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

September 15, 2011

CDOT Headquarters

Newington, Conn.

*Attending*: Neil Pade (Chair), Tom Gutman, Tom Harned, Al Sylvestre, Jason Stockmann, Ray Rauth

*DOT staff*: David Head

*OPM*: Dan Morley, Bruce Wittchen

*Also attending*: Stuart Popper (Bike Walk CT), Kristen Griebe (CT LCV), Maryellen Thibodeau (Bike Walk CT)

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM. July minutes **approved**.

**State Office of Policy and Management** (Dan Morely)

* introduction of the current update of the State Plan of Conservation and Development
* presented in detail the new Cross Acceptance process taken from New Jersey that is being administered to identify areas of agreement or disagreemtn between state and municipalities
* Any state agency spending $200,000 or more in state or federal funding is required to be in conformance with the State Plan.
  + Plan covers wide ranging issues such as Economic Development, Open Space, Recreation, Watershed Land, etc.
* It is becoming a higher priority for the actions of state agencies to be in conformance with the plan
* Board members explained the interests of providing facilities that would assist the growing elderly population and retention of the diminishing population of the state’s youth
  + We should look to provide a complete transportation network for transit and non-motorized users to move about the state
  + We also encourage municipalities to update their local ordinances, subdivision and zoning regulations to take into consideration all users of the public highway and to promote connectivity of existing and future bicycle and pedestrians ways through the towns and regions, as well as to provide facilities for cyclists and pedestrians where appropriate
  + We also encourage all state departments, RPOs, and municipalities to create their own “Complete Streets” policies, providing blueprints for how pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and drivers of all ages would be accommodated in future transportation, healthy, and recreation-related projects.
* The concern of culture change in the state was also discussed
  + Cited the example of change that has occurred in NYC related to cyclists 🡪 a positive example for how similar change could occur here in CT.
* Also discussed the concern of the state funding projects in the suburbs that would place schools and other facilities in areas where kids or other users could not ride their bikes.
* Health and safety can be an overriding concern in any planning. Can supersede the process on an emergency basis or a short-term planning basis.

**DOT Project News** (David Head)

* Metro North bike rack test today, 11-1 pm. A schedule for these trains is available from Kate Rattan.
* Putnam bridge access news is forthcoming
  + 6-foot sidewalk will be added across the bridge
    - Approaches still need to be designed

**Action Item Review** (Jason)

* closed out several open Action Items (!)
* Comments
  + Accident data will require some work to convert from raw binary format to an MS Access database
  + Could we get a college professor to volunteer one of his or her students for this task?
  + List of bike and ped groups from across the state?
    - What about including local groups in towns?
  + We need a policy flow down within CDOT, ideally showing how policy changes flow from the Assembly all the way down to the contractors.

**Implementation of Complete Streets Law** (Neil)

* We are at the “teach a man to fish” stage of this process. We’ve done some great fishing but we need to develop a simplified implementation plan.
* Neil collected thoughts and ideas from board members and distributed a compilation (add to Google Docs)
  + Maybe we need to figure out Simsbury planner how they established a culture of bicycle friendly planning in towns. Likewise, New Haven could be used as a model for urban centers.
  + If we can incorporate Complete Streets requirements into the process by which towns apply for state funds. The state requires municipalities to comply by certain constraints to qualify for funds.
* **ACTION ITEM**: Jason will add all attachments form the listserve to Google Docs (including Neil’s draft compilation and the Goals list… these will also be distributed at next month’s meeting)

**Freedom of Information Act**

* All of our agendas and minutes must be on the State Dept. website
  + **ACTION ITEM**: Jason will give David Head the link directly to our agendas and minutes
  + Can we be hosted on the CDOT website? Probably not… we would have no ability to add or revise content.
  + **ACTION ITEM**: Tom and Jason will redesign the website.
  + David Head can get us some Board business cards.

**State Traffic Commission**

* Their visit to the Board is on the agenda for October
* Neil met with a group of people from the Traffic Department
* The STC will take cyclists and pedestrians into account, but only when they are prompted.
  + Should we develop a checklist?
  + We should have a few Board members meet with STC members to find out what sorts of information they would need to take cyclists and pedestrians into account.
    - Gateway Community College 🡪 with the proper amenities, extra bicycle and pedestrian activity would be generated.
  + Normally you have to submit vehicle counts, accident data, and then each intersection is graded on a scale of A-to-F. This is the quantitative data that engineers use, and it results in projects being geared toward wider roads and more lanes. If you don’t count pedestrians, the designers don’t know that they are there. The Highway Capacity Manual describes how to calculate level of service, and there is a new metric for Multi-modal Level of Service.
  + Do we have a case study about a project that did not successfully incorporate bicycle and pedestrian considerations?
    - **ACTION ITEM**: Put together 4 volunteers from the Board to meet with the STC in November. Tom H. and Neil would be good people to begin with.

**Cross-State Bike Routes** (Ray)

* What parameters should be built into a state route
* How do we interface between state and local roads
* Kate has sent out a request to establish a DOT committee for a US1 Bike Route through Connecticut. It will follow the East Coast Greenway for some segments. In Southwest Connecticut there will be both state and local segments. How does it get signed, etc.?

**Announcements**

* CRCROG bicycle and pedestrian counts will be going on
* Discover Hartford Bike Ride
* Also, New Haven to Simsbury Ride
* Second Statewide Summit on Cycling will occur at New Haven on Saturday, November 12 in Kroon Hall
* Some 69 people have fallen on West Hartford sidewalks in 2010. Tom G. is having a meeting with the St. Francis Hospital staff to go over the sites of these trauma falls so that the hospital can improve the condition of the sidewalk. Meeting will be on 10 am on Thursday at St. Francis. Talk to Tom G. for more details.