

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Committee Meeting – DRAFT Minutes

TIME: 12:00pm

DATE: Tuesday, March 14, 2023

PLACE: Zoom Call

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Lon Hultgren	Town of Mansfield
Owen Deutsch	City of Hartford
Jay Stange	Transport Hartford
Martha Conneely	Riverfront Recapture
Patrice Carson	Town of Bolton
Nathaniel Jarvie	Town of Canton
Eugene Nicols	Department of Public Health
Paul Dickson	Town of Newington
CJ Ganza	City of New Britain
Rob O'Connor	Bike Walk Wethersfield
Michele Lipe	Town of South Windsor
Jerry Ledger	Farmington Valley Trail Council

CRCOG Staff

Caitlin Palmer
Matt Hart
Rob Aloise
Kyle Shiel
Terri Thompson
Mike Cipriano
Ryan Faulkner
Laura Rosenbluth

Roll Call

1. **Call to Order (00:00)** 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 (03:55)**
Jay Stange put a link in the chat for an invite for anyone interested in learning more about walk audits, Legacy to Advocacy is working with Connecticut AARP and Transport Hartford to host a Upper Albany Ave walk audit on Tuesday March 21, 2023.
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bA-AjAMkUXrUY5npoz9EP-jFBnYMqZcluavA0rt9GII/edit>

3. Approval of Minutes of the December 13, 2022, meeting (05:30)

Caitlin Palmer asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Motioned by Patrice Carson; seconded by Martha Conneely. Motion was approved.

4. Updates and news (07:10)

Caitlin introduced the Capitol Region East Coast Greenway Study to the committee. She explained where the gaps are in Simsbury, Bloomfield, Hartford and East Hartford. Explained that we've already begun introducing the Study to the town councils of these four municipalities. Caitlin also stated that we'll be beginning Public Workshops in the near future. Caitlin provided a QR code mapping tool for the public and a link to the newsletter for more information. https://crcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/ECG_Newsletter-1_March2023.pdf

Caitlin discussed the MTP – Connect 2050 and that we held two public meetings over the last couple weeks, and that the public comment period ends on March 26, 2023.

Caitlin also made the members aware that CRCOG was awarded a \$958,000 SS4A Grant, only 1 of 6 in Connecticut)

CRCOG has also begun our LOTCIP solicitation review process, receiving 27 applications from our member cities and towns.

5. Legislative Updates (15:05)

Terri Thompson provided information on recent Legislative Updates to the committee. More information on these updates can be found on the CRCOG website.

6. Vision Zero Group Discussion (29:50)

Caitlin described that Vision Zero is a fundamental change in how we approach traffic safety. She showed a graphic that illustrated that nearly 43,000 people died on US roadways in 2021 and described that there has been a steady increase in fatalities in CRCOG and the State over the last 3 years. Caitlin talked about the similarities and differences between Complete Streets and Vision Zero. Vision Zero has a compelling and singular goal of reducing fatalities that holds us as a society accountable. The best practices were laid out for the committee:

- Identify priorities for roadway safety
- Provide transparency and accountability
- Process should align stakeholder + create ownership of the plan
- Identification of actionable, measurable strategies
- Identify lead agency(s) responsible, timeline, budget
- Ongoing and equitable engagement process
- Setting the goal

Caitlin then opened the discussion up to the group to better understand how CRCOG can help our communities achieve Vision Zero. Matt Hart briefly talked about how the bipartisan transportation infrastructure law and how we should leverage that to achieve Vision Zero and getting SS4A Grant will be a big help in achieving that goal.

