

**CITY OF NORWALK
BIKE/WALK COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 2, 2026**

ATTENDANCE: Emily Burnaman, Chair; Nicholas Pappas; Manny Salgado;
Christina Randall; Brian Clarke; Elizabeth Sile

OTHERS: Greg Pacelli, Transportation Planner, TMP; Benjamin Yeung, Senior
Engineer, TMP; Jahliah 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 6:02 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation this evening.

IV. WESTCOG TRAIL PROJECT- EVENT ENGAGEMENT

Mr. Yeung said that Westcog has received a \$5 million grant for the Western Connecticut Regional Trail Project to study and advance trail design in Western Connecticut. The Norwalk River Valley Trail is the primary component of that, but there are also some trail components in Danbury, including the Still River Greenway Trail and New Milford River Trail. Stantec, the consultant for Westcog, is working on this, and he is the City of Norwalk's representative for this project. The scope of work varies by trail segment, but for Norwalk, the segment to be focused on is from Broad Street to Grist Mill. There are several different trail algorithms being considered, but it is difficult because there needs to be a lot of coordination with CTDOT on their Route 7/15 interchange project, and they are working closely with CTDOT to find a path forward through that interchange. The scope of Westcog's project is limited to the segments south and north, and the Route 7/15

design team is working on the actual section of trail that will go through the interchange, and they are pushing to ensure they accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians safely through the interchange. The consultant team has asked the municipal representatives to support them with public engagement and requested that the commission help with certain events they may already be part of or will attend in the near future. The Stantec public engagement team will put together a kit to inform people about the project, and it would be great if the commission could help spread the word.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. REGULAR MEETING: FEBRUARY 9, 2026

**** MR. SALGADO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** MR. PAPPAS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2026 EVENTS: EARTH DAY FESTIVAL AND STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATE- NORWALK EARTH DAY ON THE GREEN (SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026) NATHAN HALE WALKING PARADE

Ms. Randall said there have not been many updates since the last meeting because she was unable to attend the steering committee meeting. Nathan Hale School will still be the starting point, with a walk parade to the Earth Day Festival on the Green, and will most likely begin between 11:00 AM and 12:00 PM. She has coordinated with another walk leader via email to ensure the walks are staggered and will also be coordinating with the Transit District to arrange shuttles back to Nathan Hale.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH: 2026 OPEN STREETS AND SCHOOL-BASED EVENTS- TENTATIVE OPEN STREETS PLANNING (CANDIDATE SATURDAY IN 2026, INCLUDING MAY 8TH; POTENTIAL LOCATIONS: CALF PASTURE BEACH, TRACEY MAGNET SCHOOL, BRIEN MCMAHON HIGH SCHOOL)

Mr. Salgado and Ms. Burnaman provided an overview of the Educational Subcommittee and said they met last week to discuss options for participants in the walk parade back to Nathan Hale. They also discussed the date for the walk, bike, and roll event, which will be held on May 6th, and events leading up to the bike, walk, and roll event. Mr. Pacelli pointed out that it is too late to begin planning a spring event this late in the season because of the approval process.

Ms. Burnaman said that she will include this as an agenda item to be discussed further at next month's meeting.

B. 2026 BIKE & ROLL TO SCHOOL DAY (WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026)- LAUNCH OF NATIONAL REGISTRATION (OPEN MARCH 3, 2026) AND NORWALK PARTICIPATION. -IDENTIFICATION AND TRACKING OF PARTICIPATING NORWALK SCHOOLS.

Ms. Burnaman said they will notify Norwalk Public Schools of the event registration and the next steps of getting involved.

C. SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL AND WINTER WALKING SAFETY

Ms. Burnaman shared a post from the Norwalk Police Department about safer roadways in Norwalk and said the good news is that there is greater awareness on the streets and fewer pedestrian incidents. Motor vehicle accidents were also down from 2024 to 2025, partly due to proactive law enforcement, enhanced infrastructure, and public education and awareness. This is another good opportunity to work with the police department regarding sidewalk snow removal and winter walking safety. She reminded everyone to use the click-and-request app for issues with crosswalks and sidewalks that are not shoveled, so the city can be made aware.

