

MINUTES  
WEST HARTFORD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMISSION MEETING  
MONDAY JANUARY 14, 2019  
WEST HARTFORD TOWN HALL, ROOM 217  
Next Meeting February 11, 2018 @ 7:00PM ROOM 308

Board Members in attendance: MaryEllen Thibodeau, Jill Morawski, Daniel Johnson, Scott Franklin, Laurie Silverman, Dan Firestone, Sandy Fry satisfying quorum requirements.

Town Staff in attendance: Matthew Hart, Duane Martin, Greg Sommer

Quorum was held.

- 1) Mayor Shari Cantor was unable to attend but briefed of the agenda prior and provided input to Matthew Hart to update commission
- 2) December 2018 Meeting Minutes were approved
- 3) New members to the commission have not been appointed by the Town
- 4) Old Business
  - a. Election of Secretary and Vice Chair. On a motion by MaryEllen Thibodeau seconded by Jill Morawski, Daniel Firestone and Daniel Johnson were elected unanimously as Vice Chair and Secretary, respectively.
  - b. Update regarding North Main Street Road Diet
    - a. Town Staff in attendance to discuss North Main Street Road Diet: Matthew Hart, Duane Martin, Greg Sommer
    - b. A dozen residents were present to advocate for North Main Street Road Diet
    - c. On Wednesday 01/16/2019, Matthew Hart, Town Manager, will recommend to the Council Community Planning and Physical services Committee that the Town of West Hartford undertake a comprehensive trial of the North Main Street road diet. A budget for the comprehensive trial will be presented in March 2019. The Town is recommending the bridge project then the comprehensive North Main Street traffic calming immediately after the bridge construction is complete.
    - d. According to Town Staff the bridge construction and the road diet comprehensive trial will be separated in implementation and completion timeline for the following:
      - a) The bridge construction would take approx. 18 months beginning Spring 2019 end fall 2020
      - b) If bridge project ends early Fall, trial would begin
      - c) If bridge project late Fall, trial would begin the following Spring
        1. MaryEllen asked for deeper understanding of painting delays
    - e. The Manager's memo to the Council Committee supporting the road diet trial, and laying out the elements of the trial, is available on the Town website. The Town will hire a consulting firm to conduct the trial and to develop the actual road diet plans that can be implemented. The effort will include community outreach.
    - f. Duane Martin, West Hartford Town Engineer, elaborated on concerns within the engineering department regarding implementing the road diet during the bridge construction. The Bridge construction will impact how the road will operate, and if the road diet trial is implemented during construction it will not be a true test of will the road diet be effective.
      - a) Resident of Wynwood road voiced the direct unavoidable impact residents will have because there is no alternative route to leave their residencies during the construction period, and a center turn lane could allow a safe buffer for entrance and exit.

- b) MaryEllen Thibodeau asked for clarification for “Comprehensive Trial”, Town Staff responded with the following:
    - 1. Traffic Counts, Cue length analysis on corridors Fern, Asylum, American School for the Deaf, one travel lane two-way center turn lane, traffic signals, time would last minimum 4 months,
    - 2. Daniel Johnson asked, “what are the metrics/factors that will determine the comprehensive trial pass/fail and will they be published ahead of time?”
      - a. Metrics are not finalized at this time, Duane Martin said the *measurements* will be discussed and released for discussion prior to final approval.
    - 3. Will counts be made for pedestrian and cyclists?
      - a. - Yes, Duane Martin
  - c) A resident of North Main Street recommended the road diet be implemented during construction because the site will be prepped and ready.
  - d) Matt Hart provided a closing statement asking for the support of the commission for the Towns recommendation for North Main Street road diet trial, and the Town Managers proposal for capital expenditures on the road diet which will be recommended as part of the budget in March 2019.
    - 1. Later request from Matt Hart to Duane Martin to look into, beginning the study during the bridge construction, and in the later phase of the bridge construction, if conditions permit, we will begin physical implementation.
  - e) As the town considers this course, the commission wants them to look more closely at the lane transitions during construction, whether there can be a three lane section on each side of the 2 lane contraction at the bridge that accommodates the turning requirements, and strongly urge the town to implement the road diet as soon as possible.
  - g. On a motion by Mary Ellen Thibodeau, seconded by Dan Firestone, the commission voted unanimously to adopt the following motion:
    - 1. **"The commission would support the proposed road diet Comprehensive Trial, as long as the road diet is implemented, with the proposed 3 lane cross section, as soon as possible, during the 18-month bridge construction period, so that at the end of the bridge construction period, the road diet is in place at least from Asylum to Fern."**
- 5) Greg Sommer, Town Engineer, provide update regarding Mountain Road / Albany Avenue intersection project
- a) Concept 6, Lane arrangements for cars remains
    - 2. Sidewalk would be removed
    - 3. Bike lanes will be installed
    - 4. Easement will need to be requested from owner on Lovelace Drive
  - b) Jill Marowski, concern regarding right turn motorists hitting cyclists at cue, on the East side for traffic heading West on Mountain
  - c) Midblock crossing for Mountain Rd and Mountain Farms Rd.
  - d) Question was raised for protected lanes and sidewalks, which Greg, suggested space limitations.
- 6) Blue Bike route is complete.

- 7) Update regarding Planning department matters
  - a) Updates from Town Staff, they have begun planning process for milling and paving in 2019. It is expected updates to Boulevard will be first.
- 8) Update from Bike West Hartford, INC.
  - a) First Center Streets meeting will be held in January 2019. Please contact Edward Pawlack,
  - b) August 25<sup>th</sup> 2019 will be the next Center Streets Event
- 9) Meeting to attend, Thursday February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019, 6- 8 PM , Room 400, The West Hartford Plan of Conservation and Development Transportation And Infrastructure.
- 10) New Business
  - a) Bike Share Program partnership with the City of Hartford and West Hartford,
    - i. The Town has agreed to participate in a regional RFP for bike share services..
    - ii. What requirements will the town and regionally request from a bike Share RFP, pattern modeled after Boston suburbs?
    - iii. Resident raised concern about bike share capabilities for universal access, and senior housing, and disability access.
  - b) Request was made from the commission to have police department involved with the committee
  - c) Announcement: BiciCo opens its second location in West Hartford CT at 616 New Park Avenue, West Hartford, CT
    - i. Certified upcycled bikes and new bikes available for purchase.
    - ii. They have special events and are focused on community inclusion.
    - iii. They have request for a crosswalk, at trout brook trail and new park road,
    - iv. Duane Martin, mentioned a pocket park at the terminal of the trout brook trail. Design proposal and implementation completion Spring 2021 for the New Park road diet.
  - d) Daniel Johnson discussed Hillcrest Area Neighborhood initiatives and creating multiple outreach channels for residents with resident Ryan Nobrega.
  - e) The discussion of Crosswalks on Farmington Avenue and locating speed check signs was moved to February 2019 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00PM

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Johnson, Secretary and Board Member  
West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission