

# Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Committee Meeting – DRAFT Minutes

TIME: 12:00pm

DATE: Tuesday, February 13, 2024

PLACE: Zoom Call

<i>Name</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
<b>Amy Watkins</b>	Watch for Me CT
<b>Casey Moran</b>	Resident of Hartford
<b>CJ Gandza</b>	City of New Britain
<b>Grace Yi</b>	City of Hartford
<b>Jason Scott</b>	Town of Rocky Hill
<b>Lisa Coggins</b>	Canton Traffic & Ped Safety Advisor
<b>Lon Hultgren</b>	Bike Mansfield
<b>Martha Conneely</b>	Riverfront Recapture
<b>Nathaniel Jarvie</b>	Town of Canton
<b>Norm Berg</b>	Town of Southington
<b>Owen Deutsch</b>	City of Hartford
<b>Patrice Carson</b>	Town of Bolton

## **CRCOG Staff**

Anaka Maher  
Caitlin Palmer  
Heidi Samokar  
Lindsay Drotman  
Mike Cipriano  
Rob Aloise  
Roger Krahn  
Sonya Carrizales

## **Roll Call**

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

*A voluntary Council of Governments formed to initiate and implement regional programs of benefit to the towns and the region*

1. **Call to Order (00:00)** Caitlin Palmer called the meeting to order. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves in the chat.

2. **Public Forum (01:35)**

Caitlin invited any comments from the public.

3. **Approval of Minutes from the Meeting on December 12, 2024 (02:10)**

Caitlin asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2023 meeting. It was motioned by Patrice Carson and seconded by Jason Scott. Motion was approved.

4. **Updates and News (03:30)**

Caitlin gave the committee a brief overview of activities within the East Coast Greenway Study over the past two months. She mentioned the Simsbury Resolution was unanimously endorsed by the CRCOG Transportation and Policy Boards. She also stated that in Bloomfield, we met with the Trails Committee to review revised maps, evaluation scores and determining the "benefits and drawbacks" of each alignment. Caitlin mentioned that we've been working on the Griffin Line Report. In East Hartford, we received the Benefits Analysis for Silver Lane and Brewer Street Alignments, mentioned that there are slightly more benefits to the Silver Lane Analysis.

Mike Cipriano gave an update on the CTDOT Microgrant Program. He stated that CTDOT sent out a survey to gauge the interest in the program and better understand the needs of respondents. He mentioned the responses are due by February 23 and that eligible applicants are municipalities, schools, school districts and non-profit organizations. He stated that eligible expenses are maintenance stations, training classes, safety, bikes, and helmets, etc...

Mike also talked about the upcoming Bike and Ped Priority Network Plan. He mentioned that CRCOG took feedback from our last committee meeting and incorporated some of those comments into the Scope of Work. He also said that by the next committee meeting in May, we should make good progress.

Mike mentioned that there is currently a LOTCIP Solicitation ongoing through February 21. He said that sidewalk/bike ped projects are capped at \$1.2M and if anyone has any questions to let either him or LOTCIP Program Manager Sotora Montanari know.

He said we are also beginning to set up Walk Audits for this spring, summer, and fall.

Caitlin mentioned that CRCOG is applying as the lead entity for a RAISE Grant along the Berlin Turnpike in Hartford, Wethersfield, Newington, Berlin and Meriden. The goal of which is to improve traffic calming and make the corridor safer and more usable for all users, especially bikes and pedestrians, as there are currently very limited facilities for those users.

5. **CRCOG Roundabout Feasibility Study Presentation (13:20)**

Mike introduced the CRCOG Roundabout Feasibility Study. He told the committee that the study primarily looked at locations throughout the region that would benefit

from conversion from either a traditional stop controlled or signalized intersection, to a modern single lane roundabout. Mike gave a brief history of roundabouts and talked about some misconceptions that people might have about them. He went into detail on all the safety features and benefits of a modern single lane roundabout. Mike then told the group how roundabouts function and how to use them. He described how bikes and peds interact with cars in a roundabout.

Mike then showed a [video](#) to the group from the Utah Department of Transportation on roundabouts.

