

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Committee Meeting – DRAFT Minutes

TIME: 12:00pm

DATE: Tuesday, December 13, 2022

PLACE: Zoom Call

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Lon Hultgren	Town of Mansfield
Parker Sorenson	FHI Studio
Owen Deutsch	City of Hartford
Jay Stange	Transport Hartford
Eric Anderson	Town of Andover
Martha Conneely	Riverfront Recapture
Amy Watkins	Watch for Me CT
Patrice Carson	Town of Bolton
Robert Dickinson	Bike Advocate
Nathaniel Jarvie	Town of Canton
Grace Yi	City of Hartford
John Dibiasi	Town of Manchester
Eugene Nicols	Department of Public Health

CRCOG Staff

Caitlin Palmer
Matt Hart
Kyle Shiel
Mike Cipriano
Ryan Faulkner
Elizabeth Sanderson
Anthony Diaz (intern)

Roll Call

1. **Call to Order (0:00)** Caitlin Palmer called the meeting to order. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves. (Note, the recording did not capture some of the attendees' introductions.)
2. **Public Forum (2:22)**
No members of the public came forward with comments.
3. **Approval of Minutes of the June 14, 2022 meeting (2:53)**
Caitlin Palmer asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Motioned by Eric Anderson; seconded by Patrice Carson. Motion was approved.
4. **Approval of 2023 Meeting Schedule (4:02)**

Andover / Avon / Berlin / Bloomfield / Bolton / Canton / Columbia / Coventry / East Granby / East Hartford / East Windsor / Ellington / Enfield / Farmington / Glastonbury / Granby / Hartford / Hebron / Manchester / Mansfield / Marlborough / New Britain / Newington / Plainville / Rocky Hill / Simsbury / Somers / South Windsor / Southington / Stafford / Suffield / Tolland / Vernon / West Hartford / Wethersfield / Willington / Windsor / Windsor Locks

Caitlin Palmer asked for a motion to approve the 2023 meeting schedule. Motioned by Patrice Carson; seconded by Eric Anderson. Motion was approved.

5. Updates and news (5:57)

Caitlin introduced the idea of a new name for the group and welcomed discussion. Proposed "Active Transportation Working Group" as a way to be more encompassing and does not follow same framework as other CRCOG committees or subcommittees. Patrice feels this group is more bike and trail centric and wondered if we were moving away from that and didn't want it to get confused with the Transportation Committee. Eric Anderson asked what the mission of this group is. Amy Watkins said that we shouldn't have it be confused with the Active Living & Active Transportation Committee. Caitlin concurred and acknowledged that the ALAT committee is still going and could result in confusion, clarified that the ALAT is a statewide grant to implement the SPAN grant. Lon Hultgren suggested we think further about it, a name that excites us, future discussion on agenda could inform this. Role of committee has been to share information between CRCOG/communities and also peer learning with communities. Matt felt it would be helpful to him as RCOG staff with respect to the role of the group, this group being able to help shape and inform CRCOG policies and initiatives

CRCOG staff gave an overview of recent updates and news. This included updates on the SPAN and BRIC grants, \$16.4 million RAISE grant with Plainville and New Britain, regional micromobility efforts, the Capitol Region East Coast Greenway Study, informing attendees that the 2023 LOTCIP solicitation is open, MTP process and survey. (The presentation is posted on the CRCOG website.)

CRCOG staff also presented safety trends and statistics from the MTP presentation for CT and the region, an inexhaustive list of contributing factors, and overview of CRCOG safety efforts. Jay Stange had a question regarding fatalities on multi-lane, high-speed arterials (60% nationally on these roadways) and wondered if we had a breakdown of the locations in our region of the fatalities and if we have the ability to assess the impact of the design of the roadway on fatalities. Parker mentioned CTDOT had completed analysis of multi-lane roadways that could potentially support a road diet (state roadways only).

6. Group Discussion – What should the regional vision or goal be for active transportation planning in the CRCOG region? (38:30)

Especially with ECG study underway with the goal of implementation to follow, CRCOG wants to know what should be next? For example, looking where we can extend our multi-use trail network and connect to complete streets. What should we be considering?

