



## 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  
[ctbikepedboard@gmail.com](mailto:ctbikepedboard@gmail.com)



### REGULAR MEETING NOTES

Friday July 24, 2020 9 AM

Meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams

#### 1.1 Call to Order/Roll Call

Sandy Fry (Chair), Brian Kent (Vice Chair), Ken Messier, Tom Branchaud, Neil Pade, Sue Smith, Francis Pickering

Guests

Bill Veronesi

Amy Watkins, Watch for Me CT

Bruce Donald, CT Greenways Council, East Coast Greenway Alliance

Laura Baum, BikeWalkCT

Charlie Tracy, UCONN Trail Census

Doran Wright, Bridgeport

Tony Cherolis, Center for Latino Progress, Transport Hartford

Robert Bell, CTDOT

Melanie Zimyeski, CTDOT

#### 1.2 Minutes

June meeting notes were accepted by the Board

#### 2.0 Reports/Presentations

##### 2.1 DOT Projects and News

Active Transportation Plan – Implementation/Metrics; Work has begun on ADA aspect. DOT is inventorying crosswalks and curb ramps to get a base count. Board asked – will you count locations where pedestrian crossings are prohibited. Melanie will check. Next month she plans to report on public transportation aspects of the plan.

Use of chip seal for paving. Melanie reported that this is a new program to use asphalt rubber chip seal, which recycles tires. They are careful as to where this is used, must be under 10k ADT, truck volumes must be low, and turning volumes must be low. The treatment is low cost and while it has a lot of texture when first applied, that is smoothed out in a year or two. Brian brought up the issue that the material does not consolidate in the shoulder, and is very problematic for bicyclists. Melanie will speak to the pavement

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design group again to see if bicycle use (which can be checked in COG bike plans and the state's bike map) can be a factor that is considered when making these decisions. The Board emphasized the importance of considering bicycles. Use of chip seal makes a good bike route a very poor bike route.

Community Connectivity Grant Program: \$5 million was included in the bond agenda. This is a small amount compared to previous allocations so DOT is looking at how they will implement the program for this smaller amount. Three new projects in the CCGP are moving into construction: Wolcott, Essex, and Ellington.

Complete streets Forum – this had been planned originally for June, now planned as a virtual event, not scheduled yet, possibly late October.

Bollards on multi use paths: The Board raised this topic because of a recent injury on a trail in East Hartford, segment north of Willow towards River, a bollard had been removed but the stub was hit by a cyclist at night. Issues discussed – latest design guidance discourages the use of bollards in some cases. The DOT district will check to find out why the bollard had been removed and will field review the location. Bruce reported that there are about 7 designs of bollards in use in the state now, some are better than others but they should be used sparingly and made as safe as possible. Tony recommended that bollards should be reviewed to determine which can be removed and which need reflective material to make them visible at night. The trails are multi jurisdictional and DOT may have overseen design of many trails, but in most cases municipalities are responsible for maintenance of the trails. Neil said what towns need is guidance not hard and fast rules, there are many variables to balance out whether or not to have a bollard. Tony suggested that DOT not reinvent the wheel but look at guidance developed by other states. Rob reported that DOT is going to take a hard look at these matters regarding bollards.

Progress regarding bike use on non-limited access roadways – no progress to report.

CS committee Updates the Meeting planned for July was not held. Next meeting is scheduled for September.

### **3.0 Old Business**

3.1 US bike Routes 1 and 1A. Bruce reported that he provided DOT with map layers for the entire ECG on road route. Sandy has not yet reached out to other COGs to discuss. Brian suggested she start by contacting Kate Rattan. Francis noted that RiverCOG is working on their POCD, a great

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opportunity to be sure they include 1A.

3.2 Development of Powerpoint – Brian would like to be involved with this but his time has been short. No rush since in person meetings are not being held now

#### 4.0 New Business

No new business items

#### 5.0 Input

5.1 Input from Visitors (5 minutes)

**Tony Cherolis, Transport Hartford** – November 23 is the date for the Multi modal and Transit Summit. It will be held in Hartford on a Monday from 11:30 am to 7:30 pm. Website is open for proposals for presentations. They plan to precede the summit with demonstration rides in New Haven (Saturday) and Hartford (Sunday) to tour new infrastructure. Tony reported that he is working with a group of about a dozen teens in Hartford and he asked them – are you seeing more bikes around town, and the majority said no. So the bike boom resulting from the pandemic is not reaching all areas. Tony reported that the Board's letter regarding rebates for ebikes was helpful, but the proposal failed because DEEP says bicycles are not considered vehicles according to the state statutes. They will provide a legal review of this premise at some point.

**Charlie Tracy, CTtrail Census:** the Trailfinder initiative which will map all trails in the state is up and running with the goal to have the website up by 5/21. [Cttrailfinder.com](http://Cttrailfinder.com). June trail counts show 50% increase over last year. More counters are being added to the Farmington canal Rail Trail and the Pequonnock. Are working with other states, can do pilot projects related to data gathering. Charlie will send an email to Sandy with more information on the pilot projects and she will share.

**Amy Watkins, Watch for Me CT**, working on line mostly. Made a safety video for kids regarding crossing the street.

**Laura Baum, Bike Walk CT**, will issue a newsletter in August

**Bruce Donald, East Coast Greenway and CT Greenways Council**, Recreation trails funding did not make it to the bond commission agenda. Will try next round. Crossings on the Airline trail, tunnels and bridges, a \$5 million project, is coming along well. Moosup trail in the east of the state is making progress – Rhode Island actually built ½ mile of trail, because that was the only way they could access their section of trail.

No report

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 am

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**Next Meeting – August 28, 2020, 9 AM**

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