

# Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Committee Meeting – DRAFT Minutes

TIME:NOON

DATE: **Tuesday March 8, 2022**

PLACE: Zoom Call

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
<b>Grace Yi</b>	City of Hartford
<b>John Dibiasi</b>	Town of Manchester
<b>Ken Sek</b>	South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways
<b>Bruce Donald</b>	East Coast Greenway
<b>Sarah Cote</b>	Town of Bloomfield
<b>Martha Conneely</b>	Riverfront Recapture
<b>Amy Watkins</b>	Watch for Me CT
<b>Nathaniel Jarvie</b>	Town of Canton
<b>Patrice Carson</b>	Town of Bolton
<b>Michele Lipe</b>	Town of South Windsor
<b>Eugene Nichols</b>	CT Department of Public Health
<b>Bruce Cyr</b>	Town of Farmington
<b>Abby Kenyon</b>	Town of Granby
<b>Tucker Salls</b>	
<b>Thomas Regan-Lefebvre</b>	Transport Hartford
<b>Tony Cherolis</b>	BiCi Co.

## **CRCOG Staff**

Caitlin Palmer

Tim Malone

## **Roll Call**

1. **Call to Order:** Tim Malone called the meeting to order at 12:01pm. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves.
2. **Public Forum**  
Tony Cherolis reported that there are several bills of interest in the current legislative session. Tim Malone replied that they could be discussed in more detail during the town updates.
3. **Approval of Minutes of the December 14, 2021 meeting**  
Tim Malone asked for a motion to approve the minutes  
Motioned by Patrice Carson; Seconded by Bruce Cyr  
Motion was approved.
4. **Updates and news**  
CRCOG Staff gave an overview of recent updates and news. (the presentation is posted on the CRCOG website)

Bruce Donald made a comment on the Recreational Trails Program. He noted that they had \$3 million to spend on \$22 million in applications. There is a bill currently before the legislature to add additional funding to the program.

## **5. Presentation: 2021 Bike/Ped Count Results**

Tim Malone gave a presentation showing results from the 2021 Capitol Region Bike Ped Count. The presentation has been posted to the CRCOG website.

Tony Cherolis asked if the staff and volunteer time that is used on the bike ped count could be used better. This was followed by a discussion of various technical solutions to the problem, including the use of traffic cameras. Martha Conneely commented that it is useful to have count data. Tony Cherolis added that data on helmet usage is not that important as helmets are a tertiary safety issue. Tim Malone told the group that he would talk it over with others at CRCOG and see if the count program could be made more efficient.

## **6. What's New in My Town**

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

Bolton (Patrice Carson):

- Working on first connectivity trail from firehouse to town hall
  - Decided to extend it into an off-road trail that will have an educational component and be ADA accessible.

South Windsor Walk and Wheelways (Ken Sek)

- Town involved in trying to get a cross-town trail started
- Still planning the route. It will be 6.2 miles across the town. In the process of getting permission from abutters.

East Coast Greenway (Bruce Donald)

- FCHT phase 4 of New Haven should be finished in early fall
  - 1.6 miles for \$11 million
- Southington phase 3 has been delayed again, hopefully goes to bid this year
- Plainville phase 1 may go to bid soon. Construction next year
- Moosup valley state park trail will break ground in a couple months
- Phase 2 of Plainville is about 20% design
- Tony C commented that there are two bills that Bruce may be interested in:
  - HB 5291 doubles the amount of rec trails funding in the state and would be available in FY23
  - SB-129 Ability for a town to opt in to abate taxes of a landowner who gives ROW for a trail.
  - Bruce noted that DOT's omnibus bill also includes legislation related to rail liability in relation to trails:
    - Would like railroads added to legislative liability
    - Allows Commissioner the ability to give omnibus protection for a specific corridor
- Thomas Regan-Lefebvre noted that SB-4 would require municipal and regional organizations to mitigate carbon increases
  - Also includes electrification of school buses by 2050
  - Extension of CHEAPR rebates to e-bikes

- Tony C added that Governor Lamont has an executive order to reduce VMT by 2030. It doesn't say what the target is. SB-4 would be a good place to put the target.

#### Riverfront Recapture (Martha Conneely)

- Riverfront Recapture is a partner in the rec trails grants with Hartford and Wethersfield
- Putnam bridge project has now gone out to bid

#### Manchester (John Dibiasi)

- RRFB installed on main street
- LOTCIP application has been submitted
- Weren't picked for the rec trails grant, so need to figure out that funding
- Putting out a story map on a project for downtown improvements
  - Shows potential improvements such as road diet, roundabout
  - Shows renderings
  - Downtown Manchester Improvement Project

#### Bloomfield (Sarah Cote)

- Final bid package is in review for Bloomfield-Tariffville connector

#### Farmington ( Bruce Cyr)

- Working on wayfinding project for the town's trails.

