

MINUTES  
WEST HARTFORD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMISSION MEETING  
MONDAY September 9th, 2019  
WEST HARTFORD TOWN HALL, ROOM 400  
Next Meeting October 15th, 2019 @ 7:00PM ROOM 400

Board Members in attendance: Denisse Gutierrez, Ken Livingston, Dan Firestone, Sandy Fry, Jill Morawski, Ryan Nobrega, Laurie Silverman

Quorum was present. Call to order 7:05PM.

1. Approval of previous meeting minutes, on a motion by Dan Firestone, seconded by Daniel Johnson, the Minutes were approved unanimously.
2. Old Business:
  - a. Status of Roadway Projects from Duane Martin (Sandy spoke to Duane in the previous week)
    - i. Mountain Road/Albany Avenue project no update on timeline
    - ii. North Main Street Bridge project,
      1. The bid opening for the project is October 3, the construction will not begin till next construction season. Staff will develop the scope of work for the road diet and the Request for Proposals for the road diet trial will go our probably in January. Staff will share the draft scope with the Commission and we will have a chance to provide input.
      2. Questions were raised regarding the road diet trial - is 4 to 6 months a sufficient period of time for the trial. The Commission was mixed on this, some thought a trial should be 6 to 12 months, while others thought that the workability of the road diet will be evident very quickly. A question was also raised about the traffic data that the town had provided - is average speed sufficient or are end to end travel time data collection more appropriate? Also - should bike/ped volumes be collected before the road diet. Sandy said she would check to see if the Town has collected this data or if CRCOG has done its bike ped count on North Main Street. (**Follow up finding** - the Town has not collected this data, nor has CRCOG, but CRCOG has agreed to do a count on North Main sometime this month.)
      3. The Town has not established evaluation criteria for the road diet trial yet. The Commission discussed possible measures of success -
        - a. Reduce speed closer to posted
        - b. Reduction of crashes
        - c. Increase in pedestrian usage
        - d. Increase in bicyclist usage
        - e. Noise measurements
        - f. What is the pilot data to carry over?
        - g. Traffic counts change materiallyMaryEllen Thibodeau said she would look at what the measures of success were in Alexandria VA so that this can inform our study. Sandy suggested that we will want to review the scope of work for the road diet trial to see what it suggests for evaluation criteria, or the development of criteria.
      4. Some concern that the road diet trial and the Mountain/Albany construction project would occur at the same time. (**Follow up report:** Duane Martin replied We would not recommend delaying the Mountain Road at Albany Avenue intersection improvement project for several

*reasons. The Mountain Road at Albany Avenue intersection improvement project will not include traffic detours and most of the work will be off of the roadway as it involves widening. There will be some disruption to traffic, but construction work hours will most likely not include the busier weekday afternoon peak hour. We do not anticipate a significant amount of traffic diversion from the Mountain Road at Albany Avenue intersection improvement project due to the type of construction and the distance separating Mountain Road and North Main Street. It is also possible that the Mountain Road at Albany Avenue and North Main Street Bridge projects are completed around the same time. We also do not want to jeopardize grant funding and delay safety and congestion improvements to an intersection by delaying a construction project after the design is completed.*

5. TO DO: The commission will review the earlier road diet feasibility study and inquire of the town regarding data.
- b. Update regarding paving projects
- i. Farmington Ave and LaSalle Rd – work to be done midnight to 11am on September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be various utility projects that follow, but the condition of the road is such that it was decided that something needed to be done now in spite of the fact that the roads will be dug up over the next several years. Only the travel way will be repaved now, not the parking areas. In the future, Farmington will be examined to determine if the 4 travel lanes are needed and if the cross section can be modified. The Commission asked if sharrows will be marked, as recommended in the bike plan. (**Follow up finding:** *Duane Martin replied: We are not proposing to install sharrows on Farmington Avenue at this time. There are four possibly utility projects planned for Farmington Avenue in the near future, MDC water main replacement, CNG gas main replacement, Verizon fiber optic conduit installation, and physical abandonment of the unused storm and sanitary sewers. We are also repaving the travel lanes and not the parking areas as those are the worst pavement condition areas. Furthermore, we are pushing the repaving limits a few feet into the travel lanes as there may be on-street parking left during the construction. Any sharrows placed on Farmington Avenue could be on a paving joint or cut up by upcoming utility work. Our plan is to repave Farmington Avenue after all of the utility work is complete from curb to curb and restripe the roadway with bike markings.*)
    1. Commission members asked if there will be problems with the paving of travelways only, some noted that this approach has left very rough road edges on Oakwood Av. (**Follow up finding:** *Duane Martin replied: Please refer to the response above. We would also assume that the majority of parking will be occupied while cyclists are riding on Farmington Avenue. During those times, the cyclist should take the lane and would be riding on the new asphalt. Riding within the three feet next to the parked car would be in the door zone.*)
  - ii. Boulevard is scheduled to be restriped Fall 2019 according to the plan handed out (and attached to these minutes)
  - iii. New Park Ave road redesign, funding is in place through 2 sources, OPM and DOT. The design concept has been developed in the earlier study, now that needs to go through preliminary and final design before the project can be built.
  - iv. Bishops corner, DOT intersection, one design concept has been selected for further analysis, that is attached to these minutes.

