

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 September 25, 2020 9 AM  
 This meeting will be held virtually over TEAMS:

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[+1 860-840-2075](tel:+18608402075) United States, Hartford (Toll)

Conference ID: 786 558 6#

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**1.1 Call to Order/Roll Call**

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

Guests

Robert Bell, CTDOT  
 Melanie Zimyeski, CTDOT  
 John Henault CTDOT  
 Steve Norton, CTDOT  
 William Champagne CTDOT

Carl Amento, SCRCOG  
 Sam Gold, RiverCOG  
 Aaron Budris, NVCOG  
 Bill Veronesi, Hartford  
 Amy Watkins, Watch for Me CT  
 Bruce Donald, East Coast Greenway  
 Chris McArdle, Hartford

**1.2 Minutes**

Approval of minutes  
 Revised definition of acronyms and abbreviations  
 Approved by motion by Joe, second by Al, all in favor

**2.0 Reports/Presentations**

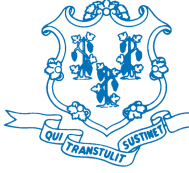
**2.1 DOT Projects and News**

**CHIP SEAL – ONGOING AND PROBLEMATIC**

John Henault/Melanie Zimyeski/Steve Norton  
 Melanie reported that she is working with Steve Norton to look at the routes proposed for chip seal and they are working on a letter in response to the BPAB letter. She checked next year’s list of roads that will be repaved with chip seal, none are on bike routes.  
 FY 22/23 list will be compared to the bike routes  
 Chip sealed routes this year were on bike routes, anything that can be done 20% rubber, hot applied better quality than Town roads, cost efficient  
 Question on state bike route map visibility  
 Route 201 and route 49 examples that were chip sealed and now are no longer bike routes due to chip sealing

**NOTE TO PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:**

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3/8" stone is rugged on the shoulder, difficult riding on bicycle  
Travel paths have become smoother because shoulders are so rough this  
forces bikes into roadways away from shoulders

DOT to provide a list of chip sealed roadways to date  
DOT to consider options for chip sealing treatments on bike routes in future  
The board recommends that regional bike maps should be checked also, for  
example, SECCOG regional bike map is better to be reviewed than State bike  
route map, more specific routing of bikes.

In response to a question on the use of smaller aggregate to be used for chip  
seal, DOT asserted that this might result in "flushing" blackening of roads.  
DOT said that the chip seal has been selected for its cost effectiveness. They  
cannot say that they will never chip seal another bike route. They will look  
into whether anything can be done to those bicycle routes that have already  
been chip sealed.

Active Transportation Plan – Implementation/Metrics  
No update on metrics.

Progress regarding bicycle prohibition on non limited access roadway  
segments:

Resurrected initiative to do a regulation amendment to allow DOT, not  
OSTA to do evaluation on appropriate segments to identify bicycle  
access and formal change

Regulation change process includes public comment period and  
hearing, hearing officer's report, obtaining review and approval of  
Attorney General's Office, and review/approval of the Legislature's  
Regulations Review Committee. The process typically takes more than 6  
months after the public comment period and Hearing Officer's report.

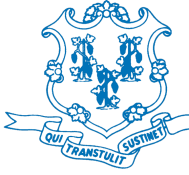
STIP/TIP now available for comment  
Public information sessions held this week.  
How will complete streets law will be applied to STIP/TIP projects where there  
is opposition to providing bike ped improvements. DOT response – there  
would need to be a rationale for not including complete streets.

Other  
Bollards  
Retroreflective tape to existing bollards on multiuse trails

UCONN T2 center monthly newsletter article to provide guidance and advice

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on existing bollards

### **3.0 Old Business**

3.1 Further discussion of chip seal topic: Letter has been sent  
See discussion above.

3.2 US Bike Routes 1 and 1A (scenic route connecting to route in RI),  
progress, next steps. Letter has been sent  
RiverCOG and SCRCOG involved as well with both routes  
SECOG has 1A shown in planning documents

RiverCOG – no designated route yet although they are working on bike route  
plan (FHI)

Early 1990's bike route planning was done and signs installed

SCRCOG – extensive trail mapping in SCRCOG and have done work with  
Route 146, senior planner Eugene Livchitz should be contacted

SECOG – previous regional bike route plan completed

Clinton has a greenways committee

East coast greenway – continue working on this, very important project to  
consider

3.3 Development of Powerpoint  
Tabled.

### **4.0 New Business**

4.1 Bike ped advisory board role in assistance in more attention to trail  
proposal (Middletown/Meriden) connecting Airline Trail to Farmington Canal  
Trail

It was noted that the Middletown/Meriden connector not included in the DOT  
Active Transportation Plan

Discussion on importance of connector and should be included for future  
State law requires DOT to do project however no funding allocated

Discussion on initiation of corridor study to review connector viability

RiverCOG has no funding for corridor study, yet the project will involve three  
COG municipalities

RiverCOG requesting transparency on ranking of projects by CTDOT and  
inclusion in the Active Transportation Plan. DOT indicated that this route was  
not included in the ATP because a large section did not have a proposed  
route. The Board noted that other trails included in the ATP did not have  
defined routes.

Suggestion for sharing of costs amongst three COG's to be discussed

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- 4.2 Nomination of Officers  
Slate of officers (Chair – Sandy, Vice chair – Brian, Secretary – Joe), suggested to continue and to be voted next month

### 5.0 Input

5.1 Input from Visitors (5 minutes)

5.2 CT Greenways Council/ECGA

No report.

5.3 CT Trail Census

Aaron Budris – 23 locations for trail counters

Working with CTDOT/DEEP on CT Trail finder project

New coordinator to be named next month (Charlie retired)

Ensure Arron/Laura on distribution list for email distribution of bike ped board meetings

5.4 Watch for Me CT Update

October is Pedestrian Safety Month

5.5 Bike Walk CT Update

No report

Traffic skills 101 bike course at Sperry Park in Avon on 9/26

Meeting adjourned at 11:03am

Next Meeting – October 23, 2020, 9 AM

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