

West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission - 041122

Present: Ed Pawlak, Sandy Fry, Colin Gillespie, Dan Firestone, Jill Morawski, Ken Livingston

Attendance check completed

- Minutes March (not taken so not reviewed and not approved)

Old Business

2022 PBC Projects – tabled until 5/9/22 meeting

New Business

A. Engineering Updates (Greg Sommer, Director of Engineering)

i. 2022 road reconstruction and resurfacing projects update

- 5 roads to be repaved: Nesbit Ave, Price Blvd, Avalon Rd, Vincent St., and Locust Dr. Caldwell Street to come.
- 5 roads to be resurfaced:
 - Drury Ln, Penn Dr, Griswold Dr, Mayflower St, and a Farmington Ave section.
 - Mayflower will include two 5 ft bike lanes and two 12 ft drive lanes and eliminate parking in favor of bike lanes. A discussion was had regarding the inconsistent width of Mayflower. Ed asked if we should consider 7 ft bike lanes on the Mayflower resurface. Jill and Sandy also advocated for larger lanes. Greg indicated an alternative is a bike lane on one side and a parking lane on the other side (residents could ask for this).
 - For the Farmington Ave section between Mountain Rd and Wardwell Rd. The plan is to remove medians. One of a few options include a 4.5 ft bike lane, 1.5 ft buffer, 10 ft travel, 12 turn lane, 10 ft travel lane, 1.5 buffer, 4.5 ft bike lane. Other option included a parking lane on one side and 2 bike lanes. Ken proposed bike box at the intersection, but Sandy said it might be irrelevant if bike lane doesn't go all the way to the intersection. Some discussion was had on how resurfacing input is taken only from local residents vs soliciting feedback from people who use this public right-a-way.

ii. Trout Brook Trail update

- Phase 5 under construction. Farmington Ave to Fern Rd.
- Phase 6 to Duffield. Construction in summer and finished in fall.
- Phase 3 Park Rd to Jackson Ave coming (going out to bid).
- Related: Ed brought up a new BiCiCo West community bike shop at 616 New Park.

iii. Neighborhood Traffic Calming report update

- CPED committee does not have questions to WHPD Commission and have incorporated the WHPB Commission feedback. Hillcrest Ave and Sheep Hill Rd residents have reached out for traffic calming. Riggs Ave and Woodrow St are a question as well for future traffic calming

iv. Complete Streets 2022 draft report

- Went to CPED as well. Summary of past work in 2021 including bike lanes, cross walks, etc.
- Examples shared include 2.2 miles of bike routes and 4.4 miles of dedicated bike lanes in 2021. Totals on routes just under 53 miles and bike lanes just under 25 miles. Just under \$100K grant used.

- \$1.3 mill used in complete streets projects in 2021. But less than \$50K used for bike lanes...great bang for the buck indicated Ed.
- Ed pointed out that bicycle and pedestrian accident data are not reported although it is called out to be included.
- Greg indicated that gathering and measuring crash data is not possible based on current resources.
- Commission advocated that the data should be gathered in the future to drive resources to the right changes and redesigns.

v. New Park Avenue Complete Streets project update

- Jim Brennen has been working on this design - 35% preliminary design completed and he would attend June commission meeting (more complete design will be shared).

vi. North Main Street Road Diet trial update

- April 28 in person meeting planned at 6:30 pm (streamed online) but need to be in attendance to ask questions or submit questions ahead of time.
- This will wrap up road diet trial for final feedback from public.
- All data (survey, law enforcement input, etc.) will be shared and then presented to Town Council on May 24 for formal recommendation.

vii. How does the Engineering Department use the Bicycle Network Map (BNM)?

- Ed asked this question: Greg replied that all future resurfacing and repaving initiatives always look at BNM to look for ways inform and improve access and safety.

viii. Can the Engineering Department create a WH cross walks map?

- Greg is willing to clean up current map when resources are available.

ix. Status of 2022 budget item request for hiring a traffic consultant to conduct a town-wide road safety study?

- Not covered.

Other for Greg:

- Sandy asked about progress on designating best routes for Bicycle access. Greg said he would investigate.

B. P&Z Updates

- No updates to review.

C. Invite West Hartford Police Department to May meeting?

- Colin said yes.

In addition on actions:

Ed recommended seeing communication regarding Main Street road diet - take advantage of the opportunity before April 28 to add some pre-comments/concerns on road diet design. Ed recalled issues on 1) diet does not extend all the way to WH Center or to Bishops Corner and 2) width of

center turning lane at 12 ft encourages use as a passing lane. Sandy said use this forum to show WHBP commission supports the road diet generally and also to a sub-committee on April 20 at 8 am (virtual meeting). Ed will also draft a formal letter to the Town Council showing this same support for the road diet.

Called out:

- April 13th E-Bike day 11 am to 1 pm at Capital. Bikes shops will demo E-Bikes and more

Noted:

- April 1st Ed joined a meeting on town sustainability. Proposed a joint meeting with 1) WHPD commission 2) conversion and environment commission and 3) clean energy commission.

Next meeting May 9.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.