



**Bike and Pedestrian Committee Monthly Meeting
6:00 PM, Thursday, May 19, 2022
1st Floor Conference Room, Independence Hall
And
Via Conference Call Bridge**

Agenda/minutes can be found here: <https://fairfieldct.org/content/10736/12226/default.aspx>
The meeting recording can be found here: [Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee - 5/19/22 - YouTube](#)

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

6:02 – Call to Order and Roll Call of Committee Members. Roy called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Committee members in attendance: Scott Craighead, Steve Gniadek (vice chair), Tom Keane, Sarah Roy (chair), Mary Streeto. Committee members absent: Mike Allen and Nate Rex. Others present: Meghan Sloan (Metropolitan Council of Governments), Santina Jaronko (Health Department), Bill Hurley (Engineering Department), Mary Hogue (Sustainable Fairfield and Forestry Committee); John Darroch Mannix (member of the public, resident of Bridgeport).

6:03 - Approval of April 2022 meeting minutes, written by Scott Craighead. Nate Rex is note taker for the June 23, 2022 meeting.

6:04 - Introductions and Ice breaker

6:07 - Special guest: Meghan Sloan, Planning Director, Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG).

Sloan explained MetroCOG's role in infrastructure planning and projects throughout the region. They are the smallest branch of government (six municipalities: Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford and Trumbull); the metropolitan planning organization for this region. They are a federally designated recipient of transportation planning funds. They have monthly meetings made up of chief elected officials of all member municipalities. The role of COGs varies across the state; they stay flexible with different planning projects that may come up. Sloan mentioned some current Fairfield projects, including Blackrock Turnpike safety study and Post Road circle study. Look for invitation and convention and lower costs for projects. Lots of conversations with the town of Fairfield and the State of Connecticut. Review applications for short term recommendations. Fairfield is proactive in trying to improve safety on state roads. Complex projects are usually under federal funding.

The committee asked Sloan how they can work in collaboration with MetroCOG? Sloan and committee suggested the following options:

- Continue to work with town engineering.
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Federal Requirement.
- Public engagement.
- Safe streets and roads for all federal. This is coming out of the infrastructure bill. Safe systems approach to planning.
- Work together with METROCOG and Fairfield the Bike & Pedestrian to update the Master Plan.

Question for Sloan from John Darroch Mannix, member of the public: Based on grants, what is consensus on road diet? Sloan replied that MetroCOG is working with the Town of Fairfield on a Road Diet for Kings Highway and Route 130 (Post Road).

6:30 Town of Fairfield Updates:

1. Health Department Update – Santina Jaranko, Health Department

Jaranko reported that the Health Department received an extra 7Kf for next year for proposed Greenfield Hill bike route signage. Hurley added that the Health Department and Engineering will look again at South Pine Creek Road to add sections of sidewalks as part of round 3 of the State Health grant for 2022.

2. Town of Engineering Update – Bill Hurley, Town Engineer Hurley reported that the Stratfield Road safety audit is 95% complete and, if additional grant money is received from the State, it will be used on safety improvements for this area. Hurley noted that his department is looking into the requirements for pursuing Safe Streets and Safe Roads for All grant funding. They will be looking at priorities with a regional and/or municipal focus for this funding source.

3. Police Department Update – Not able to attend the meeting, no written update provided.

4. Sustainable Fairfield Update – Mary Hogue, Sustainable Fairfield and Forestry Committee.

Hogue reported that the Town planted street trees along the streets in Fairfield; approximately 200 trees this spring. The Town gets a lot of tree planting requests, which is a positive. Sustainable Fairfield is seeking opportunities to build more pocket parks in town. The Town completed one new pocket park on Borrows Road off Blackrock Turnpike in 2021. Committee members asked Hogue to explain for the record what a pocket park is. Hogue explained that a pocket park is a little park in the neighborhood, where nearby residents can come to sit in nature, play, and congregate. Sustainable Fairfield and Forestry Committee are pursuing having the Fairfield First Selectwoman sign the pledge for additional Pocket Parks in Town-owned vacant land. Hogue shared that the next Sustainable Fairfield Meeting will be on Monday, May 23, 2022, and that the committee has concerns about costs and environmental impacts of changing grass to artificial turf on the athletic fields in Fairfield. Hogue invited FBPC members and the public to look at Sustainable Fairfield information about this issue and write a letter to the Board of Selectpeople and RTM about it.

6:50 Committee Updates/New Business:

1. Greenfield Hill Bike Route Update – Infrastructure & Design Working Group

Roy reported that she and Nate Rex went in front of the Fairfield police commission on May 11, 2022, to discuss the proposed bike route. The PC had questions about the route because the survey request materials they received did not have all information they required to properly

review the proposal. Roy noted that Rex is working on getting the PC some photos and other information, as requested. The proposed bike route is tentatively scheduled to be reviewed at the PC meeting on July 6, 2022.

2. Events & Education Working Group and Group Discussion

Bike Rodeo Recap – The FBPC present thought that event participation was good.

Approximately 150 kids, plus parents, attended the event on May 1, 2022. Roy reported that the Fairfield Library, local Scout troops, and Yale New Haven Health also participated. Roy asked Allen and Gniadek to follow up with Jackie in the First Selectwoman's office to put out the FBPC Safety Tips information in a future tax bill mailing, aiming for 2023.

3. Relationship & Policy Working Group

Streeto reported that she did not get a response from contact at Fairfield University. Keane and Craighead both stated that they have contacts at Fairfield University in Marketing that they would be willing to share with the working group. Roy offered to send the group information on the committee to share that with Fairfield University and Sacred Heart University. Hogue offered to share her contact information for Fairfield University and Sacred Heart, including the Chair of the Sustainability Committee, and a Sustainability Student group at Fairfield University.

4. **Public Comments/Feedback Review** – Group Discussion. Table to next month's meeting.

5. Committee Name/Charge Revision Discussion – Group discussion

Gniadek and Roy presented their proposed changes to the committee charge document.

Gniadek would like to change the word "charge" to "goals" or something similar, but Jaranko informed him that most/all Town committees use the word "charge." Gniadek and Roy would both like to put the word "safety" and improving safety as a goal into the committee's charge, as the original charge from 2014 does not include the word "safety." Gniadek would like to change the FBPC name to the "Fairfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Committee." Craighead suggested perhaps using the words "improvement" or "enhancement" in the committee name, instead of "safety." Roy suggested that any committee member interested in contributing to the charter revisions take the next month to work on their suggestions and share them via email for discussion at the next meeting.

6. Chairperson Update:

Roy reported the following:

- Two vacancies currently on the committee. Jennifer Carpenter in First Selectwoman's office said they should be filling one, possibly two, within the next week, and that new committee members would be ready to join the group for June meeting.
- Moving the meeting the meeting to Thursday, June 23rd from June 16th. First floor conference room reserved.
- Social media update: When Roy began as Chairperson of the Committee there were only 40 Instagram followers on the FBPC account and now have over 350. Have gained more than 300 since September 2021. Roy set up a link tree on Instagram, links to webpage, surveys, Federal Infrastructure Grant funding information, E-scooter myths and fact sheet, and more. Roy created a Mailchimp newsletter for the committee and they now have 1400 contacts, thanks to Alyssa Israel sharing her bike and pedestrian contact list (started with 100). Roy plans to do a second newsletter issues for June.
- Roy reached out to the Bike and Pedestrian advocacy group in Greenwich, CT, and asked them to come to a meeting.
- Tuesday, May 24th is the E-scooter press conference at downtown train station and members of the FBPC are invited to attend.
- Roy reported that she will be participating on the Vision Zero Council infrastructure

subcommittee later in May.

- The Fairfield Beach Neighborhood Association is seeking volunteers for its annual 5K road race on Saturday, June 4th. Volunteers will receive \$50.00 toward the committee's fund.

7:34 - To hear, consider, and act upon any other business or communications – none presented.

7:35 - Meeting adjourned

Next meeting will take place at 6 PM on Thursday, June 23, 2022.

Submitted by Mary Streeto.