



## 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](mailto:ctbikepedboard@gmail.com)

### REGULAR MEETING NOTES

Friday June 26, 2020 9 AM  
Meeting was held virtually via Skype

#### 1.1 Call to Order/Roll Call

Sandy Fry (Chair), Brian Kent (Vice Chair), Joe Balskus (Secretary), Ken Messier, Alan Sylvestre, Tom Branchaud

##### Guests

Bill Veronesi

Amy Watkins, Watch for Me CT

Bruce Donald, CT Greenways Council

Laura Baum, BikeWalkCT

Charlie Tracy, UCONN

Chris McArdle, Hartford

Jennifer Carrier, FHWA

Tony Cherolis, Center for Latino Progress, Transport Hartford

Robert Bell, CTDOT

Melanie Zimyeski, CTDOT

#### 1.2 Minutes

May meeting notes have been accepted by the Board

#### 2.0 Reports/Presentations

##### 2.1 DOT Projects and News

Active Transportation Plan – Implementation/Metrics; Early July meeting with ADA folks to review plan.

Gold Star Bridge – feasibility analysis of pedestrian facility on northbound span. DOT reported that the work that is going on now is strengthening only and will not preclude bicycle/pedestrian possibilities, since the option being analyzed solution – re-allocating space on the structure for bike ped – will not impact the enhanced loading capacity. There are 3 projects, 1 and 2 are strengthening, third project includes deck work and that will not go out to design till 2024. The consultant has submitted a draft of the feasibility analysis for adding suitable bike and ped access on the northbound span of the bridge. The DOT bridge unit is currently evaluating the analysis and it is

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anticipated that this will be completed in 5 to 6 months (nb, this will be late November or December of 2020). After the evaluation is completed it will be discussed with the public. The Board continues to be concerned with how long it is taking to complete the evaluation.

### Putnam Bridge approaches

Environmental permits were submitted to regulatory agencies (CTDEEP, ACOE)

### CS committee Updates

Meeting planned for July

### COVID related activities

Press release from June 17 regarding stop the spread and use elbow to push buttons for ped crossings, decals along highways and signs (see information attached to these meeting notes.)

Also replacing recessed pedestrian push buttons – retrofits done in Hartford and New Haven, next to be done in Bridgeport, Danbury, Norwalk on state highways

Rear door access for bus riders, installing plastic dividers for drivers ongoing, some newer buses have come outfitted with more protection for the driver.

### Help our Heroes

Variable message sign messages on highways and for workzones urging drivers to slow down.

Rest areas – 23 service plazas are open

### Bike Route Update

Met with DOT Staff, SCCOG (Kate), Greenways (Bruce), CTDEEP (Laurie) and Bike Ped Board (Brian) on June 15 to review US bike route 1 & proposed 1A to discuss the proposed route through SE CT and the path forward for formalizing both routes for submission to AASHTO.

Route 1 is the East Coast Greenway through the state, it has not been officially added to the US bike route system yet. All of the ECG is marked with signage through the state including temporary on-road segments. Towns need to sign letters in support of routes through their Towns and then CTDOT to endorse.

Route 1A is a newly proposed route that will link with a proposed USBR 1A in Rhode Island. SCCOG and ECG are sharing their maps of the routes with DOT to facilitate DOT's input. SCCOG will also reach out to RIDOT

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regarding this route. The route has been mapped from the RI border to Baldwin Bridge in Old Lyme, but the Old Saybrook to West Haven part has not been. This requires involvement of the COGs in this area. CTDOT Traffic and Highway Management Unit – will coordinate with them once the official route is laid out

Bike Ped Advisory Board will reach out to the COG's (RiverCOG and SCRCOG) to encourage participation in development of 1A.

Other

Community Connectivity program

Cheshire going to construction this summer

Limited Access Highways for bike access – no update

### **3.0 Old Business**

3.1 Gold star Bridge – next steps?  
See above

3.2 Development of Powerpoint – Table until next meeting

3.3 US Bike Route Designation – Brian will report on meeting held and next steps (see above)

3.4 Bicycle prohibition on non limited access roadway segments (update of earlier 2017 discussion)  
No report

### **4.0 New Business**

4.1 CT trail finder effort – CTBPAB listed as supporter, with chair's approval - Confirmed

4.2 Other  
After some discussion, Ebike letter approved by Board for sending

4.3 VIP Program (Brian)  
State route chip sealed – Route 201 in Stonington  
Secretary to review with VIP

### **5.0 Input**

5.1 Input from Visitors (5 minutes)  
Tony Cherolis – Board diversity and appointment opportunities  
One vacancy – Senator Len Fasano appointment pending, names

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were submitted to Senators office  
5 gubernatorial and 6 majority/minority leader appointments for current board members  
Tony made suggestions on improving diversity of Board and will provide names and invite others to be involved.

- 5.2 CT Trail census  
Charlie Tracy – coordinator  
Three items – thanks for support of trail finder from Board  
Published report increase in trail use in April/May from Covid19 on trail use – large increase in trail usage year of year, not as large as increase in March (year over year)  
Launched podcast about trails – walk with me  
Drone videos of multiuse trails – depicting use of the trails and promoting trails  
Trail finder – outreach stage to organizations to be part of trail finder, end of July informational webinar for learning more about trailfinder  
CT Trail Census website
- 5.3 Watch for Me CT Update  
Covid crash history – 43% decrease in VMT's and reduction in total and daily crashes (55% lower)  
Single vehicle and fatal crashes increased, more likely involving speeding  
Summary to be published soon
- 5.4 Bike Walk CT Update  
No report
- 5.5 July meeting to be held as scheduled.

Next Meeting – July 24, 2020, 9 AM

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