Eric Anderson – There are two parts to trail/bike connectivity – within individual towns and connectivity between towns. Would like to see emphasis on using ECG as a transportation corridor, i.e., problem as a state park is a dawn-to-dusk use issue. Can we push the state on the use of the rail-trails to lax requirements on hours. Also, a hard push to connect rail-trail to businesses and other assets, a global push on this would be helpful

Bob Dickinson – Working on cross-town trail in South Windsor but one problem we'll have will still have difficulty walking/biking in town in center of town because of high-traffic roads. We need more multi-use side trails and need more programs/funding sources for those. Does anyone know appropriate grants for this.

Studies show 10-15% of traffic would be eliminated in bikes had a safe place to right, explore a pilot project to do this in one community within ~1 mile radius of a town center.

Jay Stange – Coordinating protected infrastructure, connecting greenways to complete streets. Trout Brook Trail potentially connectable to ECG in Hartford.

Lon Hultgren – Still working on bike/ped plan in Mansfield and would agree on the importance of making connections. On Committee name, would hate to lose bike/ped mentions in the name; could add “active transportation.”

Owen Deutsch – Timely question and starting conversations with other communities and potentially a role for CRCOG here to assist. Connections to businesses, transit, recreation, complete street networks.

John DiBiasi – Serious injury and fatal crashes, functional class in CT is not as clear here. Have accomplished a lot with LOTCIP, but every solicitation find they have great ideas but at some point will get turned down for an idea that is great locally for a town but doesn't score well regionally. Inability to reapply for too-recent of a project to improve with complete streets.

Kyle Shiel – Bottom-up approach with local towns with adopted complete streets plans and focusing there, potentially. Encourage packaging projects together with local neighbors.

Martha Conneely – Gap closures, knitting together the systems across towns; could drive tourism network. Their goal is akin to a Cape Cod Rail Trail. A vision ten years out, people come to Hartford for the bike trail network and spend money here. A goal to extend a trail along the length of the river; working with Wethersfield, etc.

Bob Dickinson – we as the State should be thinking about using 10% of what we spend on roads to instead be spent on safe bike/ped infrastructure; more people would choose other modes if they were safer.

Elizabeth Sanderson – do Towns/organizations have destinations in mind that they are trying to connect to?

John DiBiasi – Low hanging fruit has been the easiest and that's what we've done over the last several years. Lots of what is driving our projects is the condition of the pavement, utility work. Don't have a master plan for bike infrastructure, do have a policy, and have plans for sidewalks... but not bikes.

Martha Conneely – Working with Riverfront, Hartford, and Wethersfield on a feasibility study to connect from the City to Old Wethersfield; that then connects to Wethersfield and the potential to connect to the Rocky Hill ferry... Middletown suddenly tangible. It needs partnership and vision.

Eric Anderson – One thing that would be beneficial: if requirements for POCDs included complete streets component that would go a long way to pushing towns to complete. Larger funding issue is not necessarily the construction of projects but the design of projects; potential for CRCOG could help.

Bob Dickinson – A preference for less roadway shoulder and instead allocate to separated side path/sidewalk with curbing.

7. What's New in My Town (1:18:59)

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

Hartford (Owen Deutsch)

- Asylum Avenue road diet meeting coming up in order to install two bike lanes

Andover (Eric Anderson)

- Hop River Trail Alliance forming consisting of seven towns along the trail, largely driving by staff from the towns with the intention to form a 501 3c,

8. Other Business (1:20:57)

Caitlin Palmer mentioned to attendees to reach out or put in the chat a list of plans, policies, groups and committees that are out there; CRCOG does not have a list but the mention in our MTP feels incomplete.

Caitlin gave a brief summary on the 2022 Bike/Ped Counts but intends to present more on this at future meetings now that all the data has been entered.

9. Adjournment (1:25:45)

Motioned by Patrice Carson; Seconded by Martha Conneely. The meeting was adjourned.