

## **West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission**

### **Meeting Notes**

**6/13/22**

Call to order: 7:15 p.m.

Attendance: Colin Gillespie, Dan Firestone, Denisse Gutierrez, Ken Livingston, Paul Hogan, Ed Pawlak

Approval of last month's minutes: Motion by Colin, Second Ken. Accepted.

### **Old Business**

1. Jack Dougherty has created a "Heat Map" of motor vehicle crash data in West Hartford from 2015-2021. Ultimate goal is to have the commission put together a narrative and submit to Town.
2. Bike network map revision – Engineering Dept. produced copies of the existing map. It was last revised in 2019. Greg Sommer said it is in the process of being updated. Hoping to get it out fairly soon. Commission members pick up maps and take a look then share brainstorming at a future meeting beyond what's currently shown.
3. Crosswalks is another project for the commission this year. Input from members will be shared later this year. Commission members are asked to review and share where enhanced crosswalks can be implemented, or where new crosswalks are recommended.
4. Did North Main Street road diet get approved? Wednesday there is a subcommittee meeting with final discussion and recommendation. TBD after for the formal approval.

### **New Business**

1. Jim Brennan and Greg Sommer from Engineering Department are present
2. Road construction/repaving finished round 1 (Farmington and Mayflower) will be painted in the next week or so with bike lane and signage will be installed soon after. July – (Cliffmore, Berwin, Fairwood Farms and Garland, Rustic Lane. Cliffmore is part of orange bike route will be updated with signage. Bike lanes on North Main from Asylum to Winwood will be striped. Oakwood from Wilfred to Flatbush, 5' bike lanes on Oakwood, CNG has some work so Webster Hill from Ledgewood to Boswell is tentative, bike lanes anticipated.
3. Webster hill – Ledgewood to Boswell.
4. Bike lane is northbound only on Mayflower – southbound is sharrow.
5. John mentioned that the path that leads from Mayflower into Beachland Park, and which is part of blue bike route, is in very poor condition.
6. Farmington – Mountain to Wardwell
7. Question about protected bike lane on Farmington – Greg Sommer said it's the best balance for all users. Resident said having bollards on Capital Ave in Hartford for text cyclists. Greg – it's all about having enough real estate in the roadway. Costs with maintenance on bollards, in addition to the initial costs. Concerns with driveways and delivery vehicles. The town has thought about it. There are just some concerns.
8. Greg said to mark the map up with where we want protected bike lanes.

9. Trout Brook Trail - Phase 3 is in design. Park Road interchange - sidewalk ramp. Phase 6 is going out to bid next week. Starting construction in the fall – stretching construction into the spring. Phase 7 – Extends to Asylum. In the future the trail may be continued across Asylum, to the former UConn campus. Perhaps extend it to Albany, but the right of way gets narrow.

#### **New Park Avenue complete streets –**

1. 35% submittal at this point. There are a few project changes. 2017 Transit study came up with various recommendations. Town applied for Grants (2) which were awarded. \$2mm OPM + \$1.7 Governor’s office. New Park Avenue bridge over to Talcott Rd. 5’ Bike lane 1’ buffer 10’ travel lane. From 4 travel lanes to 3. Looking to tie into Trout Brook Trail. Replacing traffic signal at Oakwood and Talcott. Replacing sidewalks. Between Talcott Road and the BJs driveway they are planning an 8’ path on the west side. Multiuse path in the greenspace? The plan is to have an enhanced crosswalk at the end of the trail, Trout Brook raised refuge median, crossing New Park. The bridge may need serious repair or replacement - thinking of replacing but the grant is still out. They need a temporary solution.
2. CROG design comments – can they be provided? Yes
3. Jack Dougherty asked whether the PBC will formally review the plans. Ed Pawlak responded in the affirmative, and will send the plans in an electronic format to commissioners and interested members of the public.
4. Project process –
  - a. Milestones to CROG
  - b. CROG engineer consultant reviews – design and comments
  - c. Required submission at 35%, optional at 70% required at 90% - it has not been a public meeting in the past.
5. Bridge can’t be pre-cast

#### **P+Z Updates**

1. Todd Dumais told add that there are no items on the Town Council or TPZ agendas for the PBC to review. Town Council tomorrow night will hold a public hearing to review a proposed Transit Oriented Development (TOD) ordinance. The goal of the ordinance is to create a neighborhood that is both livable and walkable. Highlights – they got pushback that the walkshed only extends ¼ mile from the two CTfastrak bus stations. Some want to see ½ mile. For now it includes the neighborhoods within ¼ mile of these stations. Trying to encourage developers to build right up to the street in order to “activate the street”. And put parking behind. Will allow greater density development. Includes parking reductions. Ed drafted letter in support.

Motion for approval of letter to town council motion by Ed – Approved.

Motion to adjourn Ed, second Ken at 9 p.m.