of count locations into 3 groups with each group being counted every 3 years. He also discussed the new count technology, automatic counters, used at some locations. He engaged the committee on top counts, town towns, gender differences, and bike to pedestrian comparisons. He also informed the committee on the active transportation audits used this count which captures on the ground infrastructure such as recent developments in a count area. The

comprehensive report and detailed analysis will be available for the committee by the next meeting.

6. What's New in My Town?

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

Southington-Rob Phillips shared with the committee that his town is currently reaching out to local police for signage on existing trail crossings. There is a need for increased awareness of trail crossings.

New Britain-CJ Gandza shared with the committee that his town has received funding for the AW Stanley Park Loop. There was an annual Bike New Britain committee meeting last week for the upcoming 2017 events. The city is looking to add bike events, including a "night ride" and LCI training classes in CT (cycling instructors)

Newington-Craig Minor shared with the committee that his town finished its road safety audit. The town would like to create an ad hoc committee for advocacy purposes related to the results of the audit.

Bloomfield-Jonathan Thiesse shared with the committee that his town has included in their upcoming budget, funding for a complete streets plan next year. The town is also getting ready to go out to bid on its LOTCIP project, completing a portion of the East Coast Greenway. Also, a consultant for the town completed a study on Day Hill Road just north of Hartford Town Hall. It should be finalized within the next month and can be made available for those interested.

Windsor-Abby Kenyon shared with the committee that her town has finished its road safety audit. Also, a trail along Day Hill Road was completed as part of the town's pedestrian enhancement program has recently opened.

Hartford-Sara Bronin, in for Sandra Fry, shared with the committee that Hartford has recently been recognized as a bike friendly community. She also shared that BiCiCo held its annual meeting last week and will have a comprehensive report in the future. On planning and zoning, the City of Hartford has also submitted comments regarding bike/ped accommodations at the Main and Albany intersection. They are also submitting comments regarding a State parking garage and the city's proposal for pedestrian improvements. Hartford was chosen for an EPA Green and Complete Streets workshop which will be publicized in March or April 2017. The city also has a grant that allows for two positions, which will be in the office of the Mayor, focused on sustainability and engineering. Cyclo-Cross is coming up in January. It will be discussed on a radio show, Pulse of the Region in the coming weeks. The city is also working on a Climate Action Plan.

Columbia- Andrea Drabicki shared with the committee that her town completed a road safety audit in September and is currently focused on the low hanging fruit. Columbia is

asking the state to upgrade signage and other areas in the audit corridor. The town is interested in a bike rodeo in May for children and adults. There has also been some discussion of partnering with Bolton and Andover on some of their efforts. She is also hopeful that the town will begin working on first steps on creating a bike friendly routes map.

Canton-Emily Anyzeski did not have any updates for the town of Canton.

Wethersfield-Kevin Sullivan shared with the committee that Wethersfield is currently working on forming an advocacy group.

West Hartford-Mary Ellen Thibodeau shared with the committee that her town would like to continue advocacy work on bike friendly efforts. The town would like to highlight regional successes and harness the energy of regional bike friendly communities. The town will start contacting those interested in working on a more cohesive effort and would like CROG representation.

Andover-Stuart Popper shared with the committee that the town of Andover in conjunction with DEEP has successfully removed the large, orange concrete blocks over a bridge on the Hop River Trail and replaced them with concrete planters.

Plainville-Jim Cassidy shared with the committee that the current GAP Closure study project is on hold for the town.

7. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

8. Adjournment

With no further discussion items, Tim Malone requested a motion to adjourn.

Stuart Popper moved to adjourn the meeting. Mary Ellen Thibodeau seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:25pm.