



# 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

Friday August 25, 2023 9 AM

## Microsoft Teams meeting Notes

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

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[+1 860-840-2075,852154497#](tel:+18608402075852154497) United States, Hartford

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- 1 Call to Order/Roll Call  
Sandy Fry (Chair), Brian Kent (Vice Chair), Joe Balskus (Secretary), Rod Parlee, Al Sylvestre, Francis Pickering, Neil Pade, Tom Branchaud, Mark Moriarty

Kyle Casiglio, SCRCOG  
Grace Yi Hartford  
Pat Padlo, OSTA  
Craig Babowicz, CTDOT  
Anna Bergeron, CTDOT  
Charles Harlow, F&OI  
Richard Donovan, NVCOG  
Bill Champagne, CTDOT  
Doug Hausladen, Park NH  
Bob Dickinson, Bloomfield  
Kate Rattan, SCCOG  
Karen Svetz, NVCOG  
Dimitri Kotoumbas, OSTA  
Amy Watkins, WForMeCT  
Bruce Wittchen, OPM  
Bill Veronesi

Erika Lindeberg, Jacobs  
Martha Connelly, Riv Recapture  
Rebecca Riznyk,  
Jennifer Lacker  
Matt Hart, CRCOG  
Natasha Fatu, CTDOT  
Steve Bruno, CTDOT  
Jake Chamberlain, CTDOT  
Christopher Roberts, CTDOT  
Allison Palmer, Mystic Cycle Center  
Balazs Szoke, CTDOT  
Kevin Tedesco, CTDOT  
Deb Dauphinais, Bicycles East  
Caitlin Palmer, CRCOG

- 1.1 Minutes, **July 28** meeting ACCEPTED WITH CHANGE stating no input for Public Comment

### 2.0 Reports/Presentations

**Natasha Fatu**, CT DOT, Traffic Safety Engineering, introduction of Vulnerable Road User Assessment tool. (presentation attached). Next month would like to discuss this topic further. The end result of this work will be a set of strategies designed to reduce injuries and fatalities for vulnerable road users. An illumination study will require a lot of fieldwork. A raised intersection/crosswalk study is underway. A study of the safety of no turn on red is underway. Where the VRU assessment refers to a pedestrian hybrid beacon, this is the signal type that used to be called HAWK. **VRU Assessment is due November 15.**

#### 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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Discussion: Overnight flashing operation eliminates pedestrian phases, DOT plans to eliminate overnight flashing operations, although to do this, there needs to be artery detection. Vehicle mix likely has had an impact upon VRU safety; DOT guidelines for subdivision streets are outdated, should be updated or removed. Pedestrian crossings at commercial driveways can be a particular problem for pedestrians. Education is especially needed for VRUs.

### **DOT Reports/Updates**

ConnDOT Executive Order discussed regarding new controlling design criteria for bicycles, pedestrians and transit. It is in effect and any comments can be provided for consideration. Some discussion of whether this applies to LOTCIP funded projects. DOT says this was not the intent.

### 3.0 Old Business

#### 3.1 Final Report – Moving Recommendations Forward

Strategic Highway Safety Plan, Ped and other emphasis areas – Board member interested in serving? AI has expressed interest. Joe and Mark are already participating.

NHTSA letter sent, attached to these minutes

#### 3.2 Getting word out on CTBPAB

AI presenting at Blind Americans conference, October 13

Neil is meeting with a local traffic safety group in early September and from this will try to organize a regional traffic safety discussion, where a member of the Board could present.

### 4.0 New Business

#### 4.1 Election of officers

AI made a motion seconded by Neil for this slate:

Chair: Sandy Fry

Vice Chair: Brian Kent

Secretary: Joe Balskus.

Discussion ensued with Joe indicating that he would welcome someone else to be secretary but will stay on if no one is nominated.

By a roll call vote, the slate was unanimously accepted.

#### 4.2 Legislative agenda ideas

- Payment in lieu of sidewalk – legislation to allow this. Can we get CCAPA support – AI will reach out to John Guskowski. Sandy will reach out to OPM.

- Legislation related to e-bikes – prohibiting use by those under 16

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More discussion needed, Board feels this idea will not be ready this year. Neil will reach out to legislative contacts on this.

- Office of Outdoor Recreation within DEEP (supported by BWCT and CT Greenways Council) Other states do this, including Colorado
- Treatment of sidewalks on state roadways – this should be changed to Infrastructure for Vulnerable Users on State Roadways. Note – in other states, state roads end at municipal boundaries, so we may have it somewhat better here. Need way to clarify what we are looking for. The new design criteria may address this in part. Continuing discussion
- TOD legislation – previously this has been unsuccessful, perhaps because it focused upon zoning matters, and those may not be the real barriers to TOD. Barriers might be infrastructure, lack of capacity at municipal level. Lack of funding at municipal level to enable.

Continued discussion needed

- Allow for establishment of sidewalk districts (like stormwater districts) to provide for sidewalk upkeep

No good examples to follow

4.3 possible logo for Board – tabled

### 5.0 Input

5.1 Input from COG's and Vision Zero Updates.

CRCOG interest in attending in future meetings Matt Hart

From CRCOG, we would be happy next time to provide an update on our East Coast Greenway projects and upcoming regional bike network study. We also have a VZ webinar planned for 9/19. We'll send the flyer to Anna. Thanks

NVCOG Complete Streets Academy, Waterbury (completed) and Bristol projects will be finished mid September (quick implementation projects on state roadways)

NewMIX team, Route 8/84 project ongoing planning

CTDOT VMT reduction strategy, NVCOG releasing statement on VMT reduction today

SCCOG – Goldstar bridge ped walkway to be reopened on Labor Day after tanker fire, continued discussions with CTDOT for northbound pedestrian access. Looking at US Bike Route designation through region.

5.2 Input from Visitors (5 minutes) – Bob Dickinson has spoken with Towns hesitant to submit on large federal grants due to 20% local matches are difficult.

5.3 CTDEEP Trails and Greenways - No report.

5.4 CT Greenways Council/ECGA - No report.

5.5 BikeWalk CT - No report.

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5.6 Watch for Me CT – pending approval highway safety plan money being allocated for new staff person to help with outreach  
Statewide world day of remembrance November 19 for world survivor day of crashes, Bushnell Park

5.7 Transport Hartford – no report

5.8 CT Trails Program – no report

5.9 CT Public Transportation Council – 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting held this week with reformatted council, seeking volunteers for council, AI is interested in serving

Next meeting will remain virtual. In person meeting in New Haven still being organized.

Next Meeting – **September 22**, 2023, 9 AM, via TEAMS

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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 4<sup>th</sup> Friday)

Initial draft of report

December 15, 2023 (not the 4<sup>th</sup> 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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