

Capitol Region Council of Governments
241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106
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BIKE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 12, 2007

ATTENDANCE

Debra Dauphinais
Steve Noble
Michele Lipe
Toni Gold
Marc Nicol
Everett B. Dowe Jr.
Renata Bertotti
Chuck Guarino
Gerry Maine
Kevin Borrup

TOWN/ORGANIZATION

CCBA
Simsbury FVTC
Town of South Windsor
Hartford
Riverfront Recapture
Windsor
Windsor
West Hartford
Hartford Planning
CCMC Injury Free Coalition for Kids

STAFF

Sandy Fry
Brenda Watson

CRCOG
CRCOG

GUESTS

Stephanie Nadler
Janice Ehle/Meyer

CCRPA
CRERPA

The meeting was called to order by staff member Sandy Fry at 12:05.

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Toni Gold, seconded by Michele Lipe, the minutes from the March 13, 2007 meeting, were approved unanimously.

Update on Bike and Pedestrian Plan Implementation:

Sandy gave an update on several bike/ped related activities in the region:

Update on Bike to Work 2007: This year the Central CT Bicycle Alliance took over full responsibility for the Bike to Work program and CRCOG played a supporting role. This year Bike to Work was focused on national Bike to Work Week and DEP Commissioner Gina McCarthy participated. There was a good amount of participation, the weather was great until that Friday on the last day in which it rained and we had about 20 or so participants including DEP Commissioner McCarthy.

Progress with Town Based Bike Plans: The City of Hartford has passed a resolution supporting bike planning in Hartford and establishing the ad hoc bicycle task force an official committee to provide guidance and support in the development of the plan. The Town of West Hartford passed a resolution that promotes increased and safe cycling in the Town. The Town of Glastonbury continues to make progress in the implementation of its bike plan by adding "share the road" signs through out town. Bloomfield is investigating bike path opportunities. South Windsor will

set up a staff committee to put together bike/ped proposals. Windsor is preparing TOD plans including bike access for commuter rail.

The Committee asked whether accommodations for bikes are being considered as a part of the Springfield/Htfd/Nhaven commuter rail. On a motion by Michele Lipe, seconded by Gerry Maine, the committee requested that staff send a letter to DOT requesting that as commuter rail planning goes forward, accommodations for bikes (on trains and at bus stations) be included. Motion passed unanimously.

Update on Trails Projects: Sandy gave an update on the Farmington canal projects in East Granby and Suffield. Construction bids came in high. East Granby will award the paving contract and redesign the Salmon Brook Bridge to reduce costs. Suffield is discussing it's contracts with DOT. Sandy described a new national initiative, the Active Transportation Initiative. This program is being promoted by the Rails to Trails Conservancy and seeks to increase investments in facilities that encourage biking and walking. Hartford and environs have been invited to be part of this effort, as a location where funding would be targeted. Currently 4 pilot projects (Sheboygan, WI; Marin County, CA; Minneapolis; Columbus, MO) are underway with funding provided in SAFETEA-LU.

Review Sidewalk Survey: The survey was sent out in April to assess the sidewalk maintenance and construction costs from town to town. 13 towns completed the survey and follow-up will include a collection of all sidewalk ordinances / policies in the region and CRCOG will create a summary to present to the Committee. Staff requested the committee's thoughts on additional information that would be useful:

- South Windsor would like to see ordinances from towns that maintain sidewalks in good repair rather than requiring this of property owners.
- When the future MDC project in Hartford is completed many sidewalks will be replaced and the question is will the city replace the historic blue slate sidewalks with new sidewalks? What do other towns do relative to sidewalks being part of the historic fabric, or an integral part of a neighborhood's character?
- What are the different width requirements in towns in the region?
- More information on costs

CRCOG Safe Routes to School Workshops: CRCOG is offering a series of workshops (dates to be announced later) to assist towns with the development of their own Safe Routes plans. CRCOG is investigating the possibility of competitively procuring the services of an engineering firm that could provide traffic calming expertise on an on-call basis.

Aetna Viaduct: Toni Gold, President of Urban Edge Associates, passed out two reports for the committee. "Reform: The Road Not Taken" and "The Aetna Viaduct-The Problem and the Opportunity" in which a brief discussion about the Aetna Viaduct took place.

Roundtable:

Bike/Ped Planning Roundtable Discussion. Staff asked each committee member to name 1 item for ongoing committee work. Responses were as follows:

- Publicize rights of for pedestrians in crosswalks, especially with right on red turns
- Would like to see a coordination of efforts among RPO's
- Bike safety and helmet use for children
- Review past plan and check on status of goals / accomplishments
- Sharing ideas
- Would like to see "Best Practices" to bring back to towns
- Become leading participant in Aetna viaduct issue

- Push for a set of standards for bike paths (working proactively with DOT)
- More opportunities to meet with designers (maybe on new street standards – Charlotte, NC; Portland, OR)

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Next Meeting : September 11, 2007