

Vision Zero Council

6.14.22 Meeting Minutes

10:00am to 12:00pm

This virtual public meeting was hosted on Zoom

Meeting was called to order at 10:03am

Council Members Present: Garrett Eucalitto, Jackie McMahon, Jon Slifka, Kevin Manzolillo, Keith Norton

Council Members Absent: Sibongile Magubane, Susan Logan

Guests: Ernie Bertothy, Mark Dicocco, Patrick Zapatka, Tony Guerrero, Amy Watkins, Alec Slatky, Erika Lindeberg, Marissa Pfaffinger, Shaun Formica,

Other Attendees: Aaron Swanson, Diana Palmer, Judith Proctor, Terri Thompson, Richard Donovan, Dimitris Koutombas, Robert Hale, Sandeep Sysola, Melissa Evans, Kafi Rouse, Kaethe Podgorski, Daniel Parlapiano, Charles Harlow, Timothy Snyder, Phyllis DiFore, Kate Rozen, Eyvonne Parker-Bair. Gary Winfield, Adam Weber, Andrew Brown, Bryan Pavlik, Craig Yannes, Eileen McMurrer, Emma Sokoloff-Rubin, Erik Maher, Jennifer Lacker, Josh Morgan, Katherine Grady, Michael Zaccherea, Patrick Hulin, Roger Krahn, Thomas Regan-Lefebvre, Tracy Noble, Melissa Evans, Sonya Szczesna, Joseph Balskus, Daniel Parlapiano, Katherine Hedberg, Judith Proctor, Natasha Fatu, Aaron Goode, Anthony Cherolis

Meeting:

Aaron Swanson – Housekeeping

Garrett Eucalitto – intros and then adopt minutes

Motion to adopt the Vision Zero Council Meeting minutes from the March 22, 2022 meeting by Keith Norton and Second by Tony Guerrero minutes adopted

Presentation by Patrick Zapatka about DOT's Road Safety Audit program

Aaron Swanson – council members can ask questions

Garrett Eucalitto- how do we select the locations for the RSA? How do you select location for speed study?

Patrick Zapatka– town will email him and pose a concern or questions, we have an application they have to fill out. Team reviews it.

Tony Guerrero – How do the municipalities or different zones get money for projects like this? Through DOT? Through Legislature? Through federal funding?

Patrick Zapatka - right now the RSAs are funded by bond commission. After we work with the town to help them find funds to complete some of these projects. We always suggest they work with the COGs and we give them information on the Community Connectivity Grant for smaller projects. Sometimes they use LOTCIP. Safe Streets For All new grant program for these types of programs.

Garrett Eucalitto – SS4A was in the IJA \$5 billion over 5 years. Only municipalities can apply for these funds, state's can not apply.

Patrick Zapatka – UConn T2 center I think has contact information for all of the towns we should have them send out these grant opportunities to all of them.

Tony Guerrero– how do you handle neighboring towns who have projects that can continue across town lines

Patrick Zapatka– they should coordinate with the COGs

Jon Slifka – how much input have you gotten from the disability and aging community as part of the public comments on RSAs?

Patrick Zapatka – we put a lot of that on the town to ensure they are represented. We don't leave them out. Torrington upcoming RSA elderly community, pedestrians we will make sure they are addressed in how they cross the road. We always consider ADA requirements when we make our recommendations.

Garrett Eucalitto – Thank you Patrick, with federal funding this is a great time to pursue these projects

Subcommittee's Aaron please lead this next portion of the agenda

Aaron Swanson – Subcommittee organization and background. Next we will have the 4 subcommittee Chairs do a readout to the council

First Erika Lindeberg Engineering Subcommittee

Erika – two meetings, participants, looking for opportunities for improvements to engineering. Most crashes occur on municipal or rural roadways not state highways. Ongoing efforts, SHSP with HSIP federal monies. Roadway Departure, Intersection and pedestrian safety. Adding chevron signs, rumble strips and curb treatments. Signalized intersections both state and municipal. Crash reviews from UConn, behavioral efforts, quick builds, test before you invest projects. RTSP for all cogs. Speeding, separated bike lanes. Signal timing/coordination. Pedestrian infrastructure upgrades for municipal signs. Require ped/bike infrastructure considered in every project. Jurisdiction for municipalities to take over sections of state roads – allow for more municipal control. Need to find motorcycle safety groups to contribute.

Garrett Eucalitto – any questions? Looking forward to hearing more. After the other subcommittees report out the council will have a discussion about subcommittees.

Enforcement Subcommittee

Mark DiCocco – great meetings. Looked at what does enforcement mean and looked at strategies. Goals to protect lives, reduce collisions and expediate the flow of traffic. Held 3 meetings. Strategies proposed: motorcycle helmet for all and enforce; fatal collision reduction team; plan regular high visibility enforcement blitzes; implement automated enforcement cameras; enact an open alcohol container statute and enforce.

Garrett Eucalitto – great to see how much work has been done in just a few meetings

Jon Slifka– there is concern in the disability community with respect to optics and priorities. I've heard a couple scenarios in one town that has vibrant night life, you might have a police car patrolling that area and they don't give chase to someone who is speeding. Stop Signs being ignored. Issues for those who are trying to cross the street.

Mark DiCocco – very valid concern. Many community members have these concerns. How can we address fatal crashes and injuries? We need to make data driven decisions.

Aaron Swanson – Education Subcommittee Next

Ernie Bertothy – focus has been on how educational campaigns targeted at specific groups have been effective.

Amy Watkins – there are so many people and behaviors involved. We have been trying to focus on discussion areas. Who are the people/audiences? What are the behaviors? What mediums can be used for messaging/outreach? What are the barriers to communication?

Ernie Bertothy – future policy direction. Incentive based re-education for all ages; bicycle education in schools; leverage organizations, municipalities and state agencies.

Jon Slifka – I know you mentioned language barriers. Please consider the different ways the aging and disabled communities access information. Lack of internet etc.

Amy Watkins– we have talked about the lack of internet and devices for all.

Equity subcommittee

Alec Slatky – Co-chair with Commissioner Magubane. Tech difficulties. Our work cuts across all of the other subcommittees so collaboration will be important.

Garrett Eucalitto – Next Steps for Subcommittees

One idea I had is our role is to provide recommendations to the legislature and state agencies. Subcommittees should still continue to meet, we understand the constraints of summer. For September meeting have another subcommittee report out and then at December have a final report to us for that meeting with their recommendations which would give us time to package it into our report to the legislature. It is going to be a long session so they will have more time to consider our recommendations.

Council member feedback?

Keith Norton – helpful if we could get an outline from the subcommittees in September an outline from them so we have time to provide feedback before December final report. Would give us time for changes and suggestions.

Garrett – seems like some of the have started that but they could do that. Aaron communicate with the subcommittees to have more robust outline of their recommendations for September report out and council will provide feedback.

Next meetings September 13th and December 13th.

SS4A grant opportunity reminder municipalities Safe Streets for all. Can be used for Vision Zero planning efforts on the local or regional level. Not just infrastructure improvements.

Public Comment:

Aaron rules and process

Thomas Regan-Lefebvre – Transport Hartford. Question for Patrick I understand DOT proposed RSAs. What do we do with a town that has no interest in bike/ped safety? They don't want to apply for the federal grant? I think we have room for improvement.

Garrett – from my perspective you raise a good point, CT is at a disadvantage due to lack of county government. We have been working with the COGs. We need to do a better job of explaining the economic benefit to these types of improvements. (roundabouts, bike lanes, bump outs etc)

Eileen McMurrer – Representing the Office of Early Childhood. I have many questions. How do I join a subcommittee?

Aaron – form on our website. Yes you can still join.

Terri Thompson – on the website is there any way for you to add a tab for the subcommittees, have their meeting minutes and other materials? Might get more public interaction that way.

Aaron – good comment. We are looking into it, we have quite a few improvements we want to make to the website. I pose that to the Council

Garrett – we can work with the subcommittee chairs to get them posted. We can work on that.

Aaron – it might take us a little time. We can formalize the request to the subcommittees going forward.

Terri – even a list of membership and who they represent.

Aaron from Q&A

Anthony Cherolis – 1) Near term, how is CT DOT incorporating traffic calming, crosswalk improvements, and bike routes into state routes and near entrance/exit ramps for maintenance projects? The recent lack of crosswalks and bike routes on the East Hartford CT Boulevard (Rt 44) project is a glaring example as it didn't even stripe crosswalks at the three signalized intersections, one right next to a senior housing apartment across the street from a local pharmacy.

2) Another example: The recent \$220 million Charter Oak Bridge interstate maintenance and lane adding project didn't consider sidewalks or bike route connections in the project shadow (Reserve Road), despite a focused walk audit and existence of regionally important bike/walk routes including the bike/ped CT River crossing and the Charter Oak Landing riverfront trails system. We keep seeing projects (big and small) entirely leaving out (or making worse) vulnerable road user safety.

Garrett - Our team spoke with you a few months ago about that, and the difference between a vip project and others. And so Rob Bell from the bureau policy and planning is aware of those concerns. On the other piece you know, recent projects i'll just point out that a project that's under construction now has been under design for 15 years or or 10 years, Or so so to the public. It may seem like it's pretty sudden. but it takes a long time to plan those projects, and we have extensive discussions and negotiations with the local community and local government on what aspects to include So we continue

to have those conversations, and I know in that area we did make some improvements improve lighting under the the Van Dyke via duct there in that area.

Adam Weber – Is there anything the VZ Council can do in recommending to state/town agencies as well as news organizations on proper reporting of crashes? For example, labeling crashes as "accidents" is inappropriate, along with the tendency to focus on how crashes simply create traffic delays for motorists instead of reporting on the driver's behavior before the crash, design of the road / posted speed limit at the crash site, and traffic control devices & if they were functional. For those interested, the website visionzeroreporting.com is an interesting tool to run news articles through.

Garrett, that is a great point we should be educating

Amy Watkins – we have talked about that at the Education subcommittee, we are thinking about it.

Garrett – I know we have a hard stop at 12 for several of our council members.

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn Keith Norton second Jon Slifka

Adjourned at 11:56