

WEST HARTFORD PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE COMMISSION

***** VIRTUAL MEETING *****

Monday, January 10th, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Due to safety concerns this is a Virtual Meeting.

Meeting Time: Monday January 10th, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING VIEWING INSTRUCTIONS:

Members of the public can view the meeting live on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/rPOdtuFkKoA> or on West Hartford Community Television at www.whctv.org and www.youtube.com/whctv5. The meeting is also being recorded for on-demand viewing and will be available on the Town's website for at least 45 days.

AUDIO COMMENT:

Any interested person(s) may participate in real-time by calling:

1 (650) 479-3208 and using the following Access Code: 2558 161 8303, at 7:00PM. Participants using caller ID blocking will not be permitted to participate. Participants will be called on in the order in which their call was received. When prompted by the Chair and/or Moderator, participants will have the permission to speak on matters germane to the hearing.

A copy of all the written materials to be presented at the meeting are available on the Town's website at www.westhartfordct.gov.

1. Call to Order, Attendance
2. Approval of previous meeting's minutes
3. Old Business
 - a. Annual Letter sent to Town Council
 - b. Engineering updates
 - i. Updates on Roadways and Trail Projects
 1. New Park Ave Complete Streets, Fern Street, Trout Brook Trail, others
 - c. Engineer Greg Sommer in attendance
 - i. North Main Street Road Diet
 - ii. Complete Streets Annual Report
 - iii. Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program
 - iv. 920 Farmington Avenue Connectivity
4. New Business
 - a. Calendar Year 2022 Schedule
 - i. Discussion

- ii. Public Input
- b. February Meeting appointments, openings, and agenda
 - i. Discussion
 - ii. Public Input
- 5. Adjourn
- 6. Bike West Hartford
 - a. Updates and new events

Convening of BIKE WEST HARTFORD INC. as needed

Procedural note: The Chairman intends to proceed with the Commission's business as presented in this agenda. The Chairman, in his discretion, may allow members of the public to participate in the meeting on matters before the Commission. When prompted by the Chairman, participants will have three minutes to speak, except that a person representing a duly authorized position may speak up to five minutes. The Chairman reserves the right to further limit or expand the time allotted for the participants to speak.

ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN A MEETING OR PUBLIC HEARING SHOULD CONTACT SUZANNE OSLANDER, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, 860-561-7580 TWO DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING OR PUBLIC HEARING.



Dear Town Council and West Hartford Staff,

The West Hartford Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission has been at the forefront of major improvements within West Hartford thanks to the strength of our partnership with Town Staff, residents, and volunteers. We'd like to take the opportunity to reflect on the success and shortcomings of 2021.

The most noticeable transportation improvement that affected pedestrian and bicycle safety is the North Main Street Road Diet trial, while other key achievements such as the pedestrian/bicycle survey, increased bike lanes, ADA crosswalks, discussion on the draft Traffic Calming Program, aspirational N/S/E/W bike routes, the POCD 2020-2030 (10-year plan), and the Trout Brook Trail final phases improve the lives of all.

For the year ahead, the commission is looking for more inclusion from other departments to be better ambassadors. Additionally, more support is needed introducing bicycle education for the youngest independent road users, lowering motorist speed, increasing off street ped/bike paths, connecting the fragmented network with surround towns, and the road diet trial inclusion in the Town's long-term vision.

We'd like to invite any available members of Town Council to join our meeting January 11, 2022 (Greg Sommer will be present) or February 7th, 2022.

The Commission is excited for the upcoming 2022 year and growing our partnership to protect the most vulnerable road occupants. Some highlights of 2021 mentioned below.

Respectfully submitted,

The Pedestrian and Bicycle Commission



2021 Highlights

Roadway Discussions with Town Engineers:

- Boulevard - Raymond to Trout Brook
- Farmington Ave and Mountain Rd Intersection
- Fern Street Bridge
- Fern Street Road Paving
- Four Mile Avenue Semi Diverters
- Lasalle Road Spring 2021 parking, one-way, seating
- Mountain Road Restriping to increase bike lane width
- Mountain Road and Fern Street Intersection - Sidewalk, Crosswalk
- Newport Ave Semi-Diverters
- New Park Avenue Complete Streets input
- North Main Street Road paving
- North Main Street bridge
- Oakwood Avenue repaving
- Riggs Avenue semi diverters
- Sedgwick Road repaving / Summer 22/23
- Whitman Avenue paving

Bicycle network – result of input from Commission members

- Top routes selected by commission members are:
 - North – South
 - Main
 - Prospect
 - Mountain/Ridgewood
 - East – west:
 - Farmington
 - New Britain
 - Albany
 - Additional option: Sedgewick/Park

Inquiry with CTDOT and West Hartford Town Engineers on Comprehensive Pedestrian Safety Strategy (CTDOT document)

Trout brook trail – 4 remaining sections

- Phase 5 is under construction, reviewed with Town Engineers
- Phase 6 is much farther along but not yet out to bid, reviewed with Town Engineers
- Phase 3 is in the works with residents and expected Spring 2022, pending design review
- Phase 7, pending design review

Bike Parking



- Town has applied for and received 10 post and ring bike racks
- Locations for Park Rd. and New Britain Avenue provided by commission

Pedestrian and Bicycle Survey

- 1019 responses
- Reviewed with Duane Martin, Todd Dumais, and sent letter to Town Council
- Used by other sources outside commission
- Email to members of Town Council

Reviewed Complete Streets Annual Report

3 West Hartford Police officers attended July meeting

- Open to attending future meetings if the agenda can align with related items

Review Draft Traffic Calming Program

- Special session held
- Provided immediate feedback. Letter sent to Engineers on behalf of the commission

North Main Street Road Diet

- Commission emailed Town Council thanking for road diet trial
- Mayor attendance and other council members at commission meeting
- Discussion about VHB survey
- Made comments to consultants and Town prior to implementation of road diet
- Attend road diet meetings and participate in the ongoing process of monitoring and collection of information
- Respond to residents' comments and feedback
- **REMINDER**
 - a. Trial will be evaluated to nine factors
 1. Crash frequency and severity
 2. Emergency vehicle accessibility/response time
 3. Pedestrian and bicyclist usage and safety
 4. Intersection or roadway segment congestion
 5. Neighborhood traffic safety issues
 6. Travel time runs results
 7. Traffic queue measurements
 8. Intersection/driveway accessibility
 9. Public feedback (summarized survey results)



Items that have not reached significant potential:

Bicycle education program for 4th grade students

- Idea was brought up that perhaps we could propose a program that does not require bikes as that is where conversations broke down the last time we discussed with the Board of Ed.
 - Attended South Windsor / Bike Walk Connecticut meeting
 - Meeting with Board of Ed in October 2021
 - Andrew Morrow, Paul Vicinus
 - a. Provided CRCOG materials and Nov 19th Application
 - b. Responded/Follow up to questions/concerns
 - c. Concern with equitable delivery and inclusion in curriculum remains
 - d. It should be noted the course would take up less than 1% of the current calendar year curriculum per student.

Bicycle safety playground West Hartford Leisure Services

- This was deemed not an option due to “available” blacktop space in public spaces
- WH Leisure Services suggested discussing with Board of Ed
 - Board of Ed said this is Leisure Services and does not want facilities that are accessible to public/strangers during school hours

Opportunities to extend Trout Brook Trail north of Asylum

- Extend to Bishops Corner
- Extend to Bloomfield and Newington

Semi-Diverter installations to include safe access for bicyclists as well as pedestrians

POCD discussion

- Research of high traffic corridors and recommendations
- Commission letter was drafted and sent to Matt Hart, Town Manager, requesting study be tackled by consultant
- Matt Hart responded to letter