

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Committee Meeting – DRAFT Minutes

TIME: 12:00pm

DATE: Tuesday June 14, 2022

PLACE: Zoom Call

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Affiliation</i> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lon Hultgren | Town of Mansfield |
| Bruce Donald | East Coast Greenway |
| Owen Deutsch | City of Hartford |
| Patrick Zapatka | CTDOT |
| Michele Lipe | Town of South Windsor |
| Mark Moriarty | City of New Britain |
| Amy Watkins | Watch for Me CT |
| Patrice Carson | Town of Bolton |
| Robert Dickinson | Bike Advocate |
| Tucker Sauls | Transport Hartford |
| Grace Yi | City of Hartford |
| John Dibiasi | Town of Manchester |
| Eugene Nicols | Department of Public Health |
| Eric Anderson | Town of Andover |
| Martha Conneely | Riverfront Recapture |

CRCOG Staff

Caitlin Palmer

Tim Malone

Roll Call

1. **Call to Order:** Tim Malone called the meeting to order. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves.
2. **Public Forum**
No members of the public came forward with comments.
3. **Approval of Minutes of the March 8, 2022 meeting**
Tim Malone asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Motioned by Mark Moriarty; seconded by Patrice Carson. 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.)

Tim mentioned that Susan Smith at Bike Walk CT let him know that they are holding an LCI seminar in Glastonbury on October 14-16 to be granted certification to teach bike safety education by the League of American Cyclists, Tim posted the flyer on CRCOG's website.

5. Presentation:

Tim Malone gave a presentation providing updates on various CRCOG projects. The presentation has been posted to the CRCOG website.

- Active CT projects, a statewide DPH grant funded by the CDC. Updates included: Groton demonstration project/design and a public workshop that was held on April 19. Discussed a parklet design in Meriden near the train station. Discussed a trail plan in Newtown, plan will identify solutions for 3 locations along the active rail line that need further study. Discussed BRIC Grant in Hartford from the CDC, one in Clay Arsenal and one in Frog Hollow.
- CRCOG's TOD Study in 8 town throughout CRCOG looking at roles, visioning, viability and various tools. Planning second advisory meeting for July.
- CRCOG's Bike Share Feasibility Study updates; discussed the changes in business models and technology. Staff is currently reviewing the draft final report.
- Provided an update on the ECG Gap Closure Study in Bloomfield, Hartford, East Hartford and Simsbury. This study is currently in the scoping phase of the project, and we do have a consultant selected.
- Rapid Routes Study, public comment period through July 15, for study of 6 transit corridors in the region.
- Greater Hartford Mobility Study is looking for input on their alternatives; more information is available on hartfordmobility.com.
- DominGo Hartford will temporarily be transitioning streets into car-free public spaces. More information is on domingohartford.com.
- Bipartisan transportation funds (BIL/IIJA); Safe Streets and Roads for All that towns can apply for.

Patrick Zapatka (CTDOT) presented Comprehensive Pedestrian Safety

Strategy, designed to reduce and better manage traffic speeds on state highways that serve community centers with significant pedestrian activity, will be looking at 5 locations. Patrick showed a GIS map showing the locations. Hired Fuss and O'Neill to provide traffic counts, volumes, ped and bike volumes, crash data, existing systems, existing conditions, plans, roadway geometry, and other related studies in the area. Helped CTDOT establish what a community center is. Their community center definition is... "a community center is an identifiable place of concentrated non-motorized bicycle and pedestrian activity that typically provides a mix of services and land use important to municipality which residents and visitors that can benefit from reduced vehicle speeds." The amount of money in the implementation phase is unknown. The process of screening locations, trying to get down from the original 21 locations to 5 was discussed. The presentation will be posted on the CRCOG website.

6. What's New in My Town

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

Andover (Eric Anderson)

- Said they are about 75% complete with an Activity Grant Project that provides a safe crossing on Route 6, that ties in municipal buildings and the Hop River Trail

- Group that is trying to form right now, called the Hop River Trail Alliance, first meeting is tonight, June 14th.

Riverfront Recapture (Martha Conneely)

- Hosting events, such as food truck and dragon boats festival
- Developing a new park in the north end of Hartford and south end of Windsor, will be hosting community walking tours. Trying to get public input.

East Coast Greenway (Bruce Donald)

- Bids were open for Tariffville 1 which connects Simsbury east through Bloomfield and to Hartford. The bid was 30% over. Bruce wants to discuss with CTDOT about where this money will come from to complete these projects.

Hartford (Owen Deutsch)

- South Branch Park Trail is moving forward, working on the design and securing easements through CTDEEP and property owners.
- Striping and paving
- Said they have over 230,000 rides and over 500 link up signups so far using the eScooters from Superpedestrian.
- Discussed bike boulevards, improvements that have been made to Hampton Street, so far a 50% decrease in average speeds in travel lanes
- Discussed Dominigo Hartford event
- Streetscape projects, Bartholomew Ave is under construction and Farmington Ave and North Main Street streetscapes are under design.

Bolton (Patrice Carson)

- Finally through public participation to begin connectivity project later this summer.
- Had an application come in on Route 6 about a renovation of a gas station that abutted the Hop River Trail, would make a good connection to a gas station with a convenience center.

New Britain (Mark Moriarty)

- Completed Complete Streets Road Map which is a follow up to 2013 Complete Streets Master Plan for downtown. How they will approach city streets city wide basis.
- Second phase of Stanley Loop Trail just put out to bid, just over \$2 million cost estimate, bid came in at around \$3 million.
- Beeline Trail, 2 phases in design, 1 TA Set Aside, 1 Community Connectivity Grant.
- John Downey Drive road diet
- Hosting a bike rodeo, which is essentially a bike safety event for kids.
- Massive redevelopment while investing in complete streets in downtown.

Watch for Me CT (Amy Watkins)

- Partnership with Yard Goats Foundation, planning a bicycle rodeo on July 20th, will be at Domingo giving out helmets and lights.
- Training for distracted teen drivers

South Windsor (Michele Lipe)

- Clark Street and Pleasant Valley Sidewalks are complete – lots of good feedback.

- Sidewalks under construction on Beelzebub Road reconstruction, linkage to Avery Street and a connection to Manchester.
- Under design with sidewalks on Pleasant Valley Road, Dart Hill Road and other locations throughout town.
- Begin to look into POCD and go out with an RFP.
- Evergreen walk finished their trail system from Deming to a wetland area.

Transport Hartford (Tucker Sauls)

- Working on two walk audits, one on New Park Ave working with a small business collective, on July 16th, doing a walk audit of Parkville around CTfastrak station.

Department of Public Health (Eugene Nicols)

- Small pocket of funding for Block Grant that they provide money for complete streets and trails projects in the area.

7. Other Business

8. Adjournment

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