

City of Hartford Complete Streets Task Force

MINUTES

December 13, 2021 @ 12 PM – 1:20PM

Meeting Link: www.tinyurl.com/HartfordCSmeetings

Call-in Number (408) 418-9388 / Access Code 2336 133 6144

Attendees (In Webex or as Identified)

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Aimee Chambers | 9. Grace Yi | 18. Renae |
| 2. Amy Watkins | 10. Helen Nixon | 19. Sebastian Tata |
| 3. Angela Harris, Phillips Health Ministry | 11. Joe Balskus, VHB | 20. Siedah Lee |
| 4. Brynn Leopold | 12. Jordon Polon, Hartford BID | 21. Stephanie Bahramian |
| 5. Bill Veronesi | 13. Kerrice Reynolds | 22. Steve O'Neill |
| 6. Darlene Childs | 14. Kevin Sullivan | 23. Thomas Regan-Lefebvre |
| 7. Debra | 15. Lt. Cunningham | 24. Tony Cherolis, BiCi Co. |
| 8. Donna Swarr | 16. Nathaniel Gale | 25. Unidentified Call-In Guest (Name not captured) |
| | 17. Phil Shattuck | |

1. Introduction

a. Administration

- i. As a reminder, Complete Streets meetings will be held bimonthly on even months, and newsletters will be sent out during odd months. For those unable to attend daytime meetings, updates will be shared at the evening Planning and Zoning Commission meeting on December 14 at 6pm. Past and future meeting materials are available at: www.meetinginfo.org/groups/55.
- ii. Attendees did not have comments on the minutes or the newsletter. Attendees were also encouraged to get additional updates through social media on Facebook (@DDShartford) and via Instagram (@safestreetshartford).

b. Complete Streets Annual Update. Jr. Planner Yi shared an update on Complete Streets efforts in 2020.

- i. **Complete Streets Administration.** There have been 8 Complete Streets Task Force meetings this year, 2 evening updates (when including the upcoming December 14 update).
- ii. **Complete Streets Fund.** The Complete Streets Fund is an account that developers pay into for certain projects like dynamic display billboards and parking lots. The intent is to use these funds to support Complete Streets initiatives in Hartford.
The current balance of the fund is over \$500K. Local grassroots organization BiCi Co. at the Center for Latino Progress received some funding to support community engagement (12 meetings / rides, social media outreach, and more). Additional CS funds have been earmarked for a grant match for the Riverwalk South proposal and the South Branch Park River trail extension. Other projects could be supported with the CS funding, from tactical urbanism to parklets and more.
- iii. **Bike Facilities.** Additional bike facilities (buffered bike lanes, regular bike lanes, and shared roadways) are currently being striped on a number of streets (Woodland, Sigourney, Fraser, and Myrtle). Additional designs are being created for other streets such as Church Street. Existing bike facilities have been mapped and shared online through the interactive Planning Viewer available at www.hartfordct.gov/pz/PlanningViewer.
- iv. **Other Milestones:**
 1. Open Streets Hartford was introduced to the community this year, and will be launched next May 2022.
 2. The City created the interdepartmental T-Team, which is intended to increase coordination, engagement, and outreach across departments.
 3. The City's transportation outreach is now consolidated under Safe Streets Hartford. Transportation-related updates, programs, events, and more will be shared through several platforms including Instagram, Facebook, and Mailchimp.
 4. Hartford is now a member of the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO). Hartford is the second city to be a member in Connecticut, and is now a part of a network that includes cities from across the country.
- v. **Future Presentation.** City staff will refine Complete Streets milestones and present to elected officials in the spring.

2. City Transportation Updates

- a. **T-Team.** The Transportation Team (“T-Team”) is an interdepartmental group comprised of members from Public Works, Development Services, Operations, Office of Community Engagement, Hartford Parking Authority, Hartford Police Department, and the Hartford Fire Department. Together, the group collaborates on joint projects, policy recommendations, safety improvements, and more. Currently, the team is working on a number of projects, from a notice of protection of pedestrian safety and access in work zones, street striping, speed limit reductions, and more.
- b. **Design/Engineering**
 - i. **Open Streets**
 1. Director Gale provided updates on the City’s new initiative, DominGO Hartford (formerly Open Streets Hartford), which is intended to transform streets into safe, vibrant and healthy public spaces by making them car-free. The events will take place on the last Sunday of the month during May to October (9am – 2pm). Those interested in volunteering were encourage to sign up via this online form (<https://forms.gle/S5r4DPRiEYRqYh5H8>). Respondents will be contacted over the next few weeks.
 2. In addition, the City is looking for a new consultant to assist coordinating the initiative and connecting with community members, businesses, institutions, and houses of worships. For those interested, there is a Request for Qualifications posted the City’s online portal on Planet Bids (<https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/22554/portal-home>). There will also be an informational session on Dec 29th.
 - ii. **Parking Study.** The study is currently being drafted, and the team anticipates sharing with the community in late winter or early spring.
 - iii. **Arrowhead Small Area Plan.** Community feedback on the project was collected at two in-person kickoff meetings in November. The consultant team is also currently working with the CT DOT team to create a cohesive vision for the intersection. Additional information and concept plans will be available in the early spring. For ongoing updates, the project website is at www.arrowheadgateway.com.
 - iv. **Rapid Transit Corridor Study.** The Nelson Nygaard consultant team is currently developing recommendations and compiling information on the surrounding area. Initial recommendations include dedicated bus lanes, bus stop treatments, and priority signalization, but the proposal will be further refined as the study progresses. Nelson Nygaard will be invited to share information on the project at a future Complete Streets meeting.
 - v. **Neighborhood Planning.** The City recently brought on local Community Development Corporations Sheldon Oak Central, NINA, and SINA to support the development of strategic plans for each neighborhood. The neighborhoods included in phase 1 are Asylum Hill, Frog Hollow, Upper Albany, and Northeast. LISC will also support the effort. Future contracts and plans are in store for the next round of NRZs.
 - vi. **Slow Streets and Bike Boulevards.**
Slow Streets, which includes bike boulevards, have been put on hold for the winter. Pre-mark painting has been in place, but striping will not go in until the next season and after additional community engagement.
 - vii. **North Main Street.** Planning on hosting another meeting for the public early next year. The consultant VHB is currently working on the engineering and design for this project. The goal is to wrap up designs and drawings by February and host another public meeting early next year. In the interim, concept drawings are available for viewing online (look under the Complete Streets tab at www.hartfordct.gov/pz).
- c. **Scooter Share**
 - i. Scootershare has been popular in Hartford this year. Since the April launch, there have been over 180,000 rides and over 400 Link Up sign ups. Seven scooter corrals have also been added in the downtown area.
 - ii. Scootershare will remain in Hartford for the winter. However, during inclement weather, shared scooters will be pulled or deactivated. Winter operations may be subject to change during this pilot program. For those that observe scooters remaining in place, please note they will be picked up for recharging every

few days. Everyone is encouraged to stay safe this winter, whether scooting, biking, walking, or driving.

d. **Public Safety**

- i. HPD's Captain O'Brien has been promoted and has transitioned out of the Traffic Division. Lieutenant Martin Cunningham will be taking on the role as HPD's liaison for traffic and special events updates.
- ii. HPD statistics and updates for November were pasted in the chat and can be found on the next page.

3. **Education and Encouragement**

a. **Q&A.** Previous questions and new inquires were addressed, or collected for further consideration.

