

Capitol Region Council of Governments

241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: (860) 522-2217 FAX: (860) 724-1274

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Committee Meeting
241 Main Street, 4th Fl. Hartford, CT, CRCOG Large Conference Room
Tuesday, June 12, 2018
12:00 p.m.

Name

Amy Watkins
Lon Hultgren
Mary Ellen Thibodeau
Susan Smith
Sandy Fry
CJ Gandza
Rob Phillips
Michele Lipe
Patrice Carson
Gerry Ledger
Ron Smith
Mike D'Amato
Todd Dumais
Bill Vernassi

Affiliation

Watch for Me CT
Bike Mansfield
West Hartford Ped/Bike Commission
Bike/Walk CT
City of Hartford
City of New Britain
Town of Southington
Town of South Windsor
Town of Bolton
Town of Granby (resident)
Resident
Town of Newington
Town of West Hartford
City of Hartford (resident)

CRCOG Staff

Mary Ellen Kowalewski
Tim Malone
Emily Hultquist
Nadia Balassone
Jane Culkin

Roll Call

1. Call to Order: Tim Malone called the meeting to order at 12:00pm. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

2. Public Forum

Bill Vernassi, of Hartford, noted that the building CRCOG's office is located in lacks a bike rack. CRCOG staff noted that since CRCOG does not own the building, they had little control, but that they would look into it.

3. Approval of Minutes of the March 13, 2018 Meeting

Tim Malone requested a motion to approve the minutes.

Members of the committee pointed out a number of errors in the minutes related to who was in attendance. Tim Malone noted that it appeared that the wrong version was sent out. Approval of the minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

4. Updates and News

CRCOG staff gave an overview of recent updates and news. Emily Hultquist gave an overview of the May Open Planning Studio that CRCOG held for the Complete Streets Plan. She also noted that the draft regional network map is available for review.

Other updates included:

- Lime Bike launched in Hartford with 300 bikes. Sandy Fry noted that the bikes are being used and that the system is data-rich. CJ Gandza noted that New Britain is looking into getting Lime Bikes as well.
- Trail news: the Route 6 bridge in Farmington opened; the CRCOG Silver Lane study is looking at the East Hartford gap in the East Coast Greenway; two new greenways were dedicated in the region in South Windsor and East Hartford.
- An update on available funding programs.
- Upcoming events, including the Transport Hartford Multimodal and Transit Summit on November 19.
- An announcement that the annual bike/ped count will take place September 10-16

5. Presentation from the New Bike/Walk CT Director

Susan Smith, the new Executive Director of Bike/Walk CT gave an overview of the organization and its priorities for 2018. She noted that education would be a top priority. They plan to expand their 4th grade education program. They are also developing a bike friendly driver program based on a model in place in Fort Collins. They are also planning to have a League of American Cyclists training program in the first quarter of 2019. On the advocacy front, they are doing a deep dive regarding state bike/ped statutes.

6. Updates on CRCOG Regional Complete Streets Plan

This update was covered under the “Updates and News” section.

7. What’s New in My Town

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

- Lon Hultgren (Mansfield): working with UConn to become a bike friendly university
 - Created tips card for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians (done with police department)

- Amy Watkins (Watch for Me CT)
 - Campaign for 2018 launched with a billboard, posters, and advertisements
 - focused on three feet law and crossing yellow line
 - emphasizes that: same road, same rules
 - Available to do education in different venues
 - Adapting Bike Friendly Driver course materials
 - Michele Lipe noted that they should try getting into the senior centers
- Sandy Fry (City of Hartford and West Hartford resident)
 - Bike West Hartford Update: West Hartford has marked some bike routes
 - A local biking group has identified where you could string together some links
 - The town has done a good job of placing arrows where they are needed for wayfinding
 - Center Streets event on August 26. The town will close roads in the center for the event: Farmington Avenue, South Main Street, Memorial Road Extension, and LaSalle Road.
 - West Hartford reapplied for bike friendly community and reaffirmed at bronze level
 - Is running a biking without age program – a bike rickshaw with electric assist at local nursing homes for people who can't ride bikes anymore.
- Rob Phillips (Southington)
 - The section of the FCHT going to Curtis St is complete.
 - The design north of lazy lane is moving along.
 - Sharrows went in on Berlin Street.
- Patrice Carson (Bolton)
 - East Coast Greenway section in Bolton is slated to be done soon (November 29 is the end of the contract)
 - bridges over 44 and 6 are being completed
 - probably open in November
 - Almost completed the study for the old route 6 properties
 - about ready for a public meeting
 - looks like it will become more of a trail than a multi-use trail
- Michele Lipe (S. Windsor)
 - The town passed regulations requiring bike racks in new developments
 - The first commercial project under these regulations is going before commission
 - Inter-departmental meetings are being held to coordinate activities.
 - A member of the committee asked if there are any sources on economical bike racks?
 - Michele noted that the regulations have specifications.
- Gerry Ledger (Granby)
 - A crossing light is going in at Floydville Road and Route 10
 - The town is working on a half-mile sidewalk south of the green along Route 10
 - Granby has a new planner (Abby Kenyon)
 - FVTC: nine repair stations between Farmington and the state line have been installed
 - Three automated trail counters are currently installed on the trail and the council is buying three more
 - Westfield, MA just installed new counters on the trail
 - Looking for information on which towns have speed limits on trails
- CJ (New Britain)
 - Ground breaking of the Beehive Bridge is being held soon
 - Working on a major update to the bike New Britain map
 - Stanley loop trail system is 75% complete

- more than 3 miles when completed
 - Working on recreational loop signage
 - Holding a bike rodeo on June 23
 - Hardware City bike tour being planned for the Fall
 - Bike New Britain secured physical space for a center
 - Starting an earn a bike program for schools
- Jen Rodriguez (Windsor Locks)
 - Sidewalks being installed in front of 75 properties
 - Waiting for the state to design crosswalks
 - Town has a u-shaped bike rack program where people buy the bricks that go around them
 - She also noted that Suffield has the 4th grade education program for all 4th graders
 - also do a before school program for learning how to learn
 - PE teachers taking the lead
- Mike D'Amato (Newington)
 - Trying to work with local bike shop to help build awareness and build a bike/ped listserv
 - Working with public works department to include bike/ped improvements in any project they can

9. Other business

No other business.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:30pm