



**CT Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update
Public Meeting #1**

October 1, 2008

*5:30– 7:30 PM
Bristol Public Library*

Attendees: 20 members of the public attended

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency / Organization (if applicable)</u>
Carol Bussey	Newtown Bridle Lands
Stephanie Lennon	Newtown Bridle Lands
Stephen Mindera Jr	CCRP
Laure Giannotti	DEP Trails
Tammy Talbot	DEP State Parks
Meg Sautter	CT Horse Council
Kathy Cole	Plainville Greenway Alliance
Steve Cole	Plainville Greenway Alliance
Dan McGuinness	Northwest CT COG
Jan Thompson	
Diane Ciano	CT Horse Council
Jim Cassidy	Plainville Greenway Alliance
Rob Dexter	East Coast Greenway
Bob Desmarais	
Francis Pickering	Central CT RPA
Coleman Ross	
Beth Emery	
Barb White	
Rick Thibodeau	
Mary Ellen Thibodeau	
David Balzer	CT Dept. of Transportation
Carmine Trotta	CT Dept. of Transportation
Ken Livingston	Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.
Marcy Miller	Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.
Joshua Poppel	Alta Planning + Design

Summary Comments on the Plan:

Verbal Comments

- There was a question about what the 1999 Plan accomplished. Were there goals outlined in this that could be measured?
- The Plan Update should have measurable goals. This is the best way to assure implementation.
- There should be visibility of how funds that are funneled through ConnDOT are spent.
- There were questions and concerns about enhancement funds.
- There is a need for signage. In particular, there were concerns with the length of time required for towns or other organizations, in particular the East Coast Greenway, to obtain a permit to post share the road or other bicycle signage on state roadways.
- There was a request to separate the funding that is directed to bicycle and pedestrian projects into federal, state, and local funds. Note: Doing this will under-represent local funds spent, as the State Transportation Improvement Program only reports the federal, state, and local funding on projects that receive federal or state funding. Projects that are locally funded only are not documented by ConnDOT.
- There was a question about the percent of federal funding coming into Connecticut that is enhancement funding?
- There was a concern that towns simply plan what bicycle and pedestrian improvements they want in their own towns, with little concern about connectivity with neighboring towns. Regional Planning Agencies should focus on regional connectivity.
- There were comments and concerns about providing for the needs of equestrians.

Written Comments

- Keep pushing for measurable goals in plan – otherwise little will get done
- DOT should have higher priority on walking/riding = to make happen
- Money for bike and pedestrian projects/what is percentage from funding source: Fed/state/local, do a pie chart?
- As a CT resident & horse person who has horses for over 40 years, I have ridden roads as well as trails. Roads connect us to trails. I do long distance riding connecting roads – public and private lands. Motorists are not aware of the rules of the road with horses, and I have come in very close situations that could be avoided through education, signs, and improved shoulders of roads.
- Also representing the CT Horse Council's equestrian community, we see a very real need to provide safe ways for equestrians to use roads.
- As an equestrian in CT, I would like to know that horses will be included/considered in planning any trails.
- Although not a common work transportation, we still use CT roadways.
- I have a real concern with goals that are not written to be measurable. If they're not measurable, how do we know if they were met?
- I am a rep of the Newtown Bridle Lands Association – We want to ensure that horses are included in the "hiker, biker, and pedestrian community". We are legally allowed to be on paved roadways & should be assured we have safe accessways.

Summary of Comments on the Map:

Verbal Comments

- There was a question about the bicycle mapping effort and making it available online. The goal is for the statewide bicycle map to be transferable to Google or some other web viewing program.

Written Comments

- Map is hard to read – Can colors for routes be changed to be brighter and easier to see?
- On state road maps displayed – adjust key (on map) so you can see whole state
- Add sections to state map (currently now not shown):
 - Hartford/East Hartford = Rentschler Field/Cabelas (ECG)
 - Manchester = extension to Gardner Street (ECG)
 - Manchester = wrong trail configuration at Manchester Community College
- Why not mention of oldest designed trail in CT (70 years)
 - The Merritt Parkway trail (part of ECG)

Summary of Written General Comments:

- Don't use jargon or abbreviations in session without explaining
- Publish agenda on website before meeting
- Why hasn't DOT given permission to East Coast Greenway (ECG) to mark "interim routes" on state roads? If the allowance of signage is granted it would make bicycle routes easier to recognize by users! Permission granted thru Bill O'Neil the state rep for ECG
- A CT Horse Council (CHC) letter is forthcoming/horses are pedestrians and a non-motorized mode of travel.
- Please include a "horse" icon on signals posted for such travel areas. Equestrians are a large population who use these roadways – carriage riders especially.
- Please remember Equestrians.
- Equestrian considerations need to be included in the design phase.