

Capitol Region Council of Governments

241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: (860) 522-2217 FAX: (860) 724-1274

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING, December 9, 2008

ATTENDANCE

David Banigan-White
Gerry Maine
Lauren Good
John Waiculonis
Michele Lipe
Piya Hawkes
Linda Farmer
Neil Pade
Michael Carrier
Chuck Guarino
Victoria Houle
Deb Duaphinais
Richard Marcks
Richard Sawitzke
Sharon Okoye
Lisa Houlihan
Ray Purtell
Roland Klee
Gerry Maine
Jill Barrett

TOWN/ORGANIZATION

BESB
Hartford
Windsor
BESB
South Windsor
Enfield
Tolland
Canton
Glastonbury resident/GHTD
West Hartford
Windsor
CCBA/Glastonbury resident
Glastonbury Bikeways
Simsbury
ConnDOT
Ellington
Glastonbury
Canton
Hartford
FHI

STAFF

Sandy Fry
Brenda Watson

CRCOG
CRCOG

Sandy wanted to review the concept of Complete Streets prior to officially starting the meeting. She used a presentation created by Fitzgerald & Halliday which had illustrated examples of complete streets.

The meeting was called to order by staff member Sandy Fry at 12:15.

Approval of Minutes: Michelle Lipe made motion to approve the September 9th meeting minutes, seconded by Gerry Maine. Passed unanimously.

Final Plan

Sandy noted that the plan has been printed and posted on the website. Copies will be distributed after the meeting along with a memo explaining who the copies should be distributed to.

First Year Implementation

Complete Streets: Recommendation 1

Sandy reviewed the Complete Streets handout drafted by Brenda. She went on to say that it could take a while before any of the towns are ready to implement these policies and that for now, read the handout, and start thinking about taking some interim steps. She asked if any towns would like to move forward now and explore implementation. CRCOG's goal is to work with at least one town a year and provide technical assistance with the development of a program. Linda Farmer noted that the town of Tolland is interested in CS and that in their Plan of Conservation and Development, CS is an element the final plan.

Michele Lipe of South Windsor also commented that her town is committed to CS especially with new development projects. Chuck Guarino of West Hartford noted that the town is committed to improving the bikeability/walkability however; there are potential issues with exemptions/exceptions as it relates to implementing CS. Further discussion took place about exemptions/exceptions and Brenda also noted that the handout is a modified summary of the Thunderhead Alliance "Guide to Complete Streets". More information can be found about exemptions/exceptions in that guide and can be found on the CRCOG website.

Plans for data collection: Recommendations 2.3 and 3.3

Sandy noted that CRCOG staff been researching data collection for both bicycle use and pedestrian activity. Staff conducted some pedestrian counts in the downtown area to test out our forms. As we move forward with implementation, we would like towns to consider what locations would be best for measuring pedestrian and bicycle activity. Discussion took place about collecting data. Sandy noted that man power and funding availability may be an issue. To the extent that we can use volunteers, that will be helpful.

Regional pedestrian design guidance: Recommendation 2.2

In our September meeting BESB expressed an interest in providing field guidance and instruction to the committee regarding accommodations for the blind, considerations in traffic calming measures, intersection improvements and roundabouts. As we move forward with implementation, CRCOG has asked John Waiculis and David Banigan-White of BESB to put together a program that can be shared with the committee. The plan will be to meet briefly at CRCOG (or perhaps in another town) and then go out into the field to provide committee members with perspective on issues for blind pedestrians. David noted that there are locations both in downtown Hartford and potentially in West Hartford that would work well for this program. CRCOG will work with BESB to come up with some tentative dates, and it was pointed out that the blind have to use pedestrian accommodations in all seasons and that going out to conduct the audit in the winter months should not be excluded. CRCOG will be in touch with the committee as more details about this field exercise are developed.

Host a bicycle friendly community workshop: Recommendation 3.6

This recommendation was intended to bring a League of American Bicyclists workshop on How to become a Bicycle Friendly Community to the region. However, we have since discovered that the LAB is not fully prepared to provide this type of workshop. We are continuing to investigate this and will get back to the committee. She also commented that at this point, the focus will be on the town of Simsbury since their First selectman has expressed an interest in becoming a bicycle friendly community. If other communities are also interested, we can expand the program.

Update on State Bike/Ped Plan

Sandy reported briefly that the plan is moving forward and there are many promising signs that it is moving in the right direction. The goals and objectives for the plan had been watered down by DOT staff, but after protests from the plan advisory committee, they have been strengthened. She will continue to keep the committee updated with any developments. Anyone wanting more information on the process can go to the state website for the plan: www.ctbikepedplan.org.

Roundtable

Gerry Maine reported that he is pleased with the city of Hartford's progress in regards to bike lanes in a relatively short period of time. He also noted that he will be no longer with the City of Hartford after the new year.

Deb Dauphinais noted that in Glastonbury, the Bikeways Committee recommended projects are going through review process and the challenge is how to balance projects and how to ask for money. Michael Carrier noted that there needs to be more advocacy since motorists tend to ignore pedestrians in crosswalks.

Piya Hawkes of Enfield, noted that the town is putting together a separate sidewalk crew and that there are plans to add more sidewalks.

The town of South Windsor is proposing a Safe Routes 2 Schools resolution for adoption. The safe routes program has also led to the development of a sidewalk plan and tying in the complete streets concept is a component of that.

Linda Farmer of Tolland noted they continue to work on their plan of development and conservation and that a local bike team has done their own assessment of road safety for bicyclist and pedestrians.

Roland Klee of Canton noted that the town is planning to connect the political and social centers of town with a bikeway linking Collinsville and the Farmington valley Shoppes.

Richard Sawitske of the town of Simsbury noted that it is now time to resurface some of the older trails in town. Tree roots have been a problem. They will seek bond authorization for this work.

The town of Ellington plans on implementing its master plan of conservation and development in the new year.

Adjournment 1:30pm

Next Meeting

Schedule for 2009: March 10th, June 9th, Sept. 8th, December 8th