

Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Committee Meeting – Minutes

TIME: 12pm

DATE: Wednesday May 14, 2025

PLACE: Zoom Call

Name

Amy Watkins

CJ Gandza

Dan Amstutz

Eric Anderson

Kevin Sullivan

Lon Hultgren

Martha Conneely

Michele Lipe

Nathaniel Jarvie

Norm Berg

Patrice Carson

Paul Ashworth

Steve Hnatuk

Affiliation

Watch for Me CT

City of New Britain

VHB

Town of Andover

Bike Mansfield

Bike Walk Wethersfield

Riverfront Recapture

Town of South Windsor

Town of Canton

Town of Southington

Town of Bolton

CTDOT

Town of East Hartford

CRCOG Staff

Caitlin Palmer

Heidi Samokar

Mike Cipriano

Roll Call

1. **Roll Call** Mike Cipriano asked that attendees introduce themselves.

2. **Minutes from the Meeting on February 11, 2025 (00:51)**

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

3. **Presentation – Level of Traffic Stress presented by Lucas Cruse (01:10)**

Lucas Cruse presented Levels of Traffic Stress (LTS) to the committee. Lucas stated he is both an engineer and a planner, and has helped develop Safe Routes to Schools, helps manage the State of Florida's Bike Ped Coalition, and helped write the State's Complete Streets Policy. Lucas discussed comfort levels for users, land use, and context as important when discussing Levels of Traffic Stress. Lucas fielded various questions from the group. A copy of the presentation can be found on CRCOG's website.

4. **Updates and News (43:41)**

East Coast Greenway Feasibility Study (43:41)

- Mike let the committee know that the study team held its 8th Advisory Committee back in March.
- CRCOG project staff is currently working on reviewing draft chapters for Final Report.
- He informed the committee of some extra work in Simsbury that CRCOG project staff is currently working on.
- Caitlin Palmer mentioned that CRCOG has a local endorsement process and hopes to use that process with Bloomfield, Hartford, and East Hartford. The project team expects the public comment period to begin in June.

CRCOG Priority Pathways (45:10)

- Mike informed the group that the Priority Pathways team held a 2nd Advisory Committee meeting in February.
- He also let the group know that the project team met with 34 of 38 municipalities as well as Riverfront Recapture and UConn.

- He notified the group that the 1st Public Meeting for the study was held in late April and 45 people attended.
- He also let the group know that the project team began its series of pop-up events this past weekend at Parkville Market in Hartford.
- The project team is currently working on finalizing the Existing Conditions Memo.
- Moving on to Upcoming Events, Mike let the committee know that the project team is looking to set up an Ambassador Walk Audit on Day Hill Road in Windsor and is working with the town on that.
- He also notified the group that a 3rd Advisory Committee meeting will be held in June.
- Lastly, he let the group know of a series of planned pop-up events to be held throughout the summer.

Regional Shared Micromobility Program (48:35)

- Mike shared that since inception, there were close to 110,000 scooter rides with over 13,000 unique riders in Hartford since late August.
- Mike let the committee know that the system should also have e-bikes shortly.
- Mike also let the group know that the New Haven micromobility program will be launching next week.

Active Transportation Microgrant (49:55)

- Mike said that this was year #2 for the program, and that in the first quarter, CROG received 10 applications for close to \$50,000.
- Since inception at the beginning on 2024, the CROG region has submitted 40 applications for close to \$200,000.
- Mike let the group know that the next submission date is June 27.

CTDOT Active Transportation Survey (51:30)

- Mike notified the group that as part of the CTDOT Active Transportation Plan CROG staff recently went out with CTDOT to visit Enfield, Windsor, New Britain, East Hartford, and Vernon. Municipal staff met the team at each location, and each led a walk audit focused on State Roads.
- Mike gave a brief illustration of each of these Walk Audits.

Walk Audits (57:10)

- Mike let the group know that CROG held its most recent Walk Audit with Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), New Britain, and Newington. The

goal of which was to look at the area between the CCSU campus and the Cedar Street CTfastrak Station.

- Mike let the group know that we had approximately 15 students.

State House Bill (58:35)

- Mike let the group know of Bill 6862. Mike let the group know that Class 1 e-bikes are eligible to use multi-use trails, and that this will be effective on October 1 of this year.

Bike Month (1:00:00)

- Mike let attendees know that it is Bike Month and that CRCOG, along with the City of Hartford, Veo, CTDOT, Watch for Me CT, and CT Rides, will be at the Old State house tomorrow morning (May 15, 2025) between 7-9am.

Discussion (1:00:10)

Eric Anderson said that he would like to perform a Walk Audit along the Hop River Trail. Eric mentioned that Route 6 and Route 44 are major impediments. He mentioned that maybe this could be a joint Walk Audit with Bolton as well.

5. What's New in My Town? (1:03:35)

- **Eric Anderson, Town of Andover** – Eric mentioned that they are working on their Plan of Conservation and Development. He said that they are making a concerted effort to integrate multimodal transportation and Complete Streets, to make it a more walkabout and bikeable community. Eric also mentioned that they are sending their Resident State Trooper to a bike training course so he can be on a bike in the Lake District and be more in touch with the population than he would be in a car. Eric also mentioned that they are doing a lot of speed enforcement in areas where there's high walking and biking. They are ready to distribute safety equipment that was purchased using the microgrant. Eric said that a resident of Andover is currently riding the full length of the East Coast Greenway.
- **Lon Hultgren, Bike Mansfield** – Lon let the group know that they are working on a Complete Streets Plan, that hopefully should be completed this summer. He also mentioned that they are doing their second year of the 4th grade bike education program in town.
- **CJ Gandza, City of New Britain** – CJ said that they are working with Bike New Britain on a bike education pilot program and that every 5th grader at Lincoln Elementary School went through a bike education piece. He mentioned

that the kids developed a lot during these sessions, and that some kids had never ridden a bike before. Still working on the Beeline Trail projects and connecting downtown New Britain to Plainville. The City is also working on some Vision Zero initiatives through SS4A.

- **Patrice Carson, Town of Bolton** – Patrice mentioned that they are having a public information meeting on the final leg of their connectivity trail that runs from the Firehouse to Town Hall.
- **Kevin Sullivan, Bike Walk Wethersfield** – Kevin mentioned that the town worked with the local Police Athletic League or PAL, on a microgrant. Also, the town will be launching a 4th grade bike education program.
- **Amy Watkins, Watch for Me CT** – Amy mentioned that they have a couple of new publications, one about speed feedback signs and another for older pedestrians and how they can be safe while walking. Amy also mentioned that their Ghost Shoes documentary was nominated for a New England Emmy.

6. **Other Business** (1:15:00)

- Mike asked if the committee had any other questions or issues they wanted to bring to the group. Also, he mentioned if they had any ideas on people or topics for presentations to let CRCOG know for future meetings.

8. **Adjournment**