Roger then described the screening process for the CRCOG study. He stated that we came up with a screening methodology that used crashes, volume, and ROW, to give each intersection a score. Roger said that our emphasis was to find locations that would reduce the most crashes. Throughout the country, roundabouts reduce fatal crashes by as much as 82% at stop-controlled intersections and as much as 78% at signalized intersections. Roger also mentioned to the group that at a traditional intersection, there are 32 conflict points and at a roundabout, those are reduced to only 8. From there, Roger showed the group the diameters of potential roundabouts (120') and the Crash Zone (250') used in the study. Roger then described how GIS was used in the study. After showing an example using the screening methodology, Roger described how desktop reviews were also used. Roger showed the Top 100 Locations and Municipal Top 3 Locations.

From there, Mike demonstrated the GIS tool for the CRCOG Roundabout Feasibility Study Results. Some examples of the functionality of the tool itself were described to the group.

## **6. What's New in My Town (47:35)**

- **Patrice Carson, Bolton:** She mentioned that Bolton and Coventry put together a Nathan Hale Greenway Plan utilizing parcels that had initially been flagged as part of a potential Route 6 corridor. They ran into some issues with parking lots with neighbors voicing their displeasure towards them due to safety concerns. Patrice said that they came across quite a bit of opposition to a potential parking lot on South Road and asked the group if anyone else was experiencing this as well.
- **Nathaniel Jarvie, Canton:** Nathaniel notified the group that some community volunteers in town are currently pursuing grants to put in a bike pump track and learning skills facility and are putting plans and design money together. He also mentioned that another community group is looking to install a traffic garden. Lastly, he mentioned that they are in the design phase for extending a currently existing trail to the border of Simsbury and Avon.
- **Grace Yi, Hartford:** Said that Hartford has used traffic calming demonstration events and created pop-up versions of them. Grace mentioned that the South Branch Park River is still progressing with the State and that the River Walk North that will connect the Boathouse with Windsor is currently undergoing additional environmental activities. Grace also touched on the Hartline/Griffin Line and how that plays in with the ECG. Riverlink is also being worked on and will receive funding for that project.
- **Martha Connelly, Riverfront Recapture:** Martha said they are having a second community workshop for the new 76-acre park that they are developing along the river in the northeast portion of Hartford. That park will be connected to River Walk North. She mentioned that the meeting is on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the West Indian Social Club in Hartford and looking to share potential design schemes with the public.

- **Jason Scott, Rocky Hill:** Jason said that they have a LOTCIP sidewalk project that should be able to get out to bid this spring. It would close a 1,600-foot gap and the town will meet with residents to go over any impacts associated with the project. Jason was wondering about funding as well as any checklist available for walk audits. Both the AARP and CRCOG Walk Audit toolkits/forms were provided.
- **Lon Hultgren, Bike Mansfield:** Mansfield had a public hearing regarding a bike and ped plan and received lots of new and interesting new ideas from that meeting and they will be looking to tweak the plan by incorporating some of those ideas. Lon stated that they are still working on getting their 4<sup>th</sup> grade education program going and it's scheduled for the week after Memorial Day. Lon also said that Mansfield is starting a Cycling Without Age Chapter in Mansfield and hopes to roll that out this spring.
- **Amy Watkins, Watch for Me CT:** Amy notified the group that if they have any community events that need support with the public to let her know. She also mentioned that they are close to launching their new campaign called "Ghost Shoes" to draw attention to the rising number of pedestrian deaths.
- **CJ Gandza, New Britain:** CJ first talked about the Beeline Trail and its 3 phases, all of which are at least in design right now. The first phase should be under construction this summer, which will connect to the East Coast Greenway. CJ mentioned that they maintained their bronze status from the League of American Cyclists. Also, he mentioned that Bike New Britain is scheduling education classes for the upcoming year and working with schools on developing an education program within the school system.

#### **7. Other Business (1:04:40)**

Mike mentioned to the group if anyone has any questions or topics, they want to discuss in the future to let us know. Caitlin also mentioned to the group that if anyone has any of their own projects they want to present at future meetings, they can do so.

#### **8. Adjournment (1:07:30)**