

Connecticut Department of Transportation

**State Project No. 109-177
Federal-Aid Project No. 1109(104)
Beeline Trail – Phase IV
Plainville**

**September 25, 2025 6:30 p.m.
Plainville Public Library, 56 East Main Street, Plainville CT 06062**

Minutes of Public Informational Meeting

Present:

Plainville Town Councilors- Rosemary Morante, Quinn Christopher, Daniel Hurley, Benjamin Gediman, David Underwood and Deborah Tompkins

Assistant Town Manager- Andy Cirioli

CTDOT – Michael Cherpak, Devin Racicot, Michelle Saldana, Jack Carlson, Stephen Hall and Shanice Rhule

VHB (liaison) – James Kulpa, Mark Jewell

BL Companies – Ken Radziwon, Chris Mastriano

Approximately 30 members of the public

Presentation:

The purpose of the meeting was to inform the public of the Beeline Trail – Phase IV project and to solicit questions and comments. The project's purpose is to close the gap in the Beeline Trail between Plainville and New Britain along with providing traffic calming measures and complete street elements throughout the corridor.

A one-half hour open house was hosted before the presentation began to allow the public to view various exhibits and discuss the project with Department representatives.

Mr. James Kulpa, of the Department Liaison firm VHB, opened the formal presentation at 6:50pm by thanking the elected officials for being present and went on to introduce the project, provided an overview of the meeting format and gave an overview of the RAISE Grant funded projects.

Ken Radziwon, of BL Companies, the design engineer, discussed Title VI requirements, introduced the project team, and described how this project fits within the regional network of multi-use trails.

Mr. Radziwon continued the presentation by describing the project's purpose and need, existing conditions, and constraints. Mr. Radziwon then described the major project elements and improvements proposed along the approximately 2-mile-long project corridor, including, but not limited to surface treatments, retaining walls, drainage improvements, rights-of-way impacts as well as intersection and signal improvements. Mr. Radziwon also discussed the permits that are anticipated for the project as well as the project schedule and approximate construction costs.

Mr. Jack Carlson (CTDOT) representing the Department's Office of Rights of Way, provided a description of the rights-of-way acquisition process to complete the presentation which was immediately followed by a question-and-answer period summarized as follows:

Public Comments and Questions:

Comment: Where does the project start?

Response: Mr. Radziwon explained that the project begins at the intersection of East Main Street (Route 372) and Neal Court and extends east along Pine Street, Woodford Avenue (Route 536) and White Oak Avenue, ending at the Plainville/New Britain town line.

Comment: The sharrows have been removed on Rt 372 (E. Main St.) in downtown Plainville, will they be put back?

Response: Comment was noted, and it was stated that the installation of sharrows will be determined as part of this project.

Comment: Will a connection be made from Neal Court to the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail?

Response: Yes, the final connection between 109-177 and 109-173 will be a combination of sidewalk and sharrows to provide access for both pedestrians and bicyclists.

Comment: Owner of 353/357 Woodford Avenue asked what is happening to their property and if impacts are all on State property?

Response: BL stated no private impacts are expected on the property and that the proposed project elements will be installed within the existing CTDOT right-of-way along their frontage.

Comment: Concern was raised about the impact of the project on Jim's Deli.

Response: Comment noted. CTDOT to investigate constraints/opportunities at this location.

Comment: What is going to be done about dust build up on the trail behind Tilcon?

Response: There is no provision for dust control at this time and would fall under responsibilities for maintenance.

Comment: Several questions/comments were heard about maintenance of the sidewalk / multi-use trail.

Response: CTDOT made it clear that maintenance and how the maintenance duties are divided / operationalized were the purview of the Town.

Comment: What is the construction schedule for the Beeline trail segments in New Britain?

Response: VHB explained the current status of the active construction projects (88-198 & 88-201) and the anticipated advertising and construction schedule for 88-202.

Comment: Resident commented that the sight line for anyone attempting to turn left from Ledge Road onto White Oak Avenue is not ideal and made worse during the winter due to snow plowing creating a high berm of snow.

Response: Comment was noted, and the design team will evaluate.

Comment: Resident asked to confirm that no sidewalk was being proposed on the south side of the roadway under I-84 or across the I-84 on-ramp.

Response: CTDOT confirmed no sidewalk is being proposed in that location. Crosswalks will be provided where appropriate to provide connections between the southern sidewalks and the trail on the north side of Woodford Avenue.

Comment: Resident commented that vehicles coming down the I-84 off-ramp do so at excessive speed and make the right turn onto Woodford Ave very fast.

Response: Comment noted and CTDOT stated that radius would be evaluated for reduction to aid in reducing the turning speed. It was also noted that the proposed project will be creating enhanced pedestrian signals at the intersection to help with this concern.

Comment: Would restrooms or trash facilities be provided?

Response: CTDOT noted that this project does not include restroom facilities or trash receptacles, but those enhancements could be added through a future project.

Comment: A resident who currently does not have a sidewalk along their frontage, raised a concern about where best to locate their trash cans on pickup day.

Response: CTDOT noted that typically trash cans are located at the edge of driveway aprons when there is sidewalk with no buffer strip.

Comment: A resident raised the question of maintenance and specifically snow removal.

Response: Mr. Cherpak reminded the audience that the maintenance responsibility falls to the Town and how they decided to divide / operationalize those responsibilities were the purview of the Town.

Comment: A resident asked if homeowners were taking on any additional liability if a sidewalk on State property along their frontage were to be constructed?

Response: It was explained that state and local laws would determine liability based on how the Town currently addresses that matter.

Comment: Owner of 14 White Oak Ave stated he has a lease with CTDOT for use of state land as parking and is concerned about the construction of a sidewalk impacting his leased area.

Response: Comment was noted and CTDOT committed to review the plans and lease.

Comment: Owner of 85 East Main Street noted that the existing sidewalk along her frontage would be converted into a multi-use trail, and she raised a concern over how best to delineate the public trail from private property given the close proximity of the edge of trail and her existing parking lot.

Response: Comment was noted, and the design team agreed to look into this location to see what could potentially be done to alleviate the property owners' concern.

Comment: Another attendee asked about maintenance and also wanted to know if the Town is responsible for the maintenance of the other FCHT segments being constructed in Plainville.

Response: The Town's responsibility to maintain the facilities being constructed was reiterated and confirmed that it also applies to the other trail segments being constructed in Plainville.

Comment: Attendee asked what the "big purpose" is for doing a project like this?

Response: The design team restated the purpose and need for the project, and one attendee yelled out "Quality of Life"!

Comment: Attendee asked about the use of electric bikes on the trail and the excessive speed some can travel and whether speed bumps along the trail were considered.

Response: The design team noted that the use of e-bikes across the country has been a challenge for many communities and noted they are permitted on trails and no speed bumps are being planned for this project.

Comment: Will Meriline Avenue be signalized?

Response: The design team noted that the intersection is currently signalized and that additional pedestrian signal improvements were proposed.

Comment: Attendee asked if there were funding opportunities for property owners to enhance their property by creating different way of separating the public way from private property.

Response: The design team stated that they were not aware of a funding source.

Comment: What is the plan for lighting along populated areas and Tilcon?

Response: The design team noted that no pedestrian level lighting is included within the project at this point in time and CTDOT is in discussions with Tilcon regarding potential lighting options in the vicinity of the Tilcon property.

Comment: Will there be bollards along the trail to control ATV/motorized use?

Response: The design team noted that no bollards are currently proposed.

Comment: Attendee made a general statement in support of the project specifying that this is more than a regular trail, it's a good idea and more of a city infrastructure transportation type project.

Response: The comment was noted.

Comment: Attendee asked why so many utility poles are being relocated compared to another trail project in Town where the poles were avoided.

Response: CTDOT acknowledged the difference and stated that each project is on a case by case basis and many factors are considered before deciding to avoid or relocate utility poles.

Comment: Will the presentation be on the Town website?

Response: Design team noted the presentation is on the Town website and the State project website. It was also noted that Nutmeg TV's video recording of the meeting would also be on the Town's YouTube channel.

Comment: Will I be contacted in the future if there are impacts to my property?

Response: The design team noted that, yes. The ROW agent would be in contact with anyone who's property is impacted by the proposed project.

Comment: Will changes to the plan be posted on the project website?

Response: It was noted that the 60% and 90% plan submissions would be posted on the project website.

Adjournment: Discussions before and after the presentation generally mirrored those heard during the Public Comment and Question period. The meeting concluded with applause at approximately 8:40 p.m. and attendees were thanked again for participating.