

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 22, 2023 9 AM

## Microsoft Teams meeting notes

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- 1 Call to Order/Roll Call See attached
- 1.1 Minutes, **February 23** meeting notes accepted with addition of Charles Harlow as attendee.

## 2.0 Reports/Presentations

Kristen Levesque, Safe Routes to Schools Coordinator, update on the program The website has been fully updated. <a href="SRTS-Home(ct.gov">SRTS-Home(ct.gov)</a>)

Four new schools planning to implement bike education. Bike education curriculum review and recommendations were developed by the Vison Zero Education subcommittee and are on the website: <a href="https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DOT/documents/dprogsery/SRTS/SRTS-Education-Resources-Curriculum-media/DOT/documents/dprogsery/SRTS/SRTS-Education-Resources-Curriculum-media/DOT/documents/dprogsery/SRTS/SRTS-Education-Resources-Curriculum-media/DOT/documents/dprogsery/SRTS/SRTS-Education-Resources-Curriculum-media/DOT/documents/dprogsery/SRTS/SRTS-Education-Resources-Curriculum-media/DOT/documents/dprogsery/SRTS-Education-Resources-Curriculum-media/DOT/documents/dprogsery/SRTS-Education-Resources-Curriculum-media/DOT/documents/dprogsery/SRTS-Education-Resources-Curriculum-media/DOT/documents/dprogsery/SRTS-Education-Resources-Curriculum-media/DOT/documents/dprogsery/SRTS-Education-Resources-Curriculum-media/DOT/documents/dprogsery/SRTS-Education-Resources-Curriculum-media/DOT/documents/dprogsery/SRTS-Education-Resources-Curriculum-media/Documents/dprogsery/SRTS-Education-Resources-Curriculum-media/Documents/dprogsery/SRTS-Education-Resources-Curriculum-media/Documents/dprogsery/SRTS-Education-Resources-Curriculum-media/Documents/dprogsery/SRTS-Education-Resources-Curriculum-media/Documents/dprogsery/SRTS-Education-Resources-Curriculum-media/Documents/dprogsery/SRTS-Education-Resources-Curriculum-media/Documents/dprogsery/SRTS-Education-Resources-Curriculum-media/Documents/dprogsery/SRTS-Education-Resources-Curriculum-media/Documents/dprogsery/SRTS-Education-Resources-Curriculum-media/Documents/dprogsery/SRTS-Education-Resources

/media/DOT/documents/dprogserv/SRTS/SRTS-Education-Resources-Curriculum-Links.pdf

Encouragement – May 8 bike walk and roll program, 37 schools have expressed interest

\$500k CTDOT Microgrant program – available to schools, towns, non -profits, grants up to \$5,000 for non infrastructure bike ped safety/education efforts

## Dimitris Koutoumbas, Discussion of Idaho Stop Whitepaper

Provided presentation on white paper submitted to transportation committee (see attached.) The white paper was developed by OSTA staff with input from the Active Transportation Unit, Highway Safety and Traffic Engineering.

No recommendation provided by CTDOT, more study needed

A question was asked about enforcement stats – are bicyclists being cited for treating stop signs as yield signs? This was not included in study.

Noted that the transportation system was not designed with bicyclists in mind and therefore cyclists have developed workarounds. At low traffic volume intersections many bicyclists already treat stop signs as yield signs.

The Board will determine whether we want to push for the Idaho stop

#### NOTE TO PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or other accommodation at a meeting must notify the Connecticut Department of Transportation in advance of the meeting as soon as they are able.



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A question was asked about the Right Turn on Red Study, it is available here: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DOT/documents/dvisionzero/NTOR-Report.pdf

## **DOT** reports

Bissell Bridge rebuild and bike ped access to be closed for portion of reconstruction? Pending response from CTDOT Bridge as to specifics Rehabilitation of the Bissell Bridge between South Windsor and Windsor (ct.gov)

Update on Bissell Bridge from Project Manager: "As you know we are in the early stages of the project, so at this time we don't have a clear timeframe when the path on the bridge will be closed and for how long. We are not anticipating a long closure since the proposed work will focus on repairing/patching the sidewalk/path, repair fence, clean scuppers etc. As we move forward with the project, our consultant will develop a construction schedule showing the impacts to traffic and pedestrians/bicyclists and durations. At that point we can provide you with more detailed schedule. Also, during construction, District Construction will advertise any closures ahead of time

to inform the users."

New employee Paul Ashworth active transportation unit at CTDOT National Bike Summit held in DC, CTDOT attended

League of American Bicyclists report card survey coming out in two months, DOT will work with a BPAB subcommittee for input on this effort

New active transportation infrastructure grant from FHWA just released, \$44 million Bike to work day planning underway, event will be held at DOT

Putnam Bridge meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup> public information meeting, 7 pm, virtual only, registration here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN YY70xV3OSHWwwqiJDdul2g#/regi stration Need to understand what this will mean relative to bike ped access, since this connection is expected to open this spring.

\$2 million federal grant received for bike and pedestrian planning as part of Greater Hartford Mobility Study

#### 3.0 **Old Business**

3.1 Distribution of Annual Report Sent to old list. Need to post to CTAPA listserv, LTA

- 3.2 Action steps from Annual Report – tabled
- 3.3 Legislation update – testimony on HB5330

Submitted testimony, clarification on bicycles and new bike signals, made out of committee, Rep. Lamar understands that clarification is needed. A substitute bill has been reported out of committee, this adds language about bicycle specific signals and alters the language that the Board had addressed in our testimony AN ACT IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. AN ACT IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE

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### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

## 4.0 New Business

4.1 Other legislation? TOD bills pending, there still is a lack of recognition that TOD REQUIRES sufficient bicycle and pedestrian networks.

