



Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board

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



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Connecticut Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board

Meeting Notes

Regular MEETING

Tuesday October 28, 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, 828am

In attendance: Neil Pade (Chair), Sandy Fry (Vice Chair), Joe Balskus (Secretary) Mike Norris, Ray Rauth, Deb Daphinaus, Al Silvestre

Absent: Rod Parlee, Kelly Kennedy, Francis Pickering

CTDOT: Commissioner Jim Redeker, Colleen Kissane, Kate Rattan, Patrick Zapatka, Kevin Tedesco

Guests: Bob Dickinson, Tony Phillipon

1.2 October 2014 Minutes – Accepted as presented

1.3 Input from visitors

Bob Dickinson, asking about Safe Routes to School (SRS) project in South Windsor, Kate to follow up. It was indicated that all SRS funds are committed

2.0 Old Business

2.1 2014 Initiatives

a. CTDOT Complete Streets Policy –

Commissioner Redeker presented a discussion on the Departments passing of a Complete Streets Policy. It was noted as long overdue and they had considered a separate design document for bike and ped but instead they decided to revise the Highway Design Manual for complete streets measures. That revision work will be done in house by the DOT.

Commissioner indicated that he has a very aggressive budgeting request, beyond the transportation fund in the coming fiscal year. He will be bold in his funding request and it will include funding for bike and pedestrian infrastructure.

The Commissioner requested the CTBPAB to assist and be an advocate for budget hearings for DOT. They begin in December for budgeting.

Chair Neil Pade thanked the Commissioner for attending the meeting.

Kate described the process for updating the manual for complete streets integration and that some of this work will be done as part of bike ped plan update.

The time frame is expected to be 18 months as well as for the bike ped plan, with start in January. At this point the DOT has 3 prequalified on call firms for the bike ped plan update. They are currently finalizing the scope of work.

In addition, the DOT Maintenance Encroachment Permit process is being updated for bike peds.

There is a Complete Streets standing committee set up within DOT who report to the Commissioner regularly

b. Improvements to State Driver's Licensing Manual and Exam

The newly published manual should be checked to begin to identify needed improvements..

c. Development of Bicycle Driver's Manual

Subcommittee report – street smarts document suggestions/edits presented by Sandy

Statutes – make simpler, less legal jargon. Add requirement for brakes on bikes?

Other edits suggested to be considered. Consumer products safety commission versus ANSI/Snell as referred to by the law. Remove reference to these.

Electric assist cycles – right now they are lumped in with “motor driven cycles”. Any bike with any size motor is either a motorcycle or a motor driven cycle. CGS does not define a low powered motor on a bike. There might be a need to clarify state law.

Kate to verify the application of the motor vehicle laws to bicycles.

Pets trailing bicyclists – not addressed

Additional edits forthcoming at the next meeting.

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

Next steps with Amtrak, Ray outlined his letter submitted on 10-27-14

Two Amtrak Routes, the Capital Limited between Chicago and Washington and the Vermonter a commuter-oriented train between St Albans and Washington, have been selected as the pilot routes for roll-on bicycle service for Northeast Amtrak trains.

Amtrak may not be involved in NHHS service as CTDOT has not selected operator yet.
Letter to be sent to Amtrak regarding bike ped considerations, look forward to the testing of the system for bike

Regarding the NHHS bike/ped accommodations – letter to be sent John Bernik at CTDOT

It was noted that M8 and M7 rail cars can be retrofitted to accommodate bikes and these are likely the cars that will be used on NHHS.

Two letters for Amtrak and DOT, reference the letter in adventure cycling and better access to trains for bike usage and Amtrak

2.2 Statutory Initiatives

Sandy handed out summary of recommendations of legislative ideas for coming session for discussion.

Funding requirement – policy adopted by DOT this week addresses this issue. Remove.

Enforcement of traffic law – monies go to central infractions, can incentivize for towns? Little incentive for enforce laws. Last year we recommended further study on this item.

Permit motorized vehicles to cross center line

Ride as far to the right

Bike lights – steady or flashing?

Tony indicated that from 1995 to 2012, in CT 59 of the 80 bicycle fatalities involved reduced lighting, dusk, dawn, dark

Include Ebikes? To be researched further, not likely in priorities

Vulnerable users bill changes ? Wait and see on its application

2.3 Letters of Recognition

Letter to O'Neill done, but need a letter to Charlie for special thanks/acknowledgement.

Letter to Commissioner – and copying bureau chiefs for the policy signing.
Sandy to draft letter for review.

2.4 Model Ordinances/ Policies/ Regulations for Municipalities –

Drafts distributed.

2.5 Upcoming Complete Streets Training, Workshops, Presentations – CCM-BPAB Workshop - Complete Street for Municipal Leaders;

Subcommittee needs to meet. Joe volunteered to be part of the subcommittee. Other members are those who will be doing the speaking to CCM on complete Streets – Kelly, Neil, and Kate.

2.6 2014 Initiatives – Other

Neil has economic data on benefits and will compile

2.7 2015 Annual Report

Check with transform CT on their status, Francis to review last month what was done. Sandy handed out checklist from report summarizing the progress. Board to review the checklist to confirm what has been accomplished

3.0 New Business

Kate got \$14k bumper sticks and lights for bike ped. Street smarts book will help.

3.1 Bicycle and Pedestrian related statues

Discussed previously.

3.2 Formation of subcommittee to represent BPAB on HSIP emphasis areas

Tabled until next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1034am. Updated caller information to be provided at end of meeting notes.

Next Meeting 8:30 AM, DOT HQ, November 28, 2014, Room 2141
Teleconference: recurring every 4th Tuesday 8:30-10:30AM Call In Number 877-417-2950 PASSCODE: 83079