

WEST HARTFORD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE  
COMMISSION IN PERSON MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, January 10th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.  
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA WEBEX

1. Call to Order, Attendance
  - a. Call to order 7:09 PM
  - b. Attendance: Colin Gillespie, Dan Firestone, Dan Johnson, Ken Livingston, Paul Hogan, Ryan Nobrega, Sandy Fry, Denisse Gutierrez, Jill Morawski
  - c. Town staff in attendance: Greg Sommer
2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes
  - a. Minutes approved 7:14 PM
3. Old Business
  - a. Annual Letter sent to Town Council
    - i. Annual letter sent to town council on December 29<sup>th</sup> recapping what was done in 2021.
  - b. Engineering updates
    - i. Updates on Roadways and Trail Projects
      1. New Park Ave Complete Streets – working through design now, should be in construction this year
      2. Fern Street – in final design now, working through some permitting issues, should be under construction this year as well
      3. Trout Brook Trail – phase 5 in construction now, started in the fall. Going to let it sit over the winter, do some final paving and finishing in the spring. Phase 6 will be starting in spring or summer 2022 (fern to asylum), hopefully completed in 2022 as well.
      4. Mountain Rd to Albany Ave – town had filed for complete streets exception due to removal of sidewalks. Project is in final design now, hoping to start construction in 2022 through 2022 season with some follow up on landscaping in spring 2023.
  - c. Engineer Greg Sommer in attendance
    - i. North Main Street Road Diet
      1. Have been capturing traffic counts, travel times, did conduct a survey in late November and are at 1900 responses. Reviewing comments and feedback with consultants. Looking into trying to improve the signal

timing plan, primarily at Fern and Asylum. Confusion and misuse of left turn lane.

2. Looked at speed cameras in the fall, not just on N Main but also on TB and Mountain to see if there were changes on the parallels. Still looking at that data, did not see a tremendous amount of diversion, as far as speeds it certainly has reduced in speed on N Main during peak hours.
  3. Questions from Paul: Big concerns constituents early on was travel time increase between bishop's corner and the center, how has this been affected? Has there been any feedback with regards to snow plowing or from first responders? Travel time could be anywhere from 3-6 minutes depending on how you hit the lights, about the same as it was in 4-lane configuration which is encouraging. Will continue to do time trials, particularly during peak hours, but so far have been consistent. Feedback from first responders has been positive overall, have not heard of issues getting through the corridor.
  4. Questions from Bici Co Tony Cherolis, resident of Hartford that works on transportation issues in greater Hartford area. Appreciates that it is a safer installation than what was there before, which was unsafe for all users. Don't see any significant drawbacks to the existing configuration with regards to traffic flow, but still have room to improve: center turn lane is wider than travel lanes which encourages misuse (this misuse has been seen in similar road diet projects in Hartford), and shoulders do not form a continuous bike lane from center to bishops corner.
  5. Greg appreciates feedback, those are things looking at with consultant. What found so far, crashes are down but seeing different types of crashes of lesser severity, think things headed in the right direction.
  6. Jay Stange 177 Auburn Rd, really encouraged by the survey data, 66% approval of the road diet. Any discussion with consultant or town staff with what is going to determine success of road diet? What have you seen so far in early data in terms of overflow to Trout Brook and Mountain. Greg: not seeing major diversion. Not willing to narrow the width of the center turn lane. Tony Cherolis: 14 ft center turn lane is an unusual standard, would recommend an 11 – 12 ft center turn lane as more appropriate. Without the impediment on intermittent center islands, foresee this being misused as a high-speed travel or passing lane.
- ii. Complete Streets Annual Report
1. Just starting this, added 4.4 miles of bike lanes (both directions, so 2.2 miles of roadway assuming bike lanes on both sides) and 2.6 miles of sharrows.
- iii. Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program
1. Presented to town council January 19<sup>th</sup>

iv. 920 Farmington Avenue Connectivity

1. Commission will draft a letter to town council for town to work with developer to work on trout brook trail with eye to the future

4. New Business

a. Calendar Year 2022 Schedule

- i. Discussion
- ii. Public Input

b. February Meeting appointments, openings, and agenda

- i. Discussion
- ii. Public Input

5. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned 8:54 PM

6. Bike West Hartford

- a. Updates and new events