



Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board

Volunteer board members advising agencies of the state on policies, programs, and facilities for bicycles and pedestrians.



2800 Berlin Turnpike • Newington, CT 06111-4113
Neil.Pade@gmail.com

Connecticut Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board

MEETING NOTES

Regular Meeting Tuesday

September 23, 2014

8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Meeting at DOT Headquarters

2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06111

Room 2141

1.0 Preliminaries

1.1 Call to Order/Roll Call

844am

Neil (Chair), Mike, Ray, Sandy (Vice Chair), Joe (Secretary), Deb, Francis, Kelly

Guests Bob Dickinson, Tony Philipin, Joe Cutrufo, TriState Transportation Campaign

Kevin Tedesco, DOT

Kate Rattan, DOT

1.2 Minutes

Clarification of the pedestrian ramp on 1.3

CT Fastrak to hold bike races in future

Accepted as submitted

1.3 Input from visitors

None offered

2.0 Old Business

2.1 2014 Initiatives

a. ConnDOT Complete Streets Policy – Status Report; Collaboration

Distributed after last meeting

The policy needs to be given a final review by Kate (incorporating any comments from latest review) and sent to legal. She expects it will be fully adopted by early November.

Once changes are incorporated she will try to give the board an additional opportunity to review the draft prior to going to legal.

Complete streets committee to be made into standing committee with either quarterly or biannual meetings of the committee. Makeup may change from engineering focus to have technical committees to deal with specific issues.

Writing design guidelines, and a steering committee for complete streets guidelines to be inserted into the Highway Design Guidelines

After umbrella policy approved, then smaller policies specific to the design

manual.

Also updating the strategic highway safety plan.

Discussion on City of Hartford bike lanes. Bike boxes, bike lanes. Broad at Capitol Hartford.

b. Improvements to State Driver's Licensing Manual and Exam – Date of Annual Update; Exam Questions; Certified Instructor Training.

New manual to be published in October, board to review thereafter. Ongoing coordination to be provided with DMV in future.

Need to advise DMV in Spring for any potential revisions for October publishing in future.

c. Development of Bicycle Driver's Manual – Status Report, Subcommittee Report.

Kate to get all state laws in suitable format and reference to statute numbers for adding 7 auxiliary pages allowed.

Tony is working on developing a complete list of state statutes related to bicycles as well.

Kate needs an older copy of state laws if anyone has them.

Legislative research office may have information on this.

Deb requested future discussion on easy access to bike/ped laws/statutes and summary of such. Keep this on agenda going forward.

CTDOT (Kate/Kevin) to develop a summary? Put as a recommendation in our annual report to develop and work on it in 2015.

d. Communications with Amtrak, allow bicycles on commuter trains.

No recent communication on this from Amtrak since June.

However Metro North is installing bike hooks to be added to 50 train pairs, half of rolling stock. One issue is how to determine which trains will have them. Other half will then get bike racks including M8 cars. Considering decal on the door next to handicap symbol on train.

No process yet determined for tallying the use of the bike racks. Not permitted to be used in peak hours? Concern on how they are being measured for use.

Bike racks on buses were installed on all buses at same time.

- 2.2 Policy for support of grants, projects and other requests – Department policy applying unallocated of highway safety funds; Subcommittee Report.

Non-profits cannot get the 402 safety money except MADD. Need to get more information on this. Highway Safety funding.

There are 2 tactics the Committee can take to address this – 1) through the development of the Strategic Highway safety plan, we can push for nonprofits to be eligible for this funding. The SHSP outlines the eligible projects and programs for highway safety funding.

But in the short term – the next round of requests for 402 funding is due in the spring – we might encourage nonprofits to work with regions or towns to go after this funding.

More work will be done by the subcommittee (Joe and Neil) to understand the ramifications of the Board itself applying for funding.

Board can be participate in the bike ped emphasis area for the SHSP update

For immediate consideration, Spring 2015 funds to be released, approved in summer, distributed in FY16.

Highway Safety office – geared toward Municipalities and police departments, not advocacy organizations

There is no current solicitation pending. Next request is spring 2015. Recommendation in the Board’s annual report should include DOT to open up the funding to 501(c) organizations.

25% match and reimbursement program. \$50k for whole state. Joe and Neil to consider options for the Board at next meeting.

Under our statute creating the Board, we are authorized to obtain funds.

SHSP Update - CTDOT excited with the opportunity for CBPAB involvement in the future. Anticipated to be every other month or quarterly meetings. Early November for first meeting date. Main focus is to research and write for emphasis group section of SHSP. October CPBAB meeting – decide if a subcommittee or entire board will participate on HSIP emphasis area. Other organizations to consider to participate, send ideas to Kate.

2.3 Statutory Initiatives (for consideration)

Deb comments on looking at this as an overall process (for success) and not just specific legislation.

Central CT Bike Alliance (predecessor to Bike Walk CT)

1st year, 3 foot law, 2nd year the complete streets law

3rd year vulnerable user law, was the first year they were not successful with passage. Deb attributes success to the fact that the group was very deliberate in selecting legislative initiatives and did not try to go after every good idea that came up. They worked with a broad coalition of groups who supported those initiatives (about 30 groups.) To date, Deb fears that we have been brainstorming ideas, but not discussing what would be the best asks. If we endorse a legislative ask, it should represent the intent of the board.

Discussion ensued with some wondering if it would not be valuable for our annual report to have a laundry list of legislative recommendations, so that if a broad coalition outside the board was to take up the cause of one or more of these items, the board could be supportive.

- a. Create bike appropriate fines
- b. Permit motorized vehicles to cross double when passing bicycles
- c. Allow bicycles to not come to a complete stop at four way stops
- d. Permit bicycles to proceed through a non-triggered signal
- e. Add a fine to the Three Foot Law
- f. Add fourth exception to stay as far to the right as practical
- g. Apply NACTO Polices to CT Laws
- h. Require a tail light on all bikes that ride at night?
- i. Cyclists be issued points on license for infractions? Clarified
- j. Regional or local level a bike ped coordinator be assigned/appointed for (put in report)
- k. Sidewalk maintenance mandate

Suggested priorities on above: Crossing double yellow, as far to right, bike ped coordinators (report) require illuminated rear light

Draft text of statutory suggestions to be developed for annual report by Sandy including explanation of the suggested legislation. Include ebikes too.

At this point, it was decided to prepare a draft of the section of the annual report where the board makes recommendations to the legislature and discuss it further with the board. Any suggested draft legislation would need to be focused before

January session.

DOT asked by legislature for new legislation including mandating towns to clear bridges of snow. This would be in addition to existing Memoranda of Understanding that require the same. This would not add to the sidewalks that municipalities must clear but would give the DOT the ability to enforce.

2.4 Letters of Recognition

Pending letters to Bill O'Neill and others to be considered.

Neil asked for no more suggestions at this time due to the pending need to focus on the annual report. If board members are aware of acts worthy of recognition, write it up as part of a case study for consideration in the annual report.

2.5 Model Ordinances/ Policies/ Regulations for Municipalities

Thought is to prepare and append to the annual report. Many municipalities are looking for stock material to assist in the implementation of complete streets. Tri-State Transportation Campaign Complete Streets Tool-kit was referenced. Neil will be developing drafts for the Boards review. Tabled to next month.

2.6 LOTCIP Design and Bike-Ped Needs Assessment Reviews (Regions)

Discuss as a strong recommendation to the regions in the drafting of the annual report.

2.7 Upcoming Complete Streets Training, Workshops, Presentations – CCM- BPAB

Workshop - Complete Street for Municipal Leaders; Subcommittee Report

April 2015, date unconfirmed.

2.8 2014 Initiatives – Other

Pursue the development of presentation materials on the Economic value of bike and ped projects? Francis to reach out to UCONN to see if they can take this on. Norman Garreck would be a good person to reach out to

2.9 2015 Annual Report

Mike offered to create a survey monkey to solicit input from towns, regions, other agencies, to get input for the plan. The survey monkey tool can be used to limit the amount of information submitted (many submitted a lot of "fluff".)

Neil to seek a download of bike-ped related comments from the mind-mixer for Transform CT.

Complete Streets survey results on Bike Walk CT website

Francis to go through 2013-2014 report and check off what occurred on what recommendations.

3.0 New Business

Electric bikes and trail crossings, legislation out of date. Bikes can do 30mph in a bike lane.

Also, legislative conflict with motorized scooters and pocket bikes (already eliminated).

4.0 Reports (time permitting)

None.

4.1 DOT Projects and News
None

Adjourned. 1035am.

Next Meeting 8:30 AM, DOT HQ, October 28, 2014, Room 2141
Teleconference: recurring every 4th Tuesday 8:15-10:45AM Call In Number 800-619-6469 PASSCODE: 77238