

Minutes
Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory
Regular Meeting, April 26, 2012
DOT Headquarters

In attendance:

Board Members – Rod Parlee, Richard Stowe, Tom Gutman, Tom Harned (Presiding), Ray Rauth (Recording), Charlie Beristain, Frances Pickering

The Department – Kate Rattan, Colleen Kissane

1.0 Preliminaries

1.1 Tom Harned called the meeting to order by @ 1:10. Tom was presiding in the absence of Neil Pade, Chair.

1.2 The Board approved the minutes of the Special March Meeting.

2.0 Reports

2.1 DOT Projects and News:

East Coast Greenway: Kate Rattan reported that East Coast Greenway Signage, for both on- and off-road will be placed from Rhode Island to Hartford.

Merritt Parkway Trail: The Merritt Parkway Trail public feasibility meetings are underway. There is both enthusiasm and concerns about the project. The series of public meetings, one for each town abutting the Parkway, will determine feasibility only.

Bolton Gap: This project is progressing. The Board has requested that a preview of the engineering documents be made available to the board prior to the public hearings. The Department has agreed to this.

Andover Bridge: It was enthusiastically announced that the Andover Bridge has been installed.

Training Workshop: A comprehensive training workshop for bicycle facilities design was conducted. Neil Pade, Chair, attended. Representatives from SWRPA and CRCOG were also present.

Putnam Bridge: Negotiations are underway for sidewalk access to the bridge from both ends. The pedestrian bridge itself will be cantilevered from the span. It will be limited to one side of the bridge.

Board Meetings: The Department staff suggested that the Board make a serious effort to have a quorum present promptly so meetings could be conducted within our constrained time.

Questions from the board included asking if all gaps on the Farmington Canal Trail were to me “plugged.” (Yes)

Questions were raised about the cost of the Merritt Trail. It was suggested that it was premature to determine cost until a greater understanding of the scope was developed. At some point the Board might wish to comment on the desirability of the trail.

Tom Harned suggested that those who are involved in the MPT study should keep the board informed.

A question was raised about bike access on the New Britain – Newington Busway. There is a considerable gap.

A comment on building the MPT (funds) was raised. Ray Rauth suggested that it might be done through public-private partnerships. Francis Pickering mentioned that substantial tax credits were available for open-space funding. He will furnish the board documentation.

2.2 Reports from other Public Agencies (State, Regional, Local)
(none)

3.0 Old Business (1:15)

3.1 Implementation of Complete Streets Law

a. Legislative Initiatives (5 minutes)

Exceptions to the Liability Law that had been introduced failed in committee. Charles Beristain credited the original proposal group for coming together in opposition.

The Vulnerable User Law and the Red Light Camera law are still progressing. Discussion about the Red Light law raised the query as to whether DOT submitted testimony. All public testimony should be on the legislative site.

b. Public Education and Outreach Initiatives:

i. “2.c” Identify Training Opportunities (10 minutes)

NHI Bike-Ped Facilities Training on April 11 & 12th

ii. “2.b” “Identify stakeholders” (10 minutes)

- Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects – (Pending)

- Tri-State Transportation Campaign

- Sustainable Streets: Promoting Safety, Promoting Growth,

April 11th Beacon Hall Housatonic Community College. Tom Harned spoke at this meeting.

- Conservation Commissions –Rod Parlee reported that there were 4933 bikes-on bus- rack loadings in February, down from the prior month, however 5398 loaded in March, an increase. The information will be gathered by Rod and made available on the CBPAB web site.

These numbers may encourage people to bike and use buses more. In addition, it buttresses arguments for bike racks in transit-served areas.

c. Policy Initiatives.

Bike sharing is being explored in New Haven. A large number of bike racks are being proposed for the Hartford area. The BikeWalk Connecticut web site will have detailed information.

i. “4.c.iii.4” Implementation of Complete Streets through Division of Traffic Review (subsections “a”-“i”) (no discussion)

ii. “4.iii.c.5” DOT Bike-Ped. Need Assessment Checklist, Distribution and Update (no discussion)

iii. “4.a.viii” Department of Motor Vehicles – Driver’s Manual (no discussion)

d. Physical Improvement Initiatives (no discussion)

e. Other Initiatives

i. “5.c.” Identification of new projects that relate to Complete Streets significance and provide advocacy role on specific projects – (no discussion)

3.2 CBPAB Policies (10 minutes)

a. Selection of a permanent recording secretary. It was pointed out that the selection of a permanent secretary is a matter of law (It’s in the complete streets legislation). For the near future we will draw lots at meetings. Tom Gutman volunteered for the next two meetings.

3.3 2011 Annual Report –Initiatives/ Implementation/ Tracking (10 minutes)

Richard Stowe requested that the letter to Amtrak in the report be sent out. It will be with corrected date information.

3.4 2009 Connecticut Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan – Initiatives/ Implementation/ Tracking (5 minutes)

3.5 Sidewalk Maintenance (5 minutes) –

Tom Gutman spoke to this issue. Two sites in Hartford with serious sidewalk issues are the Historical Society and the Law School. Tom spoke with the law school and they have a sidewalk maintenance project scheduled for the summer.

In Hartford most of the sidewalks are controlled by the homeowner. However, because of a city project from long ago, the city also has some sidewalks. Tom Harned suggested that a sidewalk master plan might be useful for communities. We also discussed the role of the ADA, as wheeled non-bicycle vehicles have the sidewalks broken up for their use.

With Tom's presence the issue of retroreflectivity arose like sunrise. Kate stated, "there is very little money" for this.

4.0 New Business. (2:50)

4.1 DOT Department Communications Policies relative to Complete Streets open

4.2 National Bike Month

Do we, as a board, want to do anything? We may be available as speakers for events. Bike Walk has an event list on their web site.

5.0 Membership (Time permitting)

6.0 Free Format Discussion and Other Announcements (Time permitting)

7.0 Next Meeting Time/Date, Agenda Items and Adjournment

Meeting 1:00 to 3:00, DOT HQ, 5/24/ 2012, Room 2324

Goals

- 1) To advance the inclusion of non-motorized transportation design elements in state and municipal road building projects as well as in both public and private development and redevelopment projects
- 2) Support and encourage pedestrian and bicycle connections between neighborhoods, commercial areas, employment centers, schools, state and municipal parks, and other designations serving the community
- 3) Integrate and connect the pedestrian and bicycle system with other transportation systems (roads, rail, bus, etc)
- 3
- 4) Support government policies and funding initiatives that favor transit and non-motorized transportation
- 5) To facilitate the implementation of the Complete Streets Law