- Jay Stange from Transport Hartford described how CRCOG has already helped the Town of West Hartford on its way to becoming a Vision Zero town. Jay described that town leadership was interested in seeing some quick and responsive actions from the West Hartford Vision Zero Task Force. Jay introduced the Quick Build Guide to the committee and laid out the different Complete Streets or Vision Zero approaches that the town can take to achieve their goal. https://crcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/CRCOG_TUGuide-FINAL.pdf

- Caitlin described how Hoboken in New Jersey became a Vision Zero community using the Quick Build Guide. Described it was a multi-year process accomplished through planning and quick build demonstration projects.
- Jerry Ledger, Granby resident and Farmington Valley Trail Council and for the last 2 years there has been a reconstruction in downtown Granby, construction disenfranchised many vulnerable users by placing light posts and telephone posts into the existing sidewalks, which generated more pedestrian traffic. Other issues with bicyclists and pedestrians with regards to construction and crosswalks. Jerry described that there were miles of vertical concrete curbing with no relief, a hinderance to cyclists who need to quickly remove themselves from the road in emergency situations.
- Matt Hart raised the question if it makes sense for CRCOG to have its own Vision Zero Committee and welcomed any thoughts and ideas the committee had on the subject.
- Jay Stange described how West Hartford used some funding to hire a consultant to work alongside the Vision Zero Task Force to provide crash analysis and guidance on bicycle network development. The next West Hartford Vision Zero Task Force meeting is March 20th.
- Caitlin discussed the possibility of having Mike Lydon who helped create the Quick Build Guide, possibly do a presentation on Quick Builds.
- Rob Aloise wanted to point out that Quick Builds are great for bump outs to shorten crosswalks on city streets. Rob also described that even before the roundabouts were completed in Glastonbury, before there was anything permanently installed, they put up cones and signs and immediately it worked better than the original signalized operated intersection. Rob also touched on Jerry's comments regarding Granby. Rob attended the public meeting when the project was in the design phase, they said that in the final plans, that there would be 4' shoulder for cyclists but mentioned that a lot of times communities favor the granite look over bituminous curbing.
- Michele Lipe from South Windsor asked a question from CRCOG's perspective if it would be possible to send out examples of Vision Zero or educational opportunities to our member towns.
- Owen Deutsch said Hartford did a Quick Build Project on Hampton Street that is now being converted to hardscape. Some comments that they've heard is that the public doesn't always appreciate the appearance of plastic bollards.

7. What's New in My Town (1:09:10)

- Lon Hultgren described that Mansfield got their bicycle friendly designation restored. Mansfield's bike and pedestrian plan draft was revised last year and is marching towards approval, committee reviews are scheduled at the end of March and the middle of April before going to their policy boards for adoption. Currently the town is raising money to establish a 4th grade bike education program at the new elementary school. Mansfield used a CRCOG grant to train teachers in the program.
- Owen Deutsch with Hartford said there are numerous traffic calming initiatives throughout the city. Applied for a raise grant, \$25 million, for North Main Street, which is a comprehensive complete streets project, which they should hear back this summer. SS4A and determining which projects make the most sense. The city is looking to host Domingo events later in the year as well. Also working on the Hartline Project in conjunction with East Coast Greenway.
- CJ Ganza gave a quick update on trails in New Britain. The Stanley Loop Trail is in construction, close to about 50% complete so far. The Beeline Trail project, which came out of the Gap Closure Study, connects from CTfastrak in

Downtown to the East Coast Greenway in Plainville. Broken into three phases, phase 1, the city just received the PD submission from the consultant and phases 2 and 3 are currently in PD as well. CJ also said they submitted a Rec Trails Grant Application to connect the Stanley Loop Trail to the CTfastrak multi-use trail. New Britain's Bike Rodeo is set for June 17th in downtown.

- Rob stated that going west of the Beeline Trail, CRCOG applied for, and received a federal RAISE Grant going west to the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Plainville, which is currently in design at CTDOT. Rob also stated that CRCOG attended a Plainville Town Council Meeting to get their endorsement for the project to move forward into design and construction and got support from the council to do so.
- Paul Dickson said that Newington submitted a CT Rec Trails Grant for a study to connect Newington's current trails with trails in surrounding municipalities to build a more complete trails network.

8. Other Business (1:21:10)

Caitlin told the committee that we'll have more information to share regarding our 2022 Bike/Ped Counts at the next meeting in June.

Caitlin also asked the committee to let her know what topics they might be interested in discussing in future meetings.

9. Adjournment (1:22:30)