

**CITY OF NORWALK
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2025**

ATTENDANCE: Emily Burnaman, Chair; Nicholas Pappas; Manny Salgado; Rebecca Stoll

OTHERS: Greg Pacelli, Transportation Planner, TMP; Jaleah Green, Norwalk Health Department

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at <http://www.norwalkct.org/meetings>.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Burnaman called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Burnaman called the roll, and all those listed in the attendance were present.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Kate Haavik said that the town of Darien has been working with its local non-profit, The Depot, to provide e-bike, bike, e-scooter, and scooter safety training for its middle school students, and will now be rolling it out to fourth- and fifth-graders. She said she would like to collaborate with this commission more to see how much more robust this can be together. She said she is starting at LLC call Ride-On and will provide bike safety training for the kids, with the aim of fostering independence and freedom of movement for their mental health.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. REGULAR MEETING: SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

- ** MR. SALGADO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**
- ** MR. PAPPAS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. BIKE/PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN- UPDATES AND DISCUSSION ON PROGRESS, NEXT STEPS, AND COMMISSION INVOLVEMENT

Ms. Stoll said she is still reviewing the document and finding it very educational. She is noticing that much of the information covered in this 2012 plan feels redundant in the Complete Streets Design Guide. On previous occasions, Mr. Thompson has shared the document he worked on for the 2012 master plan, which assigned scores to everything based on accessibility. She shared her work, which will score each location, so the commission can audit progress to determine what has improved and what hasn't, and make the case for a new Bike/Ped Master Plan, since this one predates the commission's existence. Mr. Pacelli said they refer to the Bike/Ped plan especially for new projects and applying for grants so that it is referenced somewhere and has support public and was highlighted, but there is currently not a "checklist", so that is something that can be incorporated in the next revision of the Bike/Ped Master Plan as there are a lot of different components that go into one street.

Mr. Salgado asked if Ms. Stoll would need any assistance with gathering the data. Ms. Stoll said she could use assistance with the surveying. Ms. Burnaman asked whether the commission should reach out to its subscribers and interested volunteers to solicit help with the audit surveying, and whether the commission could connect with Ms. Blaszkiewicz for support of the ongoing sidewalk audit effort. Mr. Pacelli said "yes," as they have been reviewing and updating it and have installed many sidewalks this year. He said they have also been reviewing the bike facilities and will check in with Ms. Blaszkiewicz to see the status and whether she could be a resource to the commission. Ms. Christina Randall offered to help with the surveying. Mr Salgado said he would also help in any way that he could.

B. E-BIKE SAFETY SEMINAR/NPD- PLANNING AND DETAILS REGARDING THE E-BIKE SAFETY SEMINAR IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ms. Burnaman said she is happy to report she met LT. Tom and Chaz Foster to kick off the conversation about hosting an e-bike safety seminar. We have noticed that towns around us have been hosting e-bike safety workshops and seminars, especially amid the rise in e-bikes on the streets and the laws that took effect on October 1st. They are looking to host an online webinar, turn it into workshops, and schedule another meeting to include the health department and Nuvance Health. Mr. Pappas asked if Norwalk Public Schools had been engaged. Ms. Burnaman said she hopes to have them circulate this opportunity, especially to parents of kids riding bikes and e-bikes. She also said that material will be handed out at the Bike, Walk, and Roll event.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE- DISCUSSION OF THE REVITALIZATION OF THE EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE AND PLANS FOR THE COMING MONTHS

Mr. Salgado provided an update, stating that the next commission event is the Bike, Walk, and Roll event, and that he has met with the school district to confirm there will be two Bike, Walk, and Roll events. The first one will be held on Wednesday, at 8:15 AM, and the next one will be held at Cranbury School on October 17th at 8:00 AM. There will also be events held at SONO and Wolfpit Schools, but the dates are still to be determined. Ms. Burnaman said that 11 schools have now registered for the event, which is exciting, and are hoping to see continued participation from Norwalk Public Schools, especially from the elementary schools.

