

**MINUTES**  
**WEST HARTFORD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMISSION**  
**VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order, Attendance
  - a. Call to order at 7:05 PM, commission members in attendance:
    - Daniel Johnson
    - Colin Gillespie
    - Denisse Gutierrez
    - Ken Livingston
    - Paul Hogan
    - Ryan Nobrega
    - Sandy Fry
2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes
  - a. Minutes approved with no comments at 7:07 PM
3. Old Business
  - a. Updates on Railway and Road Projects
    - i. Fern Street general
      1. Do not have permits for bridge construction yet, estimated for spring 2022.
    - ii. Four Mile
      1. Expected to have permanent installation in fall 2021.
    - iii. Mountain Road
      1. Repaving and reducing travel lanes to 10 ft with 5 ft buffers from Glenwood Road to west Maxwell Drive.
    - iv. New Park Ave Road Diet
      1. Still working on preliminary designs, are close to the 35% phase.
    - v. North Main Street Bridge Project
      1. Scheduled to be finished end of June/early July.
    - vi. Oakwood Ave
      1. Will have discussion during 'New Business' to discuss changes to signage on Oakwood from Park Road to Kane Street.
    - vii. Ridgewood Road
      1. Will have discussion during 'New Business' to discuss changes to travel lanes.
    - viii. Trout Brook Trail – Phases 5 & 6
      1. Still held up at state level, looking like later phases have now been pushed back to an ETA of summer 2022.
  - b. Recap of Special Session Traffic Calming Program
    - i. Complimented them that this was a progressive step that could be transformative for the town. Major concern was that it addresses only local streets. Because of the kind of town that we are, the arterial roads perform many functions beyond moving traffic and the commission felt that the document should acknowledge that.

- ii. Noted newer resources to consider, pointed out Burlington, VT 2020 traffic calming manual which has useful metrics. Asked that sharrows not be listed as traffic calming measures.
- iii. Regarding exclusion that traffic calming would not be appropriate in commercial zones, we argued that those are places with high concentration of pedestrians and slowing of traffic might be needed.
- iv. There was some concern at the special meeting that traffic calming can make things worse for cyclists, wanted that to be acknowledged and point out that we want cyclists to be considered as likely users of a traffic-calmed street.
- v. Suggested that our commission be represented in traffic calming review committee and assume that the traffic calming program will be included in complete streets report.
- vi. Special session to discuss the traffic calming program was on Thursday May 27<sup>th</sup>, email recapped was sent to Duane Martin.

#### 4. New Business

- a. Proposed signing and pavement marking plans for Mohegan Drive (Albany Ave to Simsbury Rd), Oakwood Avenue (Kane St to Park Rd), Ridgewood Road (Tunxis to Sedgwick), Tunxis Rd (Sedgwick to Wood Pond Rd), and Whitman (North Main St to Pleasant St). All the following are in the second round, to start last week of June/early July.
  - i. Mohegan Drive (Albany Ave to Simsbury Rd)
    - 1. current proposal draft to add 'bikes in lane' signage, sharrows, and a custom directional sharrow at Hilldale.
    - 2. Reason they oriented to point left was to coincide with the green route.
    - 3. Sandy brought up concerns about the directional sharrow as not everyone riding this way are going on the green route, she knows many people who take this route up to Cigna. This directional sharrow looks like it's saying 'bikes, this is the way to go.'
    - 4. Sandy suggested pulling the sharrow back and making it a regular sharrow.
  - ii. Oakwood Avenue (Kane St to Park Rd)
    - 1. 5 ft bike lane on both sides that start to taper in from Kane St and end at Crosby just before Park Rd.
    - 2. Daniel suggested a 'bike lane ends' sign be added at Crosby as there are usually many cars parked on Oakwood in front of the apartment buildings and shops from Crosby to Park Rd which create a hazard for cyclists.
  - iii. Ridgewood Road (Tunxis to Sedgwick)
    - 1. 5 ft bike lanes on both sides, 15th ft travel lanes.
  - iv. Tunxis Rd (Sedgwick to Wood Pond Rd)
    - 1. 5ft markings for bike lanes on either side, travel lanes reduced to 10 feet. Bike lanes last from Sedgwick to Ridgewood.
    - 2. Continuing west, sharrows will be added on Tunxis until Wood Pond Rd.
  - v. Whitman (North Main St to Pleasant St)

1. Sharrows to be added from North Main St to Pleasant St.
- b. Request traffic enforcement for protection of pedestrians and bicyclists
  - i. Discussed potentially having law enforcement represented at our meeting as enforcement has come up recently both in conversation about enforcing parking in bike lane violations and in traffic calming program.
5. Bike West Hartford Inc
  - a. Center Streets 2021 happening August 29<sup>th</sup> 9 AM to 1 PM. Blindly moving forward, have a meeting Wednesday morning with public works and police to make sure they are on board.
  - b. MaryEllen Thibodeau memorial in front of American School for the Deaf to be built first week of August.
6. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM