**Meeting of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board**

Connecticut DOT HQ, Newington, CT

September 16, 2010

*Attending*:

Ray Rauth

Richard Stowe

Charlie Beristain

Rod Parlee

Tom Gutman

Jason Stockmann

*DOT officials:*

David Balzer

David Head

Coleen Kissane

**Chair’s notes:**

* In a meeting with Tom Maziarz, Charlie, Ray, and David Head discussed more effective funding for enhancing DOT bicycle and pedestrian projects. The DOT is working on policy changes to make more funding available.
* The attendees also discussed how to work more effectively with the DOT.
* Ray sent an email to the board requesting resume information so that he can intelligently discuss affiliations and background. This helps figure out how members are networked with other groups.
* Tom and Ray met with DOT TSTC and East Haven officials in East Haven, CT. They visited a dangerous intersection and came up with a solution. Agreement was to reduce the vehicle travel lanes from 2 to 1 in each direction, narrowing the crossing distance. Lane restriping will be added to the district maintenance schedule.
  + Tom: I was impressed with the process. If we can identify a few of the worst intersections in the state and repeat what happened in East Haven, it would be very productive. We could start by getting a list of the 5 or 10 worst pedestrian hotspots in the state.
  + Ray: This is part of a pilot project that involved the Tri-State Transportation Campaign. If the pilot project proves fruitful, additional projects of this type will hopefully take place.
* Ray: There are two open seats on the board. If we know of people who are interested, we should contact them and encourage them to identify themselves to the Governor and State Senate Majority Leader Martin Looney, who each have one open appointment.

**MOTION TO MODIFY AGENDA. Second.**

Tom: There was discussion with CCROG to put nighttime reflection on traffic calming devices, and making this a requirement of CCROG-approved traffic projects.

6.2 Endorse night reflectivity for CCROG projects.

6.3 Older driver and pedestrian safety bill: H.R. 3355

6.4 Complete Streets Bill: H.R. 1443

**Amended agenda approved.**

**MOTION TO APPROVE AUGUST MINUTES. Seconded. Minutes Approved.**

2.0 Updates from David Balzer and David Head

2.1 Share the Road campaign.

* Bike map is up and running on ctbikemap.org
* Could SeeClickFix be helpful for finding problem intersections? David Head will look into the utility of this tool for problem reporting.
* Charlie reporting in Deb’s absence: Before you enter the Share the Road website, you are asked how you found the website.
  + David Head: For purposes of getting grants, we need to report on how many people use the site, and how they found it.
  + Charlie: There isn’t anything in the program that targets drivers. We shouldn’t just be counting hits, but figuring out how many drivers are visiting the site.
  + David Head: A lot of the complaints I hear are about cyclists not obeying stop signs and red lights, etc. We need to make sure that all cyclists are riding safely.
  + Richard: Will the site be included in the DMV driver’s manual?
  + David Head: Yes, thanks to the efforts of David Balzer advocating for its inclusion. But it’s a very small part of the manual.
  + In September there will be a meeting to craft the 2011 Share the Road Campaign at the DOT that will involved Bike Walk CT and CRCOG. CBPAB’s Deb Dauphinais will also be invited.
* Richard: Has there been any progress on road diets from 12’ to 11’? Have any roads been identified yet?
  + David Head: Road diets are now looked upon more favorably, and are happening on a case-by-case basis.

2.2 Report on Legislative Matters (Pam not present)

3.0 Better organizing the way we work

* Ray: Tasks that are executive should not always depend upon Ray. So maybe this responsibility should be delegated out among members of the board into 3 subcommittee: **Executive** (agendas, booking meetings, etc.), **Policy** (compiling a booklet of our policies), and **Administrative** (Google Docs, internal organizations, reaching out to other bike and ped groups, media press releases).
* Rod: I have been on other boards that talked about having a policy committee, but never got around to forming one.
* Rod: Could we look at DOT blueprints before they are approved, for our own education? Can we look at some examples? What is the difference between a bike path and a bike lane, etc.?
* Ray: There was context-sensitive solution (CSD) for the Rt. 7 intersection in Norwalk, and there were representatives of many different groups.
  + How could we get this information out to our constituents?
* David Head: To go through and identify every project that has a bike/ped component would be almost impossible.
* Rod: Tom Harley said he was going to put together an example for the board to look at.
  + David Head: I’ll check with Tom Harley to see if he is pursuing this.
* Rod: One big problem I’ve experienced is at construction sites when the direction for cyclists and pedestrians are incoherent or confusing.

**4.0 Goals Discussion**

* Ray: I have a list of goals, as stated in the CT Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, a DOT document (reproduced here in summary, not verbatim):
  + Goal 1: *Support creation of bicycle and pedestrian design standards.*
  + Goal 2: *Integrate and connect the bike and ped system with other transport systems.*
  + Goal 3: *Support pedestrian and bicycle connections to destinations serving the community.*
  + Goal 4: *Encourage and support bicycle and pedestrian safety.*
  + Goal 5: *Develop and implement educational programs to ensure that transportation facilities will be used safely and responsibly.*
  + Goal 6: *Provide financial and technical support for development of bicycle and pedestrian facilities within the limits of available funding.*
  + Goal 7: *Provide safe and attractive opportunities for biking.*
* Richard: One additional goal could address the ability of the CB&PAB to seek grants and raise funds. Richard suggested a fund-raising bicycle ride on the Merritt Parkway. Also we should raise public awareness of the existence of our board. There seems to be little or no awareness among the public and among other organizations. One way to raise awareness is through outreach. This is in the statute.
* Rod: I agree, we’ve talked about this in the past.
* Charlie: We should be careful diverting energy away from our primary goals to write grants. Do we have a good grant writer?
* Ray: Before we raise money, we should have a budget.
* Charlie: Raising money creates additional complications; would we be a 501(c)3? We would create a paper trail. We can help others get money, but getting money ourselves will create complication. If you have funds, you have to manage funds.
* Rod: We need to get our own website. What about a domain name? ctbikepedboard.org (similar to ctbikemap.org)
* Charlie: namecheap.com offers domains for $10/year. We could manage the website ourselves. I don’t see a need to be beholden to a constituency.
* Ray: We are an advisory board, not an advocacy committee.
* Charlie: Somebody should figure out what regulations we need to follow in fundraising. Only then can we make an intelligent decision.
* David Head: I will talk to Pam Sucato and find out what strings would be attached to you guys raising money. The Maritime Commission got some money, but the money had to go through the DOT, which required a lot of paperwork. They used the money for driving mileage reimbursement.
* Richard: Can I propose a formal fundraising goal at our next meeting?

**MOTION TO ESTABLISH OUR OWN WEBSITE. Second. MOTION PASSES.**

* Ray: Next time we will try to integrate Erin’s Goals Statement with the language in the CT Bike and Ped Plan.

**5.0 OLD BUSINESS**

5.1 **Accident Data (Charlie)**

* Charlie: I talked to a professor of transportation at UConn. He may have a graduate student available to help us in the future. I did also talk to Bike Walk CT and they said they might have someone available to enter our accident data into a database. There was supposed to be some feedback on the accident databasing work now being some at the DOT.
  + David Head: New DOT database is being made using Oracle.

5.2. **Tomlinson Bridge (Jason)**

* Stone dust was put in the flange way, but had to be blown out so a train could go through.
* The DOT Traffic Engineer Phil Cohen suggested removing one eastbound vehicle lane and using the space to stripe 6’ bicycle lanes beside both the eastbound and westbound lanes.
* David Head: Looking at the constraints there, it’s probably the best we can do. Send the letter to the P&W Railroad as well as the DOT.
* Jason: I will be happy to write a letter. I will reference the CT Bike Plan showing a bike lane that crosses tracks at a 90 deg angle (page 161).
* David Head: Short-term solution including an area of refuge, to be removed in the long-term. I will forward those plans to the board.

**MOTION TO WRITE A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE DOT INTERVENTIONS AT THE TOMLINSON BRIDGE. Seconded. MOTION APPROVED.**

**ACTION ITEM:** Jason will draft letter.

5.3. **Bike hook pilot program on Metro North (Jason and Richard)**

* No response has been received from Howard Permut and the MTA, or from Governor Rell’s office.
* When writing letters, should we request a reply by a certain date?

6.0 **Organization, next meeting, etc.**

* What’s going on with our listserve? Let’s get all board members on the listserve and publicize it to the public.

6.1 **Nighttime reflection of traffic control devices** (Tom)

* Tom raised the point at a recent CRCOG meeting that traffic control devices are very difficult to see at night, for instance, lane dividers and bump-outs. Let’s write to CRCOG asking for visibility improvements on all public roads.
* Richard: I don’t think we should focus just on one region. Why limit this policy to CRCOG? This is something that should be done statewide?
* Tom: I would propose to write one letter to CRCOG, since they are receptive to the idea, and then submit a follow-up letter more generally to the DOT.

**MOTION**: For Tom to draft a letter of support from the Board for nighttime visibility to be improved on future traffic calming projects. **Seconded**. **Motion passes**.

**ACTION ITEM**: Tom will draft letter of support.

6.2 **H.R. 3355, Older driver and pedestrian safety enhancement act** (Tom)

* Federal bill to provide $500 million in funding to implement suggestions in the older driver handbook. Advocates visibility enhancement. DOT would appoint an assistant for older drivers. AARP is trying to build support. Not sure if this supports lane striping as well.

6.3 **H.R. 1443, Complete Streets Bill**

* Federal bill to assure the safety for all road users. Requires State DOT to adopt Complete Streets Policies. Connecticut already meets most of the requirements that this bill would establish.

**MOTION** Tom will draft letter of support to CT delegation of Reps. And Senators. **Seconded. Motion approved.**

**Action Item**: Tom will draft letter.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN. Seconded.**