

DRAFT

State of Connecticut Bicycles and Pedestrian Advisory Board January 22, 2013 Minutes

Present:

Board Members: Neil Pade, Ray Rauth, Deb Dauphinais, Charlie Beristain, Rod Parlee, Tom Gutman

Othe: Kate Rattan (DOT), David Head (DOT – excused early), Joe Balskus, Tony Philpin, Kelly Kennedy (BikeWalkCT), Steven Hryashide (Tri-State Transportation Campaign)

Meeting began at 8:30 am, called to order at 9:00 am upon obtaining quorum.

REPORTS

Marc Paquette, chair of the greenway council, would like to meet with us. We agreed to invite him to a future meeting.

Kate R reported for DOT:

- The Bolton Notch study is in progress.
- The M-8 bike hooks project is in process – DOT is seeking concurrence with MetroNorth. DOT feels it is important to include the Harlem and Hudson lines.
- East Coast Greenway signage is in progress. Signs have been installed from Hartford to Greenwich.
- Charlie inquired about DOT help, perhaps Pam Sucato, in expediting Board appointments as we have multiple vacancies and expired terms. **Action:** Kate will inquire.
- The first Putnam Bridge advisory meeting will be held at DOT on January 31, 2013. Deb will represent this board and report at the next meeting.

ANNUAL REPORT

This board's annual report has been submitted and distributed, including to the media (Rick Green, Hartford Courant). This board agreed that we should spend a portion of each meeting focused on annual report recommendations to help move them forward. We discussed specific recommendations as follows:

Recommendation #1 - Complete a Comprehensive Rewrite of the Highway Design Manual:

This Board will continue to emphasize the importance of this recommendation. Effective progress depends primarily on DOT activities and resources.

ACTION: The Board will encourage the Commissioner to move this forward. No direct action has yet been determined.

Recommendation #2 – Development of a Complete Streets Guidance Document, Checklist, and Training Program for Municipalities and other “Implementers”:

It would be helpful to communicate to RPAs to develop local policies and identify grant opportunities, ideally resulting in local policy workbooks.

ACTION: Neil will bring this up at the next CRCOG bike/ped meeting to gauge interest.

Recommendations #2d, 2e, and 2g:

ACTION: Neil is drafting a letter to the CT Transportation Institute advising them of this recommendation to include a training module for LTAs.

Recommendation #6 – Implementation through Cooperative Efforts with State Traffic Commission/ Division of Traffic:

ACTION: Neil will send a letter to Dave Sawicki of OSTA as follow-up.

Recommendation #7 – Local Ordinances and Regulations to be Consistent with Complete Streets Law:

This past fall, Neil began drafting a letter to municipalities, directed towards chief elected officials and LTAs, including suggestion for incorporating complete streets with an emphasis on the importance of 11’ lanes.

ACTION: Neil will draft the letter for review at the March meeting.

Recommendation #9 - Cross State Bike Routes to Include Local Roads:

It was agreed that this is a good topic for RPO discussions, specifically SWRPA and HVCEO.

ACTION: Ray will follow-up with SWRPA.

Recommendation #10 - Eleven Foot Vehicle Lane Practice:

This Board would find it helpful to view a list of which state roads have been changed to 11-foot lanes. Kate reported that there are reporting challenges but will put in a request for available information.

ACTION: Kate will put in a request for available information on a list of streets

that have been modified to include 11 foot lanes.

Recommendation #14 - Mapping of Transit Connections:

ACTION: Charlie will reach out to Phil Fry to determine sources for the relevant information.

Recommendation #17 – Connecticut Drivers Manual:

It was agreed that we would be most effective by drafting suggestions for DMV.

ACTION: Charlie will create a draft of wording suggestions and specific questions for inclusion in the manual and bring for next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Report:

ACTION: Neil will send a copy of the Annual Report to the clerk of the Transportation Committee asking that s/he distribute it to all committee members if this has not already been done.

Rod felt that it would be helpful to have hard copies available for distribution when opportunities arise. Printing funding is not available.

ACTION: Rod will inquire with printing companies about the option of free or reduced printing costs if the printer is permitted to include their name on the report.

AMTRAK – Prohibition of Bikes on Trains:

ACTION: Ray will review the draft letter to Amtrak, written by Richard Stowe prior to his departure from the Board.

Communication with Municipalities, Chief Elected Officials & LTAs, regarding complete streets.

ACTION: see recommendation #7 above.

Letters of Recognition for Complete Street Initiatives:

Letters would be appropriate for New Haven, New Britain, and recent LAB award recipients for bicycle-friendly communities and bicycle-friendly businesses.

ACTION: A letter template would be helpful. Hold on agenda for next meeting.

Discussion on State Survey of Bicycle and Pedestrian Activity:

Dan McGuinness from NWCOG would like to give a presentation.

ACTION: Kelly will contact Dan to explore a partnership with BikeWalkCT and invite him to present at this Board's April meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Policy Discussion – Responsibilities of seasonal maintenance of walkways and bikeways on bridges and approaches and tradition sidewalks along state routes:

Kate reported that DOT has responsibilities for some, but not all, of these items. In most cases, municipalities maintain responsibility. DOT does not have mechanical equipment available to get through narrow pathways (6 feet for example).

ACTION: Rod will draft a letter for municipalities. Place on agenda for summer meeting.

Proposed Bill No. 103, January Session, 2013, LCO No. 531, An Act Requiring Bicyclists to Ride Single File on a Public Road:

There was discussion about this issue, and the possibility of supporting clarifying language to the current statute. The general consensus of the Board is that we would not support the bill in its current form.

ACTION: Neil will draft a statement from the Board, so that it will be available as needed for public hearings, etc. and send out for an email vote.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.