

Priority Pathways - Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG)

Advisory Committee – Meeting #4

Below is a summary of the October 8, 2025, Priority Pathways Advisory Committee meeting #4, held at CRCOG. The meeting took place from 12-1:40pm. Detailed notes have been preserved for use by the Project Management Team (PMT).

Attendees

CRCOG: Mike Cipriano, Anaka Maher, Caitlin Palmer, Heidi Samokar

Toole Design: Shawna Kitzman, Quinn Molloy

Foursquare ITP: Kyle Hearing

Advisory Committee: Eric Anderson, Kimberly Bradley, Patrice Carson, Mary Cockram, CJ Gandza, Genna Griffith, Ann Hartman, Renae James, Kristjana Kabilo (CTDOT), Duane Martin, Christopher Roberts (CTDOT), Natalie Shurtleff, Kevin Sullivan, Jason Theriault (CTDOT)

Meeting Overview

The meeting focused on reviewing engagement outcomes, discussing themes from community outreach, providing feedback on the draft network and funding strategy, and planning next steps in the Priority Pathways process.

Engagement Summary

Shawna provided an update, noting that the team fielded 400 points of contact at various pop-up events.

Key Themes Identified:

- Strong public interest in trails and separated bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.
- Driver behavior remains a top safety concern.
- Widespread demand for safe crossings and improved connectivity.

Public Behavior Insights:

- Many residents currently drive to greenways and trails. but would prefer to walk or bike if safe connections existed.
- Committee members agreed that “if the infrastructure is built, people will use it.”
- Negative feedback was minimal; most participants at outreach events expressed support. Some towns experience limited opposition to new trails and/or sidewalks. The group discussed the likelihood of self-selection, which may contribute to feedback bias.
- Some tension exists between dog walkers and cyclists on high-volume trails. Members agreed that perceived conflicts are more common than actual crashes.

E-Bikes:

Usage is increasing, including among youth. The committee expressed overall support for e-bikes but discussed the importance of education and safety messaging. Amy Watkins is launching an e-bike working group on October 9. Members noted that many e-bike riders are younger who may lack judgment experience, but e-bikes also offer control, accessibility, and expanded transportation choice.

Walk Audit Updates:

Major challenges include multilane state highways with limited pedestrian crossings and infrastructure. Participants reported confusion about coordination with the state and frustration with state-built infrastructure that does not align with Vision Zero goals.

Committee Discussion:

Strong support for continuing walk and bike audits. Kim expressed interest in a bike audit with DEEP leadership. Eric rides every road in his town twice a year and emphasized the value of firsthand experience, to closely observe the integrity of the roads as a bicyclist, traveling at lower speeds than in a vehicle. Mike noted that on-the-ground conditions provide insights that aerial imagery cannot always capture.

CTDOT Active Transportation Plan Survey Analysis:

The Priority Pathways consultant team analyzed the shared data from CTDOT's recently completed community survey. The analysis included a total of 114 survey responses with those who identified as CROG community residents. Approximately half of respondents reported walking at least once a month to work or school. Driver behavior was again identified as the top concern. Respondents expressed continued interest in separated bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Draft Network Presentation

Kyle presented a vision network designed to capture all regional needs, to be refined into a priority network.

Feedback and Comments:

Over 150 comments were received, including suggestions for new and alternative alignments, additional connections, and concerns about feasibility and existing conditions. Next steps include addressing feedback, scoring segments based on short-trip potential, and refining the network. Eric recommended including standardized design guidance based on roadway context and average annual daily traffic (AADT).

Implementation and Grant Strategy Discussion

Shawna presented an overview of potential federal, state, and philanthropic funding sources, along with a draft grant strategy table. Feedback was requested from the committee.

Committee Feedback:

- Include all possible grants, even smaller ones; add a "level of effort" column.

- Add a **project stage** column (design, construction, etc.); mentioned that DEEP recently launched an online grant tool.
- Add a column showing **eligible applicant types** (towns, COGs, etc.).
- Add a **timeline** column (rolling, vs applications due 10/1 annually).
- Add a **funding reliability** column.
- Clarify eligibility requirements (e.g., nonprofit, 501(c)(3)).

Additional discussion centered around the accuracy of the compiled data, and the potential for the inclusion of novel private sponsorship programs. Shawna indicated that the team would revise the original table based on feedback and may ask a few committee volunteers to test and recommend improvements to the resource once it's further refined.

Action Items and Responsible Parties

- Engagement Summary Graphic: Finalize visual summary and share with committee – Toole
- Draft Network: Incorporate feedback, apply scoring, and refine network – Foursquare/ CRCOG
- Grant Strategy Table: Add columns for level of effort, stage, applicant type, eligibility, timeline, and reliability – Toole
- Review forthcoming Grant Strategy Table – Committee
- PPT Funding Table Corrections: Review funding table for accuracy – Toole
- Slide Distribution: Share meeting slides with committee members – Toole
- Update project website – CRCOG
- Public Meeting #2: Plan and promote November 18 event – CRCOG / Toole
- Advisory Committee #5: Schedule and prepare materials for December 10 – CRCOG