

West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission Special Meeting Minutes

Friday August 26, 2022

2 PM

Room 314 (Legislative Chambers), Town Hall

Masks are recommended, not required

1. Call to Order at 2:02 PM
2. Attendance - Ed Pawlak and Sandy Fry present from the PBC. Rick Ledwith, Duane Martin, Greg Sommer and Jim Brennan present from the Town of West Hartford. Several members from the public were also present and participated in the meeting.
3. Ed Pawlak summarized the letter from the PBC dated July 25, 2002, and briefly discussed the 2017 New Park Avenue Complete Streets Feasibility Study.
4. Jim Brennan and Greg Sommer presented the 35% plans, and contrasted them with the various alternatives in the 2017 study. Ed Pawlak raised the concern that the site plans do not extend bicycle lanes south down to New Britain Avenue, even though they are shown on one of the alternatives in the 2017 study. There was an extended dialogue about the desirability and feasibility of this recommendation.
5. Greg Sommer explained that it is not feasible to extend the Road Diet further north due to traffic volumes on New Park Avenue.
6. There was an extended dialogue about the different types of bicycle facilities (e.g., bicycle lanes, cycle track, multi-use pathway) that could be included in the Complete Streets design. Commission members and members of the public suggested that the off road side path that is designed for the section from Talcott to the Home depot driveway be extended southward the entire length of the project. The Town explained that available right of way does not allow this, but one of the alternatives in the feasibility study included an on road separated cycle track (2 way bike facility, physically separated from traffic.) This had been deemed infeasible because it would require a bike specific traffic signal but the Town will review again to see if the bikes could cross with the pedestrian signal. Greg Sommer discussed the constraints raised by the Department of Public Works regarding snow removal and maintenance of the separation barriers with ~~regarding~~ the implementation of an on-road cycle track south of Talcott Road. Ed Pawlak emphasized, and Sandy Fry concurred, that the extension of bicycle facilities from New Britain Avenue to the Home Depot driveway is the most important priority, and the actual makeup of those improvements is up for discussion. An important consideration, if the road design has bike lanes and an off road side path on one side of the road, will be how cyclists cross to access the facilities.
7. Greg Sommer and Jim Brennan agreed to review all of the feedback they received at the meeting, and to keep the PBC and general public apprised of the site plans as they are

developed. Question – won't they report back to the pBC regarding the further investigations they have done?

8. Adjourn 3:43 PM