

West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission Monthly Meeting Minutes

Monday May 13, 2024, 7:00 PM

Room 407, Town Hall

1. Call to Order, Attendance

- a. Call to order 7:00pm
- b. Ed Pawlak, Andrea Belli, Jen Bowman, John Wenz, Jill Morawski & Ed Perzanowski

2. Introductions

- a. 8 community members including members of Bike West Hartford and Bike Walk Connecticut
- b. Paved Paradise by Henry Grabber is mentioned

3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

- a. Motion to approve passes unanimously

4. Old Business

- a. Bicycle Facilities Plan revision update
 - i. *Review comments on Bicycle Plan and Facility Selection & Design Guide 2024 Draft 4/30/24*
 - 1. Copies are available, reach out to Ed Pawlak
 - 2. Will be discussed in a public meeting early June
 - 3. A majority of riders are described as “Interested but Concerned (about safety)”. The Bike Facility Selection Summary Matrix’s “Acceptable” category seems to be available for traffic volume/speed combinations that diminish the ability of the selection matrix to be meaningful in providing comfortable or safe conditions.
 - a. For example, Sedgwick Road would qualify as a shared roadway with the current matrix, which is unintuitive. According to the Federal guidelines Sedgwick would clearly be a separated bike path or shared use path
 - 4. Some historical traffic volume can be found here:
https://portal.ct.gov/dot/pp_sysinfo/traffic-monitoring
 - 5. Discussion is raised about how the community can best add input to the Bicycle Facilities Plan before it is finalized.
 - a. A theme of where to focus efforts, on the plan or facility map.
 - b. Several concerns are raised about the accuracy about the map because it is only aspirational, and can change, as we have seen on Farmington Avenue

- c. The 2016 bicycle facility plan contains a street inventory with data such as posted speed, ADT, etc.
 - 6. Ed Pawlak will draft a letter, in conjunction with the other commissioners, to meet the town's deadline for feedback
 - a. To revise the plan to apply to the "interested but concerned" user, specifically the facility selection matrix, removing the "acceptable" category, which can be used as a loophole to preserve on-street parking at the expense of bike facilities.
 - i. Seasonal impacts may need to be included
 - b. Update the bicycle facility map to show how the facility plan will be applied
 - 7. Public meeting to discuss the Bicycle Plan on June 6th
- b. WH Center Infrastructure Master Plan project update
 - i. General disappointment around the current design direction
 - ii. The final decision has not been made as far as is understood
 - iii. Discussion of the #BikesMeanBusiness community campaign
 - iv. General encouragement to continue to contacting officials with your opinion
 - v. Retail owners have the highest concern, restaurant owners may have less concerns, and will benefit from wider sidewalks and amenity zones.
- c. Park Road bike rack project update
 - i. Tabled until next month
- d. Trout Brook Trail safety signs/markings project update
 - i. Tabled until next month
- e. Request for speed data on collector and arterial roads
 - i. Tabled until next month, commissioners asked to decide which roads they want information on

5. New Business

- a. Engineering update
 - i. stakeholders meeting on New Park Avenue complete streets meeting on June 4th 8:30 am at the Elmwood Community Center
 - ii. Town was awarded SS4A grant, will be used to fund Vision Zero action items
 - iii. A road safety audit for Albany Avenue is planned in July
 - iv. Phase 3 of trout brook trail is out for bid now, hopefully built this summer
 - 1. Road repaving on Boulevard from Riggs to South Main, no decision yet on bicycle lanes
 - 2. Talcott Road being repaved and bike lanes being added
- b. P&Z update - none
- c. Reports From Hoboken, NJ Vision Zero and Naples, FL - tabled

6. Around Town
7. From the Library
8. Announcements
 - a. Bike Walk Connecticut has their big annual ride "Discover Connecticut"
 - i. <https://www.bikewalkct.org/2024/04/23/2024-discover-ct-tours/>
 - b. Bike to work day tomorrow from bicico west to the old state house
9. 6/10/2024 PBC meeting - email items you would like included on the agenda to Ed Pawlak (ecosys88@gmail.com)
10. Adjourn
 - a. At 8:33 pm motion to adjourn passes unanimously.