



Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board

Volunteer board members advising agencies of the state on policies, programs, and facilities for bicycles and pedestrians.



2800 Berlin Turnpike • Newington, CT 06111-4113
ctbikepedboard@gmail.com

REGULAR MEETING Friday March 25, 2022 9 AM This meeting held over TEAMS: Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

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Or call in (audio only)

[+1 860-840-2075,497169333#](tel:+18608402075497169333) United States, Hartford

Phone Conference ID: 497 169 333#

1 Call to Order/Roll Call

Sandy Fry, Brian Kent (Vice Chair), Francis Pickering, Al Sylvestre, Joe Balskus (Secretary), Sue Smith, Neil Pade, Tom Branchaud, Rod Parlee

Tony Cherolis, BICI Co
Doug Hausladen, Park New Haven
Anna Bergeron, CTDOT
Ali Bibi, CTDOT
Bill Veronesi, Harford
Amy Watkins, Watch For Me CT
Kim Bradley, UCONN Extension
Caitlin Palmer, CRCOG
Bob Dickinson, Bloomfield
Bob Herron, Portland
Kate Rattan, SCCCOG
Aaron Budris, NVCOG
Richard Donovan, NVCOG
Mary Cockram, Bike Walk CT

1.1 Minutes

Minutes were mislabelled as January.
Minutes accepted as revised.

2.0 Reports/Presentations

2.1 DOT Projects and News

VIP paving program – the Board asked what bike related design, marking, or maintenance is included. Answer – currently VIP has no design \$ to layout bike lanes, but a municipality can do the design and then request bicycle markings. This might require a delay in the paving.. DOT will install the markings but the municipality will be responsible for the maintenance of the bike facility markings. Crosswalks are installed by DOT. Currently DOT is looking to update its Complete Streets Policy, a subcommittee of the Complete Streets Committee is working on this. Anna will let the CS

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Committee know of our Board's interest in this. She understands that they are looking at other state policies which are more progressive than ours. Anna said that the Board could make recommendations for the updated policy.

Gold Star bridge: study cannot be completed until the southbound load rating is done – late spring, early summer time frame. **THE BOARD CONTINUES TO BE CONCERNED THAT WORK WILL PROGRESS WITH THE NB SPAN THAT WILL PRECLUDE BIKE PED ACCOMMODATIONS ON THE NB SPAN WITHOUT FEASIBILITY OF BIKE PED IMPROVEMENTS ON SB SPAN DETERMINED.**

Berlin walk audit – virtual meeting followup has been scheduled.

Newington walk audit – followup meeting not yet scheduled.

Active Transportation Plan evaluation matrix – meeting scheduled with management to discuss this on Monday.

Bike network map update – scoping underway, when FHI is onboard will develop stakeholder group

Because so many retirements are expected 4/1 and 7/1 there are likely to be many changes at DOT.

Posting of CTBPAB video – this is in progress. Some discussion of video and need for it to appear more diverse and inclusionary. Unfortunately, Tom no longer has access to the video editing program, so we cannot make changes at this time. But please send sandy photos/videos that could be useful so that we will be ready when we are able to make edits.

OSTA – Will attend April meeting. Because of new legislation (21-28) OSTA should at least review town and regional bike and pedestrian plans when reviewing major traffic generators.

Walk to School? - DOT is in the process of hiring a safe routes to school coordinator. They will not have capital funds for safe routes but do have an online tool kit to help individuals to plan walk to school events.

3.0 Old Business

3.1 Annual Report – has been distributed. Everyone should share in their networks..

3.2 Legislation updates:

Ebike legislation – Sandy had shared a draft support letter for the legislation prior to the meeting. The Board discussed the letter and recommended that it be modified to reflect the revised language of SB4, that the letter be reduced to one page, and that the fourth bullet in the letter be removed. On a motion by Brian seconded by Neil, a motion to redraft the letter and submit it was approved on a 5-2 vote.

Neil brought up HB5255 which addresses bike lanes and multi use trails relative to takings. Francis will follow up with Pam regarding this language to

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make sure it does not negatively impact recreational trails. Francis brought up HB 5422 which addresses highway sound issues. Given that roadway sound can have a negative impact upon bicyclists and pedestrians, on a motion made by Rod, seconded by Francis, the Board voted to have a letter drafted to support this. Brian and Francis will work on the letter.

Sue reported on progress with CT's participation in the League of American Bicyclist's lobby day which will take place next week.

4.0 New Business

4.1 Sandy noted that the East Coast Greenway is on the cusp of significant expansion in Virginia following the allocation of an unprecedented \$233 million for multi-use trails in the Commonwealth's recently proposed 2022-24 budget. Note; VA 2021 Population 8.6M, CT 3.6 M. Francis brought up CT's gas tax holiday, which will reduce funds coming into the state transportation fund. He suggested that DOT needs grant writers.

4.2 Discussion of electric buses. Issues – range, cost, storage and maintenance, facilities will need upgrades.

5.0 Input

5.1 Input from Visitors

Bob D – we need camera enforcement but with low fines

There should be guidance to towns that they treat sidewalks and bikelanes like the roadway

5.2 Transport Hartford

4/6 will be ebike day at the capital (Note – this was changed to 4/14).

DominGO, the open streets initiative of Hartford will hold open houses and test rides in the next month. Teen and Youth Bike Life will happen in April – 800 participants are signed up. They will each receive a helmet, bike safety instruction, and a free bike at the end of the week. TH continues to work on transit oriented development walkability and bikeability around rail and CTfastrak stations. TH wonders what is holding up the Hartford Main Street repaving project, which will include bike lanes.

5.3 CT Trails Program

Trail census – are developing the annual report; the interactive portal has all data available. The program fields many requests for data.

Working on Airline State Park Master plan.

CT Trail finder – 140 trails published, 100 additional in development phase.

Working with DEEP on outdoor use data to support DEEP.

Coordinating with DOT for needed \$

Next Meeting – April 22, 2022, 9 AM

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