Ms. Randall pointed out that the regressions in motor vehicle and pedestrian accidents over the last year occurred during the first year the city operated under complete streets legislation.

VIII. DISCUSSION

A. COMMISSIONER BUDGET AND GRANTS

The commission discussed the remaining budget spend and grants for this fiscal year. Mr. Pacelli reminded the commission that they will need to follow the city's purchasing guidelines. He also said this fiscal year's budget must be spent by June 30, 2026, and that very little of it has been spent to date.

**** MS. SILE MOVED TO APPROVE THE SPENDING FOR MR. CLARKE TO ATTEND THE LCI CERTIFICATION COURSE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$550 PLUS FOR THE \$50 THE MEMBERSHIP FEE.**

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. NORWALK BIKE/WALK AWARD: COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

Ms. Burnaman said at the last meeting that a community recognition piece and a community advocate who stands out were discussed, deserving of an award for the work they have put in to advocate for pedestrian and cyclist safety in Norwalk.

Mr. Pacelli suggested that, before nominating people, the award's name be established, and that some of the budget be used to develop the award and offer it annually. Ms. Burnaman agreed and said that once the award has been defined, it will be sent to each commissioner to nominate one person for discussion at the next meeting.

C. BFC APP- EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAM COORDINATION

Ms. Burnaman said Ms. Trendler from Sustainability and Resilience mentioned she wanted to work on the application. The commission's next steps will be to meet with TMP to continue with the application, which is due on June 17, 2026. She asked Mr. Pacelli if a time or a point of contact can be confirmed with TMP to review the last application. She said that if any commissioners are interested in working on the application, let her know. Mr. Pacelli said that TMP can review the application, but if it is a big lift, he does not know whether there are staff or resources available to do so. He said the commission will need to be sure there has been a measurable advancement since the last application. He suggested that the commission review the application, identify which sections they would need assistance with from TMP, and schedule a brief meeting with TMP to determine whether they could take on the extra lift. Ms. Randall and Mr. Pappas volunteered to assist with the application.

D. UPCOMING WALKS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS- CAMPUS WALKS AT CT STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, NORWALK (APRIL 2, 2026). “NORWALK FOR MENTAL HEALTH” EVENT (SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026) AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PRESENCE.

Ms. Greene said the Health Department has partnered with CT State to update the walking maps, which now include two ADA-accessible loops and are being published. CT State will be hosting walks beginning in March or April, and they are working on the flyer, which has not yet been finalized. She said she will be leading one of the walks on April 23rd at 10:00 AM on the new loop. The updated map will be available on the website tomorrow. She said if any of the commissioners are interested in leading a walk, contact Ms. Walker of the wellness committee. Ms. Burnaman said the commission would be happy to share the maps.

Ms. Burnaman said that the Norwalk for Mental Health Event is on Saturday, May 2, 2026. Ms. Green provided an overview of the event and said that it is another great community event to raise awareness of mental health. They have offered to commission a table and help lead a walk to raise awareness about the commission. Ms. Burnaman, Ms. Randall, Ms. Sile, and Mr. Salgado volunteered to attend.

**IX. TRANSPORTATION, HEALTH, COMPLETE STREETS, AND OTHER
PROJECT UPDATES**

Mr. Pacelli had no updates to report but said that, as the weather is improving, he will update next month and will have updates later this year regarding the public information meetings, which he welcomes all commissioners to attend to promote the projects.

X. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Burnaman said that Ms. Stoll has reported that Pride in the Park is scheduled for June 13, 2026, and she has been in contact with them for the bike valet. She is also reaching out to the Seaport Association to see how the commission can encourage folks to bike, walk, and use transit instead of driving to the festival. At this time, the commission will not be offering valet, but is exploring other opportunities to encourage the Seaport Association to offer bike parking.

Mr. Salgado said he would like to go to the Yankee Doodle Garage to take an inventory prior to Earth Day. Ms. Burnaman and Ms. Randall said they would also like to attend.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. SALGADO MOVED TO ADJOURN.
** MR. PAPPAS SECONDED THE MOTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd