

## ***West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes***

***Monday April 10, 2023, 7:00 PM***

***Room 400, Town Hall***

1. **Call to Order** (7:02 pm), **Attendance** taken and Quorum Achieved – Ed Pawlak, Colin Gillespie, Jen Bowan, Paul Hogan, John Wenz, Tristan Sokul.
  2. **Introductions**
  3. **Approval of previous meeting's minutes**
    - John 1st, Jen 2nd and approved
  4. **Old Business**
    - a. **UConn campus redevelopment presentation by project engineer from BL Companies (proposed pedestrian and bicycle facilities)**
      - Shared Map of UConn Campus proposed redevelopment and reviewed the project timeline. Plans have been submitted to Town Wetland Commission.
      - Public hearing in June
- Will eventually be submitted to Town council for approval
  - Traffic study is being conducted
  - Building permits
    - Break ground no time before 2024
- Reviewed plans:
- Proposed 5 residential buildings east of Trout Brook Drive
  - Discussed extensive sidewalks for a walkable community
  - Shared main entrance on Trout Brook Drive - residential on East side and commercial on West side
    - o East side - additional entrance on Trout Brook
    - o East side - could be a small gated entrance on Lawler Rd
    - o East side - outdoor recreational space for residents and a pool area
    - o East side - protected Champion White Oak tree
    - o On West side Trout Brook trail continued from South (matched material and width)
    - o Ed asked QUESTION: how would one bike from west to east campuses or vice versa? Asked to consider other bike paths...Matt did not have these plans. Wetlands on east side a key issue.
    - o West side is a mixed use development accessed from Trout Brook Drive and another entrance on Asylum.
    - o West Side: Buildings include: grocery, 3 floor mixed use building (1st floor retail and upper 2 floors residential), medical office billing, spa, and parking garage
    - o West side: Water features refurbished
    - o West side: Large patio on street scape - outdoor space, community feel, park like.
    - o West side: far west part of property - stone dust trails with benches, exercise stations

- West Side: suggestion shared for dedicated bike lane in commercial area to the west near store fronts.
- Overall: Concern raised that parking seems extensive and may not be pedestrian friendly. Concern raised on crossing facilities especially where bikes, cars, pedestrian come together at main entrance on Trout Brook. Some suggestion made on directing people to certain paths for safety - perhaps from Asylum rather than off Trout Brook.

## **b. Boulevard bicycle facility**

### **- pros and cons of:**

**A. two-way cycle track** (with north side parking). Con shared that it is restricted from Mountain to Main, i.e. it cannot be carried beyond Mountain or Maine. Con of parking lane car doors hitting cyclists.

**B. versus protected bicycle lanes** (with north side parking)

- **FHI Studio recommendation**
  - Ed reviewed constraints and opportunities FHI Studio analysis. Especially with center line shifts caused by bump outs.
  - Problems shared with 2-way cycle track in a motorist road, especially contraflow bike travel against the direction of motor vehicle traffic.
  - Problems shared with 1-way buffered bike lane especially with parked cars doors etc.
- **PBC recommendation**
  - Needed by April 14th.
  - Colin recommended 1 way bike lane on north and south sides of road, and parking against curb on the north side of the road (so a flip of parking for 2nd proposal). Support for this generally on commission so this will be fed back as recommendation. Suggestion made to ask Engineering to revise the cross-section to reflect these recommendations. Note: Tristan preferred bike lane at curb, inside of parking.
  - Also suggestion for green vinyl paint for some part of bike lanes (as full green lanes cost prohibitive). Ed will speak with Engineering about painting white bike icons over a green rectangular background, and carrying the bike lanes across intersections with green stripes.
- Later May, early June repaving expected
- Concerns raised by resident on any of the proposed solutions because confusing and potentially dangerous. Ed appreciated the comments and said so.
- Jack recommended raised cross walks (would support Vision Zero) ... especially as more cost effective when repaving the road. Ed will pitch this to Engineering.

## **c. Vision Zero Task Force**

- **Summary of March 20 meeting**
- **Data Collection Committee report**
  - Create dashboard like one in Austin, TX

- Jack shared current heat map and data on most dangerous roads in town. Concerned that Vision Zero is not looking at the right roads or only looking at roads that are near committee member's own neighborhoods.
  - **Walk Audit Committee report**
    - Put on hold walk audits until feedback comes from FHI Studios. Jack stated Bike WH may do its own walk audit on New Britain Ave.
  - **PBC will aggregate "quick build" suggestions on Google Docs**
    - Ed asked for more ideas and to use Google doc he created.
  - Of note: FHI Studio will work with Vision Zero Task Force.
- d. **Road Safety Audit/Bike Facility Plan Revision Project update**
  - **FHI Studio will assist Vision Zero Task Force**
  - **FHI Studio will meet with PBC *prior to starting this project***
  - **PBC will aggregate bicycle facility suggestions on Google Docs**
    - Ed asked for more ideas (additions of bike facilities and removals of infrastructure that constrains the installation of bike facilities, e.g., curb extensions) and to use Google doc he created.
  - **elect two PBC commissioners for two stakeholder meetings with FHI Studio**
    - Jill was proposed. Motion passed.
    - Ed proposed himself as well. Motion passed.
- e. **Trout Brook Trail update**
  - Only missing link is phase three to be built out as planned in 2024.

## 5. New Business

### a. 2022 Complete Streets Annual Report finalized

- Proposal to be reviewed next meeting in May.

### b. P&Z updates

## 6. In the News

- a. **Substitute Bill No. 5917 – "And Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Vision Zero Council" (Among other things, legalizes the use of automated traffic safety cameras)**

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2023/TOB/H/PDF/2023HB-05917-R01-HB.PDF>

## 6. Announcements

### 7. 5/8/2023 PBC meeting

- Agenda input requested

### 8. Adjourn

- 8:52 pm adjourned.