

# Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Committee Meeting – DRAFT Minutes

TIME:NOON

DATE: **Tuesday December 14, 2021**

PLACE: Zoom Call

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
<b>Michele Lipe</b>	Town of South Windsor
<b>Martha Conneely</b>	Riverfront Recapture
<b>Jerry Ledger</b>	Granby resident
<b>Renata Bertotti</b>	Town of Newington
<b>Lon Hultgren</b>	Bike Mansfield
<b>Bruce Donald</b>	East Coast Greenway
<b>Nathaniel Jarvie</b>	Town of Canton
<b>Amy Watkins</b>	Watch for Me CT
<b>Bob Dickinson</b>	South Windsor Walk and Wheel Ways
<b>Bill Veronesi</b>	Hartford resident
<b>Grace Yi</b>	City of Hartford
<b>CJ Gandza</b>	City of New Britain
<b>Eugene Nichols</b>	CT DPH
<b>Eric Anderson</b>	Town of Andover
<b>Thomas Regan-Lefebvre</b>	Center for Latino Progress
<b>Tony Cherolis</b>	BiCiCo
<b>Kevin Sullivan</b>	Bike Walk Wethersfield
<b>John Dibiasi</b>	Town of Manchester

## **CRCOG Staff**

Michael Cipriano

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**  
Thomas Regan-Lefebvre reported that on January 12 and January 19 the Center for Latino Progress is hosting two walk audits, one in Berlin and one in Newington. Tony Cherolis reported that there will be a multi-modal meetup in the west end of Hartford about winter commuting.
3. **Approval of Minutes of the September 14, 2021 meeting**  
Tim Malone asked for a motion to approve the minutes  
Motioned by Michele Lipe; Seconded by Lon Hultgren  
Motion was approved.
4. **Approval of 2022 meeting schedule**

CRCOG staff presented the 2022 meeting schedule. Eric Anderson moved to approve the schedule; seconded by Michele Lipe. Motion was approved.

**5. Updates and news**

CRCOG Staff gave an overview of recent updates and news. (the presentation is posted on the CRCOG website)

**6. Presentation: New Pedestrian Safety Laws**

Amy Watkins gave a presentation on the new pedestrian safety laws passed in the last legislative session.

Renata Bertotti asked what was being done to educate people about the new laws. Amy answered that CTDOT has an educational campaign project they're working on that includes a website and digital billboards. Jerry Ledger noted it would be good to add them to the state licensing test.

Bob Dickinson noted that speed cameras will be setup in construction zones. He asked what the fines would be for that program. Thomas Regan-Lefebvre added that there is a warning for the first violation, \$75 fine for the second, and \$150 fine for the third.

Bruce Donald noted that the Greenways License Plate Account was also restored in legislation, to be administered by DEEP.

Thomas asked what towns are doing to implement HB 5429. Tony noted that it may come up at a future Hartford Complete Streets meeting. Tony noted that traffic stops are way down.

Bill Veronesi asked about the speed limit provisions in HB5429. Tony added that the final version of the bill was heavier on engineering and keeps many of the same requirements as in the previous process. John Dibiasi noted that a study was always needed and that you really should have a study done to change speed limits. Tony responded that the problem is that you can't batch streets together; you have to do a study on each individual street.

Renata noted that land use commissions don't focus on bike/ped safety. John Dibiasi noted that the process does rely on land use commissioners asking questions of developers. He also noted that having a complete streets policy is important. Michele Lipe noted that South Windsor requires developers to show how pedestrians are making it to the front door. Eric Anderson noted that the Town of Andover reduced the number of required parking spaces at commercial venues. Also required bike racks and pedestrian accommodations. Tim offered that perhaps CRCOG could put together a presentation on including complete streets accommodations in land use codes for the Regional Planning Commission.

John Dibiasi added that having a master plan showing where sidewalks are going to go is good. Michele Lipe added that the town is currently being sued over a sidewalk requirement. Tony Cherolis added that Hartford has a payment in lieu of sidewalks options in the zoning code.

**7. What's New in My Town**

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

#### Martha Conneely (Riverfront)

- A lot going on
- Hartford to Windsor riverwalk is in design. 2.5 miles extending riverside park north of boathouse to Windsor town line
- Looking to raise \$750,000 to add amenities to the trail
- Gotten funding from EPA and DECD to cleanup the park
- New partnership with town of Wethersfield to put forward a proposal to do a feasibility study to connect Hartford south to Wethersfield
- Thomas asked: Is there a specific plan to connect the trail to Keney Park?
  - Martha: Have had some talks with Hartford and Windsor to make that a better connection
- Bill asked: What kind of route is being considered going south?
  - Martha: The study will look at that; certainly, portions of it will be on the road.
- Bill asked: Does anyone know the status of the Putnam bridge?
  - Bruce: the western end will be in construction next year, the eastern end is unclear

#### Bruce Donald

- CT rec trails funding awards are being parsed. Got 63 project applications, totaling \$22 million. Should announce in January.

#### Bill Dickinson

- DOT is looking at the Bulkeley bridge pedestrian approach
- Would be nice to get it connected into the park

#### Thomas Regan-Lefebvre

- Are there any plans for the railroad bridge to East Hartford?
- Bruce: not that I'm aware of.

#### Thomas Regan-Lefebvre

- Two walk audits coming up in January
- We want to focus on Hartford for advocacy
- Key focus on emissions
- TCI didn't go through
- Pushing for a rebate on e-bikes

#### Eric Anderson (Andover)

- Work has begun on community connectivity project
- Connectivity across route 6
- New trailhead for the rail trail
- Combined grant with Coventry to come up with a new walking path in Nathan Hale Forest
- Town looking at a rail trail to center of town

#### John Dibiasi (Manchester)

- Would like to see the interstate taken off the Bulkeley bridge
- Any more programs CRCOG could provide in the framework of LOTCIP would be awesome. I wish there was a LOTCIP for bike/ped projects.
- Have a downtown project coming up
- Having supply issues with RRFB equipment
- Working on grant application for final part of Cheney line trail

#### New Britain (CJ Gandza)

- Finished community connectivity project installed buffered bike lanes on Ella Grasso Blvd
- Submit rec trails grant application for Ella Grasso trail into CTfastrak
- Bee Line trail. Design three phases fully funded. Two phases construction funded. Moving toward Plainville town line.
- Bike New Britain focusing on education.

#### Hartford (Grace Yi)

- Hartford is opening an open streets initiative
  - Tentative start date of May 22nd
- Parking study is ongoing.
- North Main Street is in design phase.
- South branch park river trail currently in design process as well.
- New scooter corrals in downtown.
- Scooters will be pulled during inclement weather.

#### Amy Watkins

- Gotten additional funding to run impaired driving campaign.
- Anti-drunk driving campaign aimed at men 18-35 (highest group of offenders).
- Getting a grant to do some bike safety youth education.

#### Tony Cherolis (BiCiCo)

- Continuing do it yourself repair hours.
  - Trying to increase membership to add another night. Probably a women, trans, femme night.
- E-bike rebate will likely come up at CT CHEAPR meeting.
  - DEEP got a legal opinion that bikes aren't vehicles.
- Statewide Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Board meeting at 9am on Friday.

### **8. Other Business**

### **9. Adjournment**

Motioned by Eric Anderson; Seconded by Martha Conneely  
The meeting was adjourned at 1:35pm.