B. ROUNDABOUTS- INFORMATIONAL PROGRAMMING- OVERVIEW AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO ROUNDABOUTS, INCLUDING RESOURCES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Mr. Pacelli said a public meeting was held last week regarding the installation of three roundabouts to get the public's input and said that, potentially, with the educational subcommittee, they could utilize some of the great resources to talk about the benefits of roundabouts, not only for vehicular safety, but also for bicycles and pedestrians. Mr. Salgado requested literature to distribute while tabling at events. Ms. Burnaman said it is a great opportunity to share the extent to which TMP prepares for and studies these specific construction plans, and suggested distributing references or guides to that information. Ms. Burnaman asked what the best way is to direct members of the public to get more information. Mr. Pacelli said the TMP webpage will be updated to include the roundabout at West Cedar Street and Richards Avenue as this is very early on in the process and only a conceptual design was shared with the public to get their input, and based on those results, will move forward with providing more documentation and data specific to that intersection and hold another public meeting at a later date.

VII TMP PROJECT UPDATES

A. SIDEWALKS- STATUS OF WEST ROCKS AND OTHER ACTIVE SIDEWALK PROJECTS

Mr. Pacelli provided an update and said a groundbreaking ceremony was held last week. Construction began in early September and is underway from the Merritt Parkway to Creeping Hemlock. The contractor will continue weather-dependent work and will resume construction in early spring, with completion by the summer. It will consist of a two-mile stretch of sidewalks, three raised crosswalks, and flashing pedestrian beacons, especially in the areas around All Saints School and West Rocks Middle School. The sidewalk work will continue on Adams Avenue and Ward Street, which provide access to

West Rocks Middle School and Tracey Elementary School. The East Wall Street project continues to be under construction, as does Hospital Hill, which is nearing completion. DPW is also doing a lot of great work on its sidewalk projects as part of the paving program, including sidewalks on both sides of Flax Hill Avenue, and the sidewalk on Grumman Avenue is nearing completion. The sidewalks on Beacon Street have been completed. Between DPW and TMP, almost 11 miles of sidewalk will be installed, so the work done this year is very exciting.

B. WEST AVENUE-MILLING AND PAVING: UPCOMING IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Pacelli said as part of the paving program DPW has removed all of the brick paver crosswalks on West Avenue, and they are prepping the road to be milled and paved between Maple Street and Wall Street. The existing brick paver crosswalks will be replaced with pre-formed thermo-plastic brick paver-like crosswalks. A few additional crosswalks were also added along the corridor to complete all legs of the intersection. By the end of this week, the road will be milled and paved, and the bus stops will be incorporated into the pavement marking plan, providing dedicated transit stops along the way. The existing curb lines will be kept to keep four lanes of travel, and bidirectional bike lanes will be incorporated along the corridor between Maple Street and Wall Street. On the longer planning perspective, there is the reconnecting communities grant, and as part of that plan, we will look at the corridor as a whole. This has been a collaborative effort from not only city departments but also outside stakeholders, and they are excited to see this happen and expect it to be completed by the end of the month. He said the Berkley Street area was also done last year, as were all the other intersecting roads, where new sidewalks were installed, connections to the NRV from the sidewalks were added, and the roads will be repaved.

VIII. DISCUSSION

- **Department/Partner Reports (TMP, Health Department, Police, others as available.**

Ms. Green said they are doing some walks with CT State Norwalk, and she will share the schedule with Ms. Burnaman, which is also on the Health Department's website.

- **Items for Future Agendas**

Mr. Salgado requested that an update on the Cemetery Street project be included on the next agenda.

- **Commissioner Comments**

Ms. Stoll said there are multiple city staff members mentioned in the bylaws who serve as ex officio officers to the commission, and wondered how they could reach out to those organizations to let them know it is part of their mandate to support the Bike/Walk Commission. Ms. Burnaman said the commission is actively engaging with all those departments, but does not know the criticality of their attendance at the meetings, and she

is grateful to the staff who do attend. Mr. Pacelli said he is the liaison to other departments and suggested that it be discussed further at the quarterly meeting with TMP.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. STOLL MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. SALGADO SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd