

West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes

Monday April 1, 2024, 7:00 PM

Room 400, Town Hall

Masks are recommended, not required

1. Call to Order, Attendance

- Called to order 7:03 pm
- Commissioners present (Quorum achieved)
 - Jill Morawski
 - Ed Pawlak
 - Jon Wenz
 - Tristan Sokol
 - Ed Perzanowski

2. Goodbye to Colin Gillespie, request for a volunteer to serve as Secretary

- Tristan Sokol has volunteered

3. Introductions from other attendees

- Bike West Hartford
 - Jack Dougherty
 - Ethan Frankel
 - Tracy Frankel
 - Tom Martin
- Nick Lurie, resident

4. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

- Motion raised, seconded, and approved unanimously.

5. Old Business

a. Bicycle Facilities Plan revision update

- FHI reply to PBC questions regarding Bike Facility Selection Summary Matrix
- Discussion of Bike Facility Selection Matrix
 - 85th percentile speed and posted speed limits are not the same

- If “Acceptable” facilities are not sufficient, then the category should be removed. Acceptable is seen as a loophole, as is potentially the existence of the matrix at all, in that it creates ambiguity in meeting vision zero/complete streets objectives
- The unanimously approved town Complete Streets policy has “users of all ages and abilities” as a primary bicyclist category
- Comparison made to Figure 9: Preferred Bikeway Type for Urban, Urban Core, Suburban and Rural Town Contexts
(<https://highways.dot.gov/sites/fhwa.dot.gov/files/2022-07/fhwasa18077.pdf> pg 25)
- MADOT has bicycle facility design guidelines, CT has some coming soon according to website but also reference the federal guidelines
- Interest in getting speed data from the town for streets
- **Motion to ask the town to provide whatever speed data the town has for roadways in the town.**
 - **seconded and passed unanimously.**
- Town has requested representatives to workshop feedback on the selection matrix, however general sentiment is that more understanding (such as speed data) is required and we will have to postpone or invite the town/FHI back to the PBC meeting.
 - **Motion to table current discussion, postpone workshop with town engineer and ask the town engineer to instead attend the May PBC meeting to discuss our feedback on the matrix.**
 - **seconded and passed unanimously**
- Commissioners should review the federal bikeway selection guide in preparation

b. WH Center Infrastructure Master Plan project update

- Next Monday (4/8) there are 2 public meetings (8:30am/6:30pm) scheduled to get the latest update on the project.

c. Crosswalks recommended for improved safety countermeasures project

- Although important, proposal to table until after the selection matrix discussion is finished

d. Park Road bike rack project update

- Tabled until Commissioner Jen Bowman returns
- Appears to be only one existing, privately owned, bike rack available on the Park Road corridor between Quaker Lane and Prospect

e. Trout Brook Trail safety signs/markings project update

- Question about what is acceptable from a town ordinance/legal perspective
- Some places encourage walking on the left side so that all cycling traffic is oncoming to walkers for multi-use paths, Jack Dougherty showed pictures of multiuse path from Rhode Island
- Commissioner Jon Wenz volunteers to research more about

6. New Business

a. Engineering update

- Safe Streets For All grant application is underway for many pedestrian safety measures drawn from the vision zero action plan.

b. P&Z update

- No update

c. Reports From Hoboken, NJ Vision Zero and Naples, FL

- Discussion of these items was tabled until next meeting due to time
- Read about Hoboken Vision Zero here:
<https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2024/3/1/a-walk-in-hoboken-what-makes-it-different>

7. Around Town

8. From the Library

9. Announcements

10. 5/13/2024 PBC meeting - email items you would like included on the agenda to Ed Pawlak (ecosys88@gmail.com)

11. Adjourn

- **Motion to adjourn**
 - **seconded and passed unanimously.**