- i. Bike rack requests submitted through 311 are currently being compiled. Review for eligibility and installation will occur in the next season.
- ii. There have been concerns about the Farmington/Sigourney road diet. The biggest concern was that the signal heads did not align for Main St. This work is currently in progress, and a design will be shared with the CS group. DPW and DDS will work on sharing a timeline and general changes.
- iii. A request was made to update signs on Maple Ave and New Park Ave to reflect the current no parking conditions. City staff are currently working to address signage concerns.
- iv. Progress was reported on the area at Jennings and Weston. Concrete has been poured, and the hardscape is coming to completion. Mast arms may be added in the spring.
- v. A participant inquired whether the City has engaged the state on updating New Britain Ave. Although there are no concrete plans, there is currently some work planned for White St. There was also a request to have ConnDOT attend the CS meetings.
- vi. There was interest in learning why Park Terrace took a longer period of time to be completed. On a related note, the Sigourney St bridge project is separate, but integrates into Park Terrace.
- vii. There was substantial concern about illegal truck parking on neighborhood streets and their potential to contribute to crashes and host unknown hazards. HPD is ticketing illegally parked trucks every day, with as many as 20 in one day and generally around 9. However, towing is a three-hour process because few companies can tow such large vehicles. The T-Team will discuss an interdepartmental approach to address this issue.
- viii. Progress updates were requested for Main St between Park St and Gold St, Woodland St, and Church St.

b. **Partner Updates:**

- i. **BiCi Co. and Transport Hartford Academy at the Center for Latino Progress.** BiCi Co.'s recent newsletter highlights a number of different events and updates for the winter. Please view the full list at: https://mailchi.mp/ctprf/cycle_of_joy. THA is taking part in an audit of the City's municipal code to determine areas for updating or improvement. THA's 2022 goals include supporting pedestrian and cyclist safety, focusing on federal funding and equity, laying the groundwork for TCI, and exploring rebates for ebikes and other sustainable transportation modes.
- ii. **CTrides.** CTrides is kicking off a residential transit campaign, which is an extension from their previous efforts to employers and business. There will be a kickoff in January. Please stay tuned.
- iii. **CRCOG.** On the bike share study, the steering committee held its first meeting in November. The consultant has shared a draft "trends in bike share", which may be finalized shortly. The East Coast Greenway Gap Study RFP has also closed, and CRCOG will be scheduling interviews in January.
- iv. **iQuilt.** Winterfest activities are ongoing in Bushnell Park. Notably, many buses stop within two blocks of the park. Given some issues with improper parking and high attendance, it is recommended that attendees take transit to the park.
- v. **Complete Streets Subcommittees.** In the previous meeting, subcommittees were brought up as an additional way to accomplish CS goals. No one reached out to express their interest, and this topic will be dropped from the future meeting.

4. **Next Steps**

- a. **Newsletter Submission Deadline:** Friday, January 7
- b. **Next Meeting:** Monday, February 14

****AS OF NOVEMBER 27, 2021****

1. **HPD Traffic Stops:**

- 2021 YTD – 11,874 department wide (**10,169S stops from Traffic or 86%**)
 - Past YTD (department wide)
 - 2020 – 12,674
 - 2019 – 17,820
 - 2018 – 12,752
 - Past Totals (department wide) –
 - 2020 – 13,744 traffic stops
 - 2019 – 18,610 traffic stops
 - 2018 – 14,163 traffic stops

2. **2021 YTD Infractions:**

- 2021 – 7,503 infractions
 - 2020 – 6,671 (total); 2019 – 9,107 (total); 2018 – 7,328 (total)
 - **Speeding: 1,741**
 - **Distracted: 1,889**
 - **Seatbelt: 1,071** **83% Core Moving Violations**
 - **Stop Sign: 769**
 - **Traffic Signal: 734**
 - **Other: 1,299**
 - **Traffic Division DUI Arrests: 285**
 - **196 on Checkpoint**
 - **70 on Rover**
 - **15 on Regular Shift / 4 on other OT**
 - **Traffic Division Summonses: 373**

The State of Connecticut DOT has authorized an approximately \$300,000 grant for the HPD Traffic Division. This funding will be used to conduct Operating Under the Influence (OUI) enforcement from the end of 2021 through September 2022. The grant is 100% reimbursed, with no cost to the city's taxpayers.