

**CITY OF NORWALK
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 10, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Tanner Thompson, Chair; Emily Burnaman; Jud Aley; Nicholas Pappas

STAFF: Greg Pacelli, Transportation Planner

OTHERS: Ben Hanpeter; Brian Boland; Paul Chenard; Anthony Lima; Peter Franz; Shari Brennan

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>.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order at 6:05PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Chenard asked why the centerline on the new section of the NRVt trail was ground down. Mr. Pacelli said he will check with staff and report back.

Mr. Chenard thanked TMP for installing the no turn on red sign installed near the NRVt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **NTD COA KICK OFF JULY 13TH**

Mr. Thompson said the Norwalk Transit District has been looking forward to doing a comprehensive operations analysis and will be reassessing all of their operations and he, Mr. Hanpeter, and Mr. Chenard have all been asked to be on the steering committee for the process which will take over a year to complete. Mr. Chenard provided an overview of the analysis and said it looks at the entire transit system to see if it is where it needs to be going, if it is operating the most cost-effective way and providing the most amount of service for that cost, as well as looking at other amenities. Mr. Pacelli said that Mr.

Benjamin will be taking part in the analysis for TMP and they are excited to see the coordination between the city and Transit District continue to be in good standing and to get better to improve ridership.

Mr. Thompson said there has been great success in integrating bike share systems with transit systems.

TMP PROJECT UPDATES

- Route 1 Belden Avenue NRV T Crossing

Mr. Pacelli reported and said that an email was sent out a few weeks ago regarding the no turn on red signs for the dual off ramps on Rt. 7 as well as for the right turn from Belden Avenue onto the Rt. 7 northbound on ramp to give the trail users some time to cross the road without vehicles turning on red. He said they will look to address the intersection as part of a larger project but will need to provide the DOT with a more completed study of the signals and the intersections for any signal or infrastructure changes as the DOT has to sign off on any changes to the roadway which includes adjusting any of the signal timings. He said that they have begun to put together an RFP to release to the cities on call engineering consultants to perform the study at these intersections and the outcome will provide them with the solutions to make the crossing safer for all trail users. Mr. Thompson asked what the timeline will be. Mr. Pacelli said the RFP will be put out over the summer and he will keep the commission posted as they continue to move forward.

- Wall Street Coordinator Project

Mr. Pacelli reported and said the East Wall Street Landmark Square safety project accessibility and streetscape project which is from Main Street to Brook Street is going out to bid within the next couple of weeks. He said that the public comments from the Wall Street neighborhood meeting have been incorporated into the project. Mr. Thompson asked if the section of East Wall Street between Brook Street and the green is outside of the scope of the project. Mr. Pacelli said “yes” for this phase but will be addressed in the future.

Mr. Pacelli said from a cost estimate perspective for the entirety of the Wall Street corridor is a \$27 million dollar project for design and construction and do date have secured approximately \$21 million dollars and are applying for grants to fulfill the gap. He said the next thing they will be doing is to put it all together into a 30% design and will have another public meeting to unveil a concept plan over the fall or winter and he will keep the commission updated on when it will be scheduled.

- Seaview Avenue Complete Streets Project

Mr. Pacelli reported and said they have wrapped up the public comment period from the concept plan that was unveiled and the project team will now begin to analyzing and reviewing the public comments with the consultant but there is no money to construct this project as of yet and will

need to apply for a grant and they will keep the commission and the community involved as they filter through the comments.

- CT Community Connectivity Grant Project Submittal

- Commission letter of support with project submittal

Mr. Pacelli reported and presented the draft concept plan and said that staff has been working on a grant submittal for a streetscape project at the intersection of Stuart Avenue @ Stevens Street to incorporate some traffic calming measures and will be building upon the Norwalk Hospital improvements and their streetscapes and will work with the businesses to keep as many parking spaces as possible. He requested that the commission write a letter of support that can be submitted with the grant application for this project. Mr. Aley asked if there is an excessive number of accidents in the current configuration. Mr. Pacelli said “yes” and since January 1, 2015, to August 30, 2022, there have been 26 accidents including three pedestrian accidents. There was further discussion ensued and it was decided that Mr. Pacelli would provide Mr. Pappas with a template for a letter of support that he will begin to draft.

- Complete Streets Policy and Design Guide Project

- Draft Policy
 - Demonstration Project

Mr. Pacelli said that FHI Studios is putting together the complete streets policy and guidebook and are currently working through the stakeholder meetings and will be attending the Bike/Walk Commission meeting next month to review the process.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Lima requested traffic changes on Fairfield Avenue and said that he has also written a letter to the Common Council and TMP. He said there was a traffic accident last week which ended up killing a dog and pointed out how unsafe the street is and there is a lot of highway traffic coming off exit 14. Mr. Thompson requested this be included on the next agenda for further discussion.

- E-Bikes

- CHEAPR Rebate

Mr. Thompson said as of this month the State of Connecticut began offering a rebate program for electric bikes up to \$1500. Ms. Burnaman said the website says the incentive program has been fully subscribed and are no longer accepting applications.

Mr. Thompson said that he thinks e-bikes are the future of urban transportation and are what is needed in terms of moving towards more micro-mobility and more sustainable transportation.

- Bike Share
 - Tandem
 - BCycle

Mr. Thompson said that he and Ms. Burnaman had met with the mayor, and he would like the commission to begin working on is bringing a bike share program to Norwalk. He said that he had a meeting with the CEO of a smaller bike share company called Tandem Mobility and they run the bike share program in Portland, Maine and they have experience with a lot of different funding models. He said he will also be speaking with additional vendors and asked the commission what sort of elements they would like to see in a bike share program and how TMP would like to proceed. Mr. Pacelli said that TMP is supportive of biking and want to continue to build upon it and are dedicated to adding more dedicated bike facilities as possible. Mr. Thompson asked if anyone on the commission would be interested in researching more programs. Ms. Burnaman volunteered to help.

BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES APPLICATION

Mr. Thompson reported and said there are five sections to the application and all the questions have been answered in the engineering section. Mr. Pacelli said that TMP will do the data/GIS related portion of the application. Mr. Thompson said the bicycle network worksheet will also need to be completed. Mr. Thompson asked who at TMP he should work with and what the timeline is to have it completed. Mr. Pacelli said to have everything sent to him and Mr. Benjamin and they will coordinate the work as needed. Mr. Thompson said the deadline is August 30, 2023.

BIKE RACKS

Mr. Thompson said that Mr. Hanpeter has been keeping the bike rack map updated and has evaluated every bike rack in Norwalk against the ABPB standards and found that 34% of the bike racks conform to their best practices. He said it was a large amount of work and thanked Mr. Hanpeter for doing the work.

Mr. Thompson asked if there has been any development on a program where businesses can sign up to have a bike rack installed. Mr. Pacelli said there has not been any movement on that at this point but have installed some decorative bike racks at various locations this year. Mr. Thompson requested that a decorative bike rack be installed in front of the art space.

Mr. Aley said the remaining items for the 2022 swag order will be delivered by the end of this week. He said that he obtained quotes for the bike locks and headlights. Mr. Pacelli requested that Mr. Aley send him the quotes along with their W-9.

**** MS. BURNAMAN MOVED THAT THE FUNDS FOR THE BIKE LOCKS AND RECHARGEABLE HEADLIGHTS BE PURCHASED IN FISCAL YEAR 2023/24.**
**** MR. PAPPAS SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 5, 2023, MEETING

**** MS. BURNAMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**
**** MR. ALEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. BURNAMAN MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** MR. ALEY SECONDED THE MOTION.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd