



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 April 28, 2023 9 AM

This meeting will be held over TEAMS:

Microsoft Teams meeting notes

Join on your computer or mobile app

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1 Call to Order/Roll Call

Sandy Fry (Chair), Joe Balskus (Secretary), Francis Pickering, Rod Parlee, Al Sylvestre, Brian Kent, Mark Moriarty

Eric Jackson, CT Transportation Institute
Bruce Donald, Greenways Council
? Dylan Reilly, Town of Farmington
Kyle Consiglo, SCCOG
Kristen Levesque, CTDOT SafeRoutes to school coordinator
Rebecca Augur, OPM
Bill Veronesi, Hartford resident
Kim Bradley, CTDEEP
Jennifer Carrier, FHWA
Joanie Taylor, Westport resident
Bruce Witchen, OPM
Dimitri Koutoumbas, OSTA
Craig Babowicz, CTDOT
Anna Bergeron, CTDOT
Charles Harlow, Fuss & O'Neill
Richard Donovan, NVCOG
Cindy Jacobs, Wethersfield
Caitlin Palmer, CRCOG
Kate Rattan, SCCOG
Doug Hausladen, NHParking
Bob Dickinson, Bloomfield

1.1 Minutes, March 24 meeting
Accepted by Board as presented

2.0 Reports/Presentations

Eric Jackson, Executive Director CT Transportation Institute; Director, CT

NOTE TO PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

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Transportation Safety Research Center: Eric gave a presentation on the UConn Crash data repository www.ctcrash.uconn.edu and noted that a recent enhancement is the availability of “story boards”

<https://gis.cti.uconn.edu/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=7c5c94e8c1e54f33b43c00254e46e7fc>

This allows a user to see where crashes have occurred, can be varied by time frame, severity of crash, and whether the crash involved a bicyclist or pedestrian (among other categories). Eric explained that the Model Minimal uniform crash criteria (MMUCC) will be upgraded soon and this may enhance the data collected. All data is submitted electronically. There is a time lag in getting information on fatal crashes – towns take 6 to 9 months to complete reports on these crashes, but the Data center does get fatal information from the Office of Chief Medical Examiner. The federal FARS (Fatality Analysis Reporting System) lags by about 1 ½ years.

Anyone can access the data, a login is needed to do more detailed analysis, but this can be obtained online.

The Transportation Institute is also developing a Vulnerable Road User (VRU) Safety Assessment tool. This tool will do the following: Screen road network for trends; Diagnose hot spots; Select countermeasures; Prioritize projects; Cost Benefit Analysis; Evaluate before and After.

A question was asked – what about municipal road high crash locations? Towns can ask DOT to use the CT Roadway Safety Management System (CRSMS) which is similar to the VRU tool being developed but does not focus on bike/ped.

Additionally, The LTAP (Local Technical Assistance Program) can provide road safety audits to towns free of charge. Contact Donna Shea or Mary McCarthy for this program.

UConn does not do a lot of analysis of the crash data, they provide information on trends. A weekly graphic of trends goes to DOT Thursday of every week. The data base provides the information to others who can do analysis. The data base does include information on make and model of vehicle. Distinguishing between SUV vs crossover vs passenger car is difficult for reporting police officers. They are looking at ways to capture data on “near misses”.

DOT Projects, News, Updates:

Gold Star Bridge report due next month. The pedestrian/bike path is closed because of the recent crash/fire. DOT and SCRCOG are trying to set up improved bus service to help individuals who were dependent upon the path to walk or bike across the river. Current service is hourly. Limiting factor for improving bus service is availability of operators.

Complete streets policy committee working on finalizing the policy, several bureaus are involved.

Highway Design manual update on bike chapter created and being reviewed internally

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Pedestrian Safety Through Speed Management: Pilot project pedestrian safety zones identified, one being furthered by DOT. Location not identified.

Pedestrian Safety Zones – how do towns proceed to set these up? On state roads, work with the state. On local roads, municipality can address using state's speed setting document, which was updated in 2021. It notes with respect to Pedestrian safety Zones, that such zones must be complemented by other speed reduction methods, like those included in a speed management plan.

Concern for matching funding from State for Towns for improvements on State roadways such as SS4A – how will DOT view SS4A projects on state roadways? Anna will report back next month.