#### South Windsor (Michele Lipe)

- Community connectivity grant on Clark Street
- Two projects with ARPA funds to install sidewalks (Darthill Road and Pleasant Valley Road)
- Trail system installed in Evergreen Walk development
- Adopted EV charger regulations

#### BiCi Co. (Tony Cherolis)

- Recent discussion on bike/ped advisory board
  - Route 44 didn't include a bike route or cross walks
  - Red flag that DOT complete streets process isn't functioning
- Important sidewalk project on Silver Lane in East Hartford is being unnecessarily delayed.
- Attended presentation on Rentschler field development
- March 23 happy hour meetup to revisit gaps in east coast greenway
- Membership campaign at BiCi Co. is underway.
- Getting under way with bike life program.

#### Watch for Me CT (Amy Watkins)

- \$25k grant from Governor's Highway Safety Foundation to work with Hartford Yard Goats to work on bike and ped safety issues
- Doing some standalone events in Hartford to distribute helmets and bike lights

#### Hartford (Grace Yi)

- Working on south branch riverwalk project
- Continuing regular striping and paving program. Adding bicycle facilities and cross walks as we can.
- Scooter share stayed through winter and will be ramping up soon.
- Parking study underway.

- Arrowhead small area study underway.
  - Community survey for the study is open.
- Working on bike boulevards
  - First in CT
  - Will be seeking feedback
- Domingo Hartford pushed back to June
  - Focusing on two major routes
- A few streetscape projects in different phases.
- Thomas asked if there is any update on maintenance and protection of sidewalks?
  - Grace replied that they have been creating a more holistic processes to address concerns of maintenance and protection of sidewalks during construction projects.

#### Town of Canton (Nathaniel Jarvie)

- Got rec trails grant money
  - First part to fund the design to expand Farmington Canal Heritage Trail to the shoppes.
  - Part two is to plan and design an extension to Simsbury/Avon.

#### Thomas (Transport Hartford)

- Held two walk audits with Desegregate CT (Berlin and Newington)
  - Focused on improvements to bike/ped safety at the train stations
- On track to have one of the worst years for bike/ped safety

#### Watch for Me CT (Amy Watkins)

- DMV is updating their manual to reflect new bike/ped laws
- Tragic death on CT 140 in East Windsor
  - Tony Cherolis noted that there is no infrastructure for pedestrians and no traffic calming at that location.

#### Ken Sek

- We will be teaching bike safety classes in two of our four elementary schools next month. Two more in the fall.

Tim Malone asked if there was anything else from the group.

Tony Cherolis noted that it is important to install bicycle friendly rumble strips, especially on rural and suburban roads.

## **7. Other Business**

## **8. Adjournment**

Motioned by Bruce Cyr; Seconded by Michele Lipe  
The meeting was adjourned at 1:23pm.

## Meeting Chat Transcript

12:08:08 From Anthony Cherolis, He/Him - BiCi Co. & Transport Hartford to Everyone:

SB-4 --> Includes (1) proposal for \$500 e-bike voucher for low to moderate income households, and (2) requiring emissions reducing offsets for regionally important transportation or development projects that might increase emissions (or induce more driving). There is an important public testimony opportunity on Friday, March 11th - and we've organized E-Bike Day at the CT State Capitol on Tuesday, March 15th (11am-1pm). ACTION ALERT AND TEXT FOR SB-4 -->

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L6k4nbGN\\_jh6flh4za3XeQHMKapY71GU15VdliEUPHU/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L6k4nbGN_jh6flh4za3XeQHMKapY71GU15VdliEUPHU/edit)

12:09:34 From Caitlin Palmer to Everyone:

<https://crcog.org/2022/03/2022-bike-share-feasibility-study/>

12:10:02 From Anthony Cherolis, He/Him - BiCi Co. & Transport Hartford to Everyone:

SB-4 Infographic Here --> <https://www.safeststreetsnewhaven.org/>

12:11:58 From Anthony Cherolis, He/Him - BiCi Co. & Transport Hartford to Everyone:

Re: East Coast Greenway Gaps - We've organized a Wednesday, March 23rd Multimodal Happy Hour Meetup on exactly that topic, 5-7pm at Carmine's in East Hartford. FB Event Link Here --> <https://www.facebook.com/events/332681155273789>

12:14:21 From Anthony Cherolis, He/Him - BiCi Co. & Transport Hartford to Everyone:

Please do go out and make comments on the "Alternatives" for the Greater Hartford Mobility Study. Lots of good active transportation in the mix - but there are also several very problematic interstate expansion proposals and new roads being proposed through natural areas. There are TWO groups or proposals. One for capital investments, and the other for service/operations/policy proposals. Review the proposals here and comment ---> <https://www.hartfordmobility.com/alternatives-home>

12:18:54 From Anthony Cherolis, He/Him - BiCi Co. & Transport Hartford to Everyone:

Continuing note for SB-4: One of the most important adjustments to the bill is to set a 2030 vehicle miles traveled reduction goal (suggesting 5% by 2030) rather than just offsetting growth in transportation sector emissions. Dec 2021, Gov Lamont Executive Order was for CT DOT to set a 2030 VMT reduction target and make investments to support that. Important to reinforce (and make permanent) that Exec Order with legislation. \*\*\*\*\* We'd love to see that in emailed (or spoken, via Zoom) testimony, asking for an explicit reduction % of VMT by 2030 in SB-4 text.

