# January 2022 Newsletter

Happy New Year! It's the first Safe Streets Newsletter of 2022!

Welcome! Safe Streets is an interdepartmental team that works with community partners to establish and meet viable objectives and goals for reimagining and redesigning streets. The streets in Hartford must be safe for all road users regardless of transit mode, age, ability, race, or income. This newsletter is produced bi-monthly, and provides updates on Safe Streets efforts initiated by the City of Hartford, partner organizations, and the community.

#### This month's edition features:

- <u>Department of Development Services</u>
- <u>Department of Public Works</u>
- Hartford Police Department
- <u>Scooter Share Updates</u>
- BiCi Co. and Transport Hartford Academy at the Center for Latino Progress
- <u>CRCOG Bike Share Study</u>

A quick reminder that we're on Instagram <u>@safestreetshartford</u> and on Facebook <u>@DDSHartford</u>! We'll continue to build out our communications efforts, so please follow us and stay tuned for more.

# **City of Hartford Updates**



## **Department of Development Services**

### **Complete Streets Task Force**

Thank you to everyone that participated in the last Complete Streets meeting! If you were unable to attend, minutes and future meeting dates are available on <a href="MeetingInfo">MeetingInfo</a>, where you can create an account and follow this and other City of Hartford meetings for updates.\*

Looking for our next meeting? Join us on **Monday, February 14 at 12 PM** for updates on projects, new progress, partners and more. The meeting link is <u>tinyurl.com/HartfordCSMeetings</u>, or if you have trouble connecting, you can join in via phone at 408-418-9388 (Access Code 2336 133 6144). Hope to see you there!

\*Please view MeetingInfo before meetings. Rescheduling or Cancellation Updates will be posted to MeetingInfo.

## <u>DominGO Hartford, An Open Streets Initiative</u>

Open Streets has a name! The Hartford Open Streets project will officially be known as DominGO – a reminder to us all that Sunday is the day to Go Outside!

For those of you unfamiliar with DominGO Hartford (formerly Open Streets

Hartford), this City program is in partnership with Hartford Healthcare and AARP. DominGO Hartford will create healthy, safe, and fun environments by transforming streets into car-free places where you can gather, stroll, play, bike, roll, and more. In its inaugural year, we'll have open streets one Sunday a month from 9a-2p, May through October 2022 (stay tuned via our <u>City website</u>).

**Interested in getting involved?** We're always looking for event volunteers, whether it's in advance of or during the event. Fill out our form to get onto the volunteer and announcement list: <u>Open Streets Volunteer Form</u>.

Questions? If you'd like to learn more, drop us an email at <a href="mailto:safestreets@hartford.gov">safestreets@hartford.gov</a>.

### **Transportation Studies & Projects**

There are several studies and projects currently underway or being kicked off, from the Parking Study to Arrowhead Gateway and Neighborhood Planning. Please stay tuned as more updates are being prepared for late winter and spring. In the meantime, check out the project websites at:

- Parking Study
- Arrowhead Gateway
- Main Street North Streetscape



Photo Source: Bici Co. Center for Latino Progress

### **Slow Streets & Bike Boulevards**

Slow Streets is an effort to create safer, slower streets with less traffic and speeding through creative design solutions.

In 2019, the City began a process to create Slow Streets, which would concurrently act as the state's first bike boulevards. Supported through a Degree® Deodorant and Blue

Zones® Made to Move Grant, these slow streets are specially-marked, low-traffic, low-speed streets designated for pedestrians and riders of all ages and abilities. They do not completely block motor vehicle access, but they discourage cut-through traffic and speeding on residential streets. North Beacon Street, Beacon Street, Babcock Street, Ashley Street, and Hampton Street were the selected locations for these interventions.

Hampton Street was the first street to receive design improvements during Fall 2020. The community was receptive to the installation, which also inspired a walking club in the area. In 2021, additional installations were pre-marked for the remaining streets, but given renewed resident inquiries on the project, the City is taking advantage of the winter 2022 months to refresh the community on the purpose and benefits of the project. You may see us sharing information at your local neighborhood meetings or on other platforms, and we welcome those interested to reach out for more information by emailing <a href="mailto:safestreets@hartford.gov">safestreets@hartford.gov</a>.



## **Department of Public Works**

Various projects are in different stages of planning and winterization. For quick highlights:

- **Winterization.** Construction and striping are on pause during the cold weather months. Projects ranging from Bartholomew Ave to Coltsville and bike lane striping will resume in the spring, unless weather allows otherwise.
- **Traffic Signalization.** DPW is working to modernize our traffic signal system with support from the state.