The Putnam Bridge access project is on track for Spring 2024 completion.

3.0 Old Business

3.1 Final Report – Moving Recommendations Forward

- development of guidance regarding side path design – is this addressed in the draft bike chapter of the Highway Design Guide? Craig said that the chapter follows the FHWA selection guide pretty closely. NOTE: the new AASHTO Bicycle Facility Design Guide will likely be published in the summer.
- establishment of a statewide five-year goal of top-ten Bicycle Friendly State status—from our current position of 20th

subcommittee – Sandy, Joe, Mark; Al and Anna will examine the previous app., where we fell short, and come up with a presentation that we can make to the Commissioner making the case for this goal. Others interested Kim, Doug. Bruce to obtain MA application
- expansion of the Watch for Me CT campaign
slow down for work zones campaign comparison
- survey for local traffic authorities (moved to next month)

3.2 Web site is updated

- #### 3.3 Vision zero updates – no reports
- Safety action plan – need to have a vision zero plan to qualify for implementation funding in future
Safety plans have been funded under SS4A, \$200 million unallocated

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Implementation grants expected to be funded in \$10 million

4.0 New Business

5.0 Input

5.1 Input from COG's.

NVCOG – Bristol trail downtown with Rockwell park to Middle street to connect to FCT – may 25th meeting

SCCOG –

LOTICIP:

2 applications endorsed in April

Preston multiuse path in Poquetanuck Village

East Lyme sidewalks and road rehabilitation on East Pattagansett Rd

TA:

Additional projects for TA program are moving ahead:

Groton Depot Rd to Thomas Road bike path

New London Williams Street Phase 2, extends previous TA funded construction.

Gold Star:

Bus Bridge meeting was held this week and a solution is not yet defined, but DOT has been proactive and creative. The length of the closure is not yet known. DOT determination of bike facility funded under northbound rehab project is anticipated for May but may be effected by the southbound crash.

5.2 Input from Visitors (5 minutes)

5.3 CT Rail Council - tracking legislation –

SB 904 - an act affecting CT Commuter Rail Council - no vote date yet

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/FC/PDF/2023SB-00904-R000437-FC.PDF>

Rail Service [SB1078](#) - Shoreline East Rail Expansion of Service, Contract with Operator, Study expansion of new branches on Waterbury, Danbury lines — received a fiscal note

Work Live Ride [HB6890](#) —no vote date yet

5.4 CTDEEP Trails and Greenways:

Finalized selection of Rec Trails grants for 2023 – press release coming out soon

DOT projects moving ahead for EHampton with earmarked funds

Plan to work together with DOT in future on rec trails funding

International trails summit, training for state level grant oversight

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- 5.5 CT Greenways Council/ECGA
Significant interest in program, \$10 million funding in future, line item in Governors budget
CROG ECG gap design study – public information meetings have been held
ROW legislation still in limbo, holding up a couple of projects
- 5.6 BikeWalk CT
Ride in Bloomfield in Fall, legislative work, and working with new set of directors
- 5.7 Watch for Me CT no report
- 5.8 Transport Hartford no report
- 5.9 CT Trails Program no report

Next Meeting – **May 26**, 2023, 9 AM

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12 MONTH ACTION PLAN

April 28, 2023: Presentation by Erik Jackson, re UConn Crash data

May 26, 2023

Status of our recommendations – progress, need to reach out?

June 23, 2023 At Riverfront boathouse, Hartford;

Presentation by Donna Shea of the T2 Center, T2 activities in BP

Presentation by Riverfront Recapture re their BP activities

July 28, 2023

Possible update from OPM on CT Conservation and Development Policies Plan for 2025-30 (check with Bruce, Rebecca to see if they are able to do this)

August 25, 2023

Election of officers

Presentation on CT HSIP Implementation plan which should be approved by local FHWA office by now

September 22, 2023, in New Haven

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

October 27, 2023

Layout recommendations for 2023 report, begin compilation of data for tables in report

November 17, 2023 (not the 4th Friday)

Initial draft of report

December 15, 2023 (not the 4th Friday)

Draft final report

January 2024

Finalize annual report and distribute

February 2024

Strategize how to move recommendations forward

March 2024

NOTE: we may want presentations from other groups to be sure our Annual Report includes their work:

Watch for Me CT; CT Age Well Collaborative; OTHERS?

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