12:35:04 From Anthony Cherolis, He/Him - BiCi Co. & Transport Hartford to Everyone:

[Grace - Do you want to give the "Hartford" infrastructure report?]

12:40:47 From Anthony Cherolis, He/Him - BiCi Co. & Transport Hartford to Everyone:

HB-5291 - Greenway, Recreational Trail Funding increase from \$3 to \$6 million -  
[https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill\\_num=HB05291&which\\_year=2022](https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=HB05291&which_year=2022)

12:43:55 From Anthony Cherolis, He/Him - BiCi Co. & Transport Hartford to Everyone:

SB-129 in the Planning and Development Committee - AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TAX ABATEMENT FOR CERTAIN CONSERVATION EASEMENTS. -->  
[https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill\\_num=SB129&which\\_year=2022](https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=SB129&which_year=2022)

12:44:32 From Thomas Regan-Lefebvre to Everyone:

[https://cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill\\_num=SB-4](https://cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=SB-4)

12:47:41 From Anthony Cherolis, He/Him - BiCi Co. & Transport Hartford to Everyone:

Raised H.B. No. 5255, AN ACT CONCERNING RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. This is the CT DOT bill that Bruce mentioned that includes some mechanism for addressing "rail with trail" liability issues. -->  
[https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill\\_num=HB5255&which\\_year=2022](https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=HB5255&which_year=2022)

12:48:13 From Bruce Donald to Everyone:

Thanks Tony!

12:49:08 From Anthony Cherolis, He/Him - BiCi Co. & Transport Hartford to Everyone:

[repeat for those that joined late] SB-4 Infographic Here -->  
<https://www.safestreetsnewhaven.org/> (lots of good stuff in there)

12:51:27 From Anthony Cherolis, He/Him - BiCi Co. & Transport Hartford to Everyone:

I have a BiCi Co. update. Fun stuff we're doing outside of dorky legislation. And Grace Yi probably has a City of Hartford infra update.

12:53:27 From Thomas Regan-Lefebvre to Everyone:

looks great

12:54:14 From Grace Yi to Everyone:

Yes, with spring here, things are certainly picking up on the City end as well

12:54:50 From Anthony Cherolis, He/Him - BiCi Co. & Transport Hartford to Everyone:

Relative to those "median islands" we'd suggest hard curbing or at least flex bollards or plantings. Otherwise we experience folks using them recklessly for high speed passing and racing.

12:55:26 From Anthony Cherolis, He/Him - BiCi Co. & Transport Hartford to Everyone:

Don't just use paint. Paint only works for those that are responsible. The reckless and terrible drivers will use them inappropriately.

12:56:42 From Anthony Cherolis, He/Him - BiCi Co. & Transport Hartford to Everyone:

We'll definitely share this in the next Transport Hartford newsletter, and we can target a send to our Manchester contact list audience. Do you have a short blurb and graphic?

12:58:26 From John DiBiasi to Everyone:

Our ArcGIS Online "StoryMap" webpage is here: <https://manct.us/10>

It's a really easy tool to use and worth checking out if your Town uses ESRI/ArcGIS

13:06:55 From Anthony Cherolis, He/Him - BiCi Co. & Transport Hartford to Everyone:

East Hartford Multimodal Happy Hour, focused on Metro Hartford East Coast Greenway Gaps, Wed, March 23rd, 5-7pm --> <https://www.facebook.com/events/332681155273789/>

13:08:51 From Anthony Cherolis, He/Him - BiCi Co. & Transport Hartford to Everyone:

BikeLife Youth/Teen Program with Bike Safety Education & a Saturday Festival connecting kids to bikes (quality bike donations needed, and there are volunteer opportunities) --> <https://bicico.org/bike-life/>

13:17:51 From Anthony Cherolis, He/Him - BiCi Co. & Transport Hartford to Everyone:

CT DOT's Vision Zero Council is taking recommendations for members of the sub-committees: Enforcement, Engineering, Education, Emergency Medical Services, Equity. <https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/VisionZeroCouncil/HowToContactUs>

13:18:22 From Thomas Regan-Lefebvre to Everyone:

CT DOT is also taking comments on its capital plan

13:21:47 From Anthony Cherolis, He/Him - BiCi Co. & Transport Hartford to Everyone:

There are bicycle friendly rumble strips, and I've seen them used in Michigan (rt 2, Upper peninsula) and Massachusetts on Rt 5 near the CT River. The shoulder is much less exposed with that physical/audible reminder to drivers that might otherwise drift out of the travel lane at high speed. <https://www.adventurecycling.org/advocacy/safety-advocacy/downloads/solutions-for-making-rumble-strips-safer-for-bicyclists/>