- c. The Trout Brook Trail project, Duane was uncertain if DEEP/Town issues could be worked out but it now appears that an agreement that will allow the Town to make use of DEEP land for the trail is very close. This is for phase 5 Farmington Avenue to Fern, and phase 6 Fern to Duffield. The Commission asked about the section from Jackson to Park. (**Follow up finding:** Duane Martin indicated - That section of the Trout Brook Trail is still in preliminary design. It was always planned to be constructed after the Park Road at Interstate 84 Interchange project is complete to reduce conflicts and safety concerns between the two contractors. Unfortunately, staff design availability have delayed our progress. I am hopeful to share a design concept with the PBC and conduct a public information meeting this winter.)
  - d. No update from Planning department
  - e. Bike Share update, proposals by Bike Share Companies interested in coming into Connecticut, are being reviewed by CROG, approval is expected later this month. Once approved, at which point the Towns will work with the Bike Share company on details.
  - f. Follow up on goals/visioning for commission: Education
    - i. Daniel Firestone and Daniel Johnson to schedule meeting with Board of Ed
      - 1. Questions regarding sidewalks and crossing guard instructions Some bicycling students have been told they may not bike on the sidewalk by crossing guards. Sandy will follow up on this with the bicycle cops who attended an earlier commission meeting.
4. New Business
- a. Park Road Parade, Saturday October 5th 10:30AM, Bike West Hartford will register. Might be nice to have give-away items to hand participants - a book mark describing what the Commission does?
  - b. Education at Center Streets Events : Discussed paying Bike Walk CT to run education component during center street. Ed Pawlak will follow up with Bike Walk CT
  - c. Do the speed monitoring machines record data, does the town use this information? (**Follow up finding:** Greg Sommer reported that the newer style electronic speed signs are equipped to record traffic volume and speed data which is downloaded on an as needed basis if there is a specific issue or concern.)
  - d. Pedal for Pastries, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 9:30AM Trinity College 70 Vernon Street Hartford CT, 10:00AM start at BiCiCo 97 Park Street Hartford CT.
  - e. Discover New Britain Sunday September 15, 2019 sponsored by Bike Walk CT
  - f. The commission will develop handout materials lead by committee members; Daniel Johnson, Jill Morawski, and Ryan Nobrega
5. Reports
- a. Request for Sister City Committee has been shifted to focus on shared interest in Town shared commitments for sustainability.
  - b. Updates from Cycling Without Age: rides are happening AARP also featured CWA, Hartford Courant had multiple images
  - c. Bike West Hartford Inc,
    - i. provided updates on Center Streets, August 30 2020
    - ii. Focus on helping get people around town on bikes,
      - 1. Ride with GPS routes on the website with cue sheet
6. Next Meeting October 15, 2019

Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM

Respectfully submitted,

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





PROJECT NO. <b>PP 155_008</b>		TOWN: <b>TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD</b>	
DRAWING NO. -		PROJECT TITLE: <b>BISHOP'S CORNER RT 44 AT RT 218 &amp; N. MAIN</b>	
SHEET NO. -		DRAWING TITLE: <b>CONCEPT PLAN ALTERNATIVE 2</b>	
SIGNATURE/ BLOCK: <b>OFFICE OF ENGINEERING</b>		PROJECT TITLE: <b>STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</b>	
APPROVED BY: 		FILENAME: ...PDU CAD-PP-155-008 Design ALT-2 DPH.dgn	
DESIGNER/DRAFTER: CHECKED BY:		SCALE IN FEET 0 40 80 SCALE 1"=40'	
THE INFORMATION INCLUDING ESTIMATED QUANTITIES OF WORK SHOWN ON THESE SHEETS IS BASED ON LIMITED INFORMATION AND IS NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY PURPOSES WITHOUT THE CONDITIONS OF ACTUAL QUANTITIES OF WORK WHICH WILL BE REQUIRED.		PLOTTED DATE: 9/7/2019	
REV.	DATE	REVISION DESCRIPTION	SHEET NO.