

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
Thursday, March 29, 2018
12:00 p.m.

Name

Matthew Bordeaux
Robert Phillips
Carl Gandza
Patrice Carson
Bruce Cyr
Tony Cherolis
Mary Ellen Thibodeau
Lon Hultgren
Susan Smith
Emily Anyzeski
Peter Gillespie
Todd Dumais
Rob Trottier
Mark Moriarty
Bruce Miller
Bill Young
Amy Watkins
Gerry Ledger

Affiliation

Town of Manchester
Town of Southington
City of New Britain
Town of Bolton
Town of Farmington
BiCiCo
Town of West Hartford
Town of Mansfield
BikeWalk CT
Town of Canton
Town of Wethersfield
Town of West Hartford
City of New Britain
City of New Britain
Bike New Britain
BikeWalk CT
Watch for Me CT
Granby

CRCOG Staff

Mike Cipriano
Mary Ellen Kowalewski
Tim Malone
Emily Hultquist

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 December 12, 2017 Meeting

Tim Malone requested a motion to approve the minutes.

Peter Gillespie made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2017 meeting. CJ Gandza seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Patrice Carson Abstained.

4. Updates and News

Emily Hultquist gave an overview of recent news and updates in the region. These included Hartford's Bicycle Plan, the Regional Complete Streets Plan, and the Gap Closure Project. Emily also gave an overview of a presentation that CRCOG staff were giving in Newington on April 5, focused on public health and complete streets. It was noted that the Bike Walk Summit will be held on April 6 at the Lyceum.

Tony Cherolis noted the following events:

- Bikelife in Hartford
- Multi-modal meetup at blue state coffee
- April 22 traffic skills course at BiCiCo

5. Presentation on Watch for Me CT

Amy Watkins gave a presentation on the state's Watch for Me CT program. The program promotes safety and awareness of vulnerable users.

Committee members ask:

- Do you have any examples of coordination you've had with parks and recreation departments?
 - Amy responded that the City of Hartford has asked about doing outreach at city parks

Emily distributed an article about a recent lawsuit regarding a cyclist who was injured by a storm drain.

Members of the committee discussed the difficulty of getting resources for urban cycling. They also discussed efforts to integrate cycling safety with education. Efforts that were mentioned included Farmington and Simsbury. Tony Cherolis mentioned that BiCiCo was trying to get a grant to pilot a program in Hartford.

6. Presentation on Bike/Ped Count Report and Interactive Website

Tim Malone gave a presentation on the 2017 bike/ped count. This year, instead of a printed report, CRCOG created an interactive website. Users can read the various sections and use an interactive map to explore the data. It also provides an interface for downloading the data.

7. What's New in My Town

The following town/organization updates were given:

Bike/Walk CT: an accessibility data bill has been proposed, with Elizabeth Esty as co-sponsor. It would provide a new data source for MPOs.

Granby: a new traffic light at 202 and the FCHT has been installed. Three more trail counters have been purchased and new trail maps have been released.

Watch for Me CT: the statewide trail census program is ongoing and a webinar about it is scheduled for April 3.

Southington: section of the FCHT at Curtis Street should be completed in the summer. Design for the last section of the trail should be done in the Fall with a target date for completion of construction in the Spring of 2020.

Farmington: official opening of the final section of the FCHT in Farmington should happen soon.

Bolton: a ribbon-cutting for the trail bridge project will happen in September.

New Britain: the Stanley trail project will be underway soon. The city is designing a trail loop to connect the two parks. The city continues to look for opportunities to create bike lanes during routine milling and paving. The city will hold a bike rodeo on June 23. \$2 million dollars has been allocated for phase 7 of the city's complete streets plan (on Columbus Blvd). The Beehive Bridge project has also gotten city approval.

Bike New Britain: signed a lease for a downtown headquarters. The organization is also working to bring back the Hardware City Bike Tour. The group has also been approached about constructing mountain bike trails in city parks.

Wethersfield: the town has completed installation of nine bus shelters. Annual bike festival is on June 10 in Old Wethersfield. The town is also getting ready for its first bike/ped planning process.

Mansfield: finished development of a bike safety card and is attempting to get them distributed to UConn students. Tony Cherolis mentioned that Champaign-Urbana has a program where incoming students receive safety training during registration. Next goal in Mansfield is bicycle friendly university status for UConn.

Canton: streetscape project in Collinsville is ongoing. Phase 2 is underway and a public meeting will be held on April 4.

Hartford (BiCiCo): holding workshops on Mondays and Wednesday nights. Transport Hartford got a 1 year grant from the national safety council for community outreach and an internship focused around public safety. Some physical traffic calming interventions will also be done.

West Hartford: the town is hoping to add bike lanes on Boulevard. They are also working on a connection to Newington to link up with the fastrak trail. Phase 3 of the Trout Brook Trail is going into construction. The town is working on three recreational trail loops with decorative signs and family friendly routes.

Manchester: the town adopted a complete streets plan last summer. They are acquiring a stretch of the cheney railroad to connect the historic district to the Hop River Trail. They are almost done with a wayfinding sign system in downtown, along with four new bus stops. The parks and rec department is starting a “yellow bike program” at Charter Oak Park. People with a recreation pass will be able to borrow a bike and use it for a few hours.

8. Other business

No other business.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:30pm