HB 5213 supports disconnected youth in CT, section 7 supports bus passes for high priority school districts <u>C G A - Connecticut General Assembly</u>

HB5336 suggested for review – this may focus funding for affordable housing in locations with no bike, ped or transit infrastructure <a href="https://cga.ct.gov/2024/TOB/H/PDF/2024HB-05336-R00-HB.PDF">https://cga.ct.gov/2024/TOB/H/PDF/2024HB-05336-R00-HB.PDF</a>

HB 5485 – may focus more CHEAPR funding to low income individuals <u>C G A - Connecticut General Assembly</u>

## 4.2 People who bike and walk in CT

Sandy suggested that we begin developing "vignettes" on people who rely on biking and walking. To strengthen the case for investments in bike and ped infrastructure. Sandy has invited a Dr. who commutes by ebike from Chester to Middletown about 50% of the time to speak to the Board next month about her bicycle use, how an ebike has expanded her range, and the folks she sees (in her practice and daily life) who rely on biking and walking. This could be a Spot light series on residents who are not auto dependent. Start thinking of who you know (yourself?) who we could spotlight.

4.3 Vision Zero council meetings attendance Secretary regularly attends and reports back

## 5.0 Input

5.1 Input from COG's and Vision Zero Updates

WestCOG – received grant for interregional transit study, submitted rec trails grant application to connect NY trails to CT trails

CRCOG – reissuing micromobility RFP for a new vendor for bike share, ECG study will be complete in the summer, Griffin line feasibility completed (feasible), issuing RFP for prioritization study for complete streets implementation

SCRCOG – municipal grant program underway, regional studies underway, microgrant program interest

SCCOG – Goldstar bridge meeting with CTDOT and local officials; kickoff meeting planned on Amtrak study from New Haven to Providence; hiring a transportation planner

## 5.2 Input from Visitors (5 minutes)

SHSP project manager Erika Lindberg, CTDOT CT Safety Summit May 30: <a href="https://example.com/stategic-Highway Safety Plan">CT Strategic Highway Safety Plan</a> | <a href="https://example.com/stategic-Highway-Safety-Plan">T2 Center (uconn.edu)</a>

Jonah Center report on RiverCOG funding for study to connect Airline Trail to

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Farmington canal Trail. This will link several town centers, a vision moving forward.

#### 5.3 T2 Center

Will distribute annual report to LTA and Public Works listservs.

## 5.4 CT Age Well Collaborative No report.

## 5.5 Transport Hartford

Tri-point greenway trail, planning grant application submitted to Rec Trails, <u>Tri-Point Greenway: An Important Step Closer! – Bike West Hartford</u>

May 8 bike to school day,

May 14 bike to work day, this will include a bike ride from BiCi Co West Hartford to the Old State House. Bike to work event will take place 7 to 9 am at the Old State House.

# 5.6 CT Trails Program No report.

## 5.7 CT Public Transportation Council

CTDOT bus shelter project update – criteria have been developed regarding location and shelter type. Towns will be responsible for regular maintenance (snow removal, trash removal), transit operators will be responsible for longterm upkeep of the shelters. Advertising on shelters may help cover maintenance cost.

Most conversation on Shoreline East and possible reinstatement to prepandemic levels.

## 5.8 CT DEEP Trails and Greenways

Rec trails grant applications, 85 received and 5 internal to DEEP \$21 million in requests for \$10 million to be allocated May awards to be issued

## 5.9 CT Greenways Council/ECGA

Awards on May 31<sup>st</sup> at 10am at Riverfront Recapture in Hartford Ride the east June 8 Ride the state June 22

#### 5.10 BikeWalk cT

Discover Hartford ride May 19. <u>2024 Discover CT Tours - BIKE WALK CONNECTICUT (bikewalkct.org)</u>

## 5.11 Watch for Me CT

New staff member Anna Stern.

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Bike safety handout (draft will be reviewed with the CTBPAB), partnering with BWCT on other initiatives

Next Meeting – April 26, 2024, 9 AM VIA TEAMS

## 12 MONTH ACTION PLAN Plan for 1 or 2 in person meetings

February 23, 2024 Distribute Annual Report, Strategize how to move recommendations forward.

In the following 4 months, set up presentations by T2 Center on their programs; update on GIS (sidewalks, crash data), update on progress with HSIP Implementation Plan for VU, update on Active Transportation Plan, Watch for Me, OTHERS?

March 22, 2024: presentation on Safe Routes to Schools and the Idaho stop white paper

April 26, 2024: Presentation by Eric Jackson on UConn crash data base and gis sidewalk inventory

May 24, 2024: Presentation by Mike Whaley CTDOT and Amy Watkins, Watch for Me CT on Bike Ped safety outreach programs

June 28, 2024, in person at Riverfront Boathouse, Hartford
Presentation by T2 center on their bike ped programs

July 26, 2024

August 23, 2024 Election of officers

September 27, 2024

Layout legislative asks for following year. After meeting, request meeting with Anne Kleza

October 25, 2024, in person at CTDOT Layout recommendations for 2024 report, begin compilation of data for tables in report

November 22, 2024 Initial draft of report

December 20, 2024 (not the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday)
Draft final report

January 2025 – Distribute annual report