- **Sigourney St.** The City is coordinating with CT DOT on Sigourney Street improvements, which include bicycle lanes and their connection to the new Park Terrace Roundabout (and future cycle track).
- **Snow Removal.** DPW continues to provide street snow removal services. However, please know your individual responsibilities for snow removal and parking bans. Check out the <u>One Hartford Fall-Winter Booklet</u> to learn more (also available in <u>Spanish</u>). The booklet is produced by the Office of Community Engagement with interdepartmental input.
- **Planning.** DPW is currently preparing for the FY23 budget cycle, and will be adding in considerations for new traffic calming projects.

Given the winter season, updates may be limited at this time. Please stay tuned for interim transportation updates via Facebook <u>@HartfordDPW</u> and through Safe Streets (Instagram <u>@safestreetshartford</u>).



# **Hartford Police Department**

The Hartford Police Department (HPD) traffic stats for 2021 are as follows:

Statistic	#	
Total Traffic Stops	12,423	
Infractions	7,862	
Speeding	1,760	
Stop Sign Violations	790	
Traffic Signal Violation	752	
Distracted Driving	1,922	
OUI Arrests	297	
	77	

Seatbelt	1,238
Other	598
Traffic Division Summonses	385

### **Additional Traffic Division Stats from 2021**

- 53 Warrants Served
- 2171 Towed Vehicles
- 467 Abandoned Vehicles Red Tagged
- 47 Stolen Vehicles Recovered
- 21 Other Arrests

For a period in 2021, the Traffic Division had dedicated Traffic Crash Investigators. During this time the Officers responded to and investigated 530 accidents.

# Safe Streets Partner Updates

## **Scooter Share Updates**

In their first year of operations, LINK e-scooters have been overwhelmingly in demand, with Hartford being one of Superpedestrian's (the operator) best markets in the country. 2021 numbers at a glance show:

- +188,000 Rides
- +27K Unique Riders
- +400 LINK Up Approved Applicants
- ~66 Estimated Car Trips Replaced
- +100 Helmets Distributed
- +10 Community Engagement / Safety Events

In addition, Hartford also stands out through the LINK Up initiative, a discount program for those on financial assistance. By ratio, Hartford has the third highest LINK UP ridership participation behind only Seattle and San Jose. Our LINK Up riders are taking longer, more

frequent trips, showing that shared micromobility can be an equitable transportation alternative.

Have questions about scooter services? Reach out to Superpedestrian directly at the company's <u>Hartford webpage</u>.

**P.S.** Scooter share operations are subject to change during winter months. E-scooters may be deactivated or pulled in advance of severe storms. Find more scooter safety tips below.





**BiCi Co. and Transport Hartford Academy at the Center for Latino Progress** 

**Annual Recap** - BiCi Co. has had another busy year, with youth bike programs, workshops, the annual multi-modal summit, and much more. Check out their incredible work in <a href="their year-end update">their year-end update</a>. Also, fun fact, the City's Complete Streets Fund helped support some of these efforts, including local meetups and rides. Here's to 2021 progress, and looking forward to what's in store in 2022!

Join or Share BiCi Co.'s Bikes for Jobs Program – Bikes for Jobs provides eligible participants with an upcycled bicycle, lights, bike lock, and helmet for only \$20. Social workers, counselors, medical professionals, teachers, and many others can help refer those in need to this program. To join or learn more about the referral process, please visit: <a href="mailto:bicico.org/bicycles-for-jobs-access">bicico.org/bicycles-for-jobs-access</a>

### **Events:**

- Thursday, Feb 17<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 am <u>EV Fleets and Community Car Share Multimodal Meetup</u>
- **Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**, 5-7:30 pm <u>BiCi Co. Members and Volunteers</u>
  <u>Networking Dinner and Meeting</u>.

Want more from BiCi Co. and Transport Hartford? Sign up for their newsletter! There are plenty of informative events and updates that you should check out in their latest newsletter at: <a href="mailto:mai



### **CRCOG Bike Share Study**

Bike Share Feasibility Study Update. The Capitol Region Council of Governments is conducting a Bike Share Feasibility Study to update the 2014 Metro Hartford Bike Share Plan. The project began at the end of 2021 and is reviewing trends and technology as well as revising, updating and making recommendations regarding business model, capital needs, and cost estimates; and will provide an implementation plan and timeline. In the interim, you can check out CRCOG's one-pager on micromobility myths and facts.

## We Love Feedback!

Thank you for reading our newsletter! We are looking to perfect this mode of communication, so please share your comments and suggestions with us by emailing <a href="mailto:safestreets@hartford.gov">safestreets@hartford.gov</a>.