

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Committee Meeting – Minutes

TIME: 2:30pm

DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 2025

PLACE: Zoom Call

Name

Aaron Goode

Anna Stern

Amy Watkins

CJ Gandza

Dan Amstutz

Eric Anderson

Fran Gurtman

Justin Russo

Martha Conneely

Nathaniel Jarvie

Patrice Carson

Affiliation

Watch for Me CT

Watch for Me CT

City of New Britain

VHB

Town of Andover

Town of Avon

Town of South Windsor

Riverfront Recapture

Town of Canton

Town of Bolton

CRCOG Staff

Anaka Maher

Caitlin Palmer

Heidi Samokar

Mike Cipriano

Roll Call

1. **Roll Call** Mike Cipriano asked that attendees introduce themselves either via chat, or verbally to the committee.

2. **Public Forum**

Mike invited any comments from the public.

3. **Minutes from the Meeting on November 12, 2024**

Mike presented the minutes from the November meeting to the group.

4. **Presentation – Priority Pathways presented by Toole Design (0:00)**

Shawna Kitzman presented the Priority Pathways study that CRCOG, Toole Design, and Foursquare ITP are currently working on. Shawna informed the group of the progress made since the project was initiated in October. Topics such as Existing Conditions and Public Outreach were discussed with the committee. A copy of the presentation can be found on CRCOG's website.

5. **News and Updates (13:15)**

East Coast Greenway Feasibility Study (13:15)

- Caitlin let the committee know that CRCOG is close to the end of the study.
- Currently working on reviewing draft chapters for Final Report.
- She let the group know of a potential Advisory Committee Meeting in March.

CRCOG Priority Pathways (14:20)

- Mike let people know that CRCOG is currently reaching out regarding upcoming municipal outreach meetings that the project team is setting up with our communities.
- He also let the group know that the project team will be setting up pop-up events throughout the region in late May through early August.

Regional Shared Micromobility Program (15:45)

- Mike shared that as of February 11, there were over 77,000 scooter rides with over 9,500 unique riders in Hartford since inception in late August.
- Mike let the committee know that during the winter, the fleet has been reduced from 600 to 175 and anticipated to be ramped back up to 600 sometime in

March.

- New Haven has a goal of launching in the spring and New Britain is exploring a pilot program in 2025.

Active Transportation Microgrant (16:50)

- Mike let the group know that the 2025 grant now includes bike racks and maintenance stations, he let the group know that CTDOT will pay for them, however the responsibility is on the organization or municipality for installation.
- Mike also mentioned that this year, the program is ramping up funding from \$500,000 for the year to \$750,000, with each organization eligible for two \$5,000 grants during the calendar year.

CTDOT Active Transportation Survey (17:40)

- Mike reminded people that CTDOT did some public outreach and has a new survey which is specifically for municipalities.
- Mike also mentioned that CTDOT and their consultant will be setting up regional tours and asked if people were interested volunteering in either helping or advocating for their community.

Walk Audits (19:30)

- Anaka Maher let the group know that CRCOG finished the StoryMap for Wethersfield and sent it to the Town for their review.
- She also let the group know that CRCOG has a Walk Audit set up for Newington, New Britain, and CCSU coming up this spring.
- She also told the group that CRCOG recently went out to Plainville with CTDOT and conducted a Walk Audit beginning in Norton Park and traveling north on South Washington Street (Route 177) to West Main Street. She explained that the purpose of the Walk Audit was to look at a section of trail that will be designated East Coast Greenway when completed.

League of American Bicyclists (22:00)

- Mike let the group know that Connecticut is now the 13th most Bicycle Friendly State in 2024, up from 40th in 2010. Some reasons for this is due to the Safe Routes to School Program, Complete Streets Design Directive, and the Active Transportation Microgrant being initiated.

Community Connectivity Grant Program (22:50)

- Mike told the group that applications are due on May 21, 2021. He said that there

will be approximately \$12 million in total funding with projects ranging from \$100,000 - \$800,000.

Upcoming Events (24:35)

- Mike mentioned that the T2 Center at UConn will be hosting a Safety Matters Coffee and Conversation: Working Together Toward ADA Compliance on March 18, 2025, from 10 – 11am.

6. What's New in My Town? (25:15)

- **Justin Russo, South Windsor** – Phase 1A just got approval from the planning and zoning commission a couple weeks ago, and then hopefully construction in the near future.
- **CJ Gandza, New Britain** - let the group know that they had 11 bids for their Beeline Trail from the Fastrak Station to Plainville using TA funding.

7. Other Business

- The committee said that either noon meetings or 2:30pm are doable, however it might be easier to be in person at lunchtime.

8. Adjournment