

City of Norwalk
Norwalk Bike/Walk Taskforce
Meeting Agenda
February 1, 2016, 6:00pm
Health Department, 2nd Floor Library
137 East Avenue, Norwalk CT 06851

Attendees: Tim Callahan, Nancy Rosett, Kaitlin Latham, Kevin Kane, Colin Grotheer, Tilly Hatcher, Dan Landau, Ian Ray, Jud Aley, Jonathan McMEnamin-Balano, Mike Mushak

1. The January 2016 minutes passed unanimously.
2. Kevin Kane created a OneNote platform for the Taskforce to use. He will demo the program with Kaitlin Latham and Nancy Rosett and introduce the program to the Taskforce during the March 2016 meeting.
3. The group approved the addition of the word “trails” to the mission statement.
4. Tim Callahan and Kaitlin Latham will prepare a plan for vetting the strategic plan to stakeholders. They will share committee meeting dates and ask 1-2 members to attend on the Taskforce’s behalf.
5. Kaitlin Latham explained the Mayor’s Challenge for Safer People and Safer Streets to new members. The Taskforce brainstormed answers to the following Challenge Area 7 questions:
 - a. How does your community educate and enforce proper road use by all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists?
 - i. Answer: We educate and enforce proper road use through the bike rodeo, passing out informational brochures, and displaying the 3’- “It’s the Law” signs. Potential improvements on this front include asking police to enforce rules for cyclists (i.e. warning/ticketing when not stopping at an intersection with stop signs), setting up a bike obstacle course at elementary schools, sending out an email blast with links to road safety videos, and having a bike checkpoint to educate cyclists (similar to sobriety checks).
 - b. Discuss how education and enforcement goals can be prioritized through data analysis. How do you use crash (or other) data to identify high risk locations and determine what education and enforcement efforts are needed?
 - i. Answer: We are not using data analysis to prioritize education and enforcement, but would like to do so in the future.
 - c. Discuss the synergy between education and enforcement (behavioral) activities and roadway (infrastructure) changes. Have education and enforcement activities helped to identify locations where roadway changes are needed? Have education and enforcement activities been conducted to publicize (or enhance the impact of) roadway changes, as these changes are being made? In what ways do education and enforcement stakeholders coordinate and collaborate with stakeholders involved in planning and making roadway changes? Are there ways in which this coordination and collaboration can be enhanced?
 - i. Answer: We would like to use future roadway changes to educate the public about proper road use for all users. Police involvement is important, and we would like a member of the Norwalk Police Department’s bike force on our Taskforce to increase collaboration efforts.

6. Jud Aley and Colin Grotheer will head the committee to work on the creation of one north/south and one east/west bike route in 2016.
7. Tim Callahan, Tilly Hatcher, Colin Grotheer, and Nancy Rosett recapped their meeting to discuss the Discover CT bike ride. They determined a 10-mile and 25-mile bike route for the event. The group agreed to host the event as late as early November 2016. Tilly and Nancy will work on the event application this week after meeting with Mayor Rilling.
8. Colin Grotheer completed a draft op-ed piece based on the Taskforce's talking points. Tilly Hatcher, Mike Mushak, and Ian Ray will review and edit. The group agreed that it should be no longer than 1 page.
9. The State is updating its Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan and would like to increase efforts in urban Western Connecticut / Fairfield County. Jim Carter will attend future meetings and update the Taskforce on the Plan's changes.
10. Nancy Rosett shared the Community Connectivity Program brochure and Road Safety Audit (RSA) application. The Taskforce agreed that Norwalk should apply for the RSA of West Avenue. Nancy will speak with Bruce Chimento prior to applying to ensure the City is not already completing a RSA for this road. If West Avenue is already being audited, Route 7, Route 1, and East Avenue were suggested as other options.
11. Mike Mushak shared that there is now a 5-foot sidewalk clearance requirement on all new zoning applications.
12. Mike Mushak shared that there will be an easement for the NRVT along the north side of Grist Mill Village.
13. Mike Mushak shared his concerns about Norwalk Community College's plans for a pedestrian bridge, questioning whether the plans included removing the existing crosswalk from Richards Avenue. He suggested creating parking decks and treat/filter the runoff from the parking lots into the river.

The Taskforce unanimously agreed that it is against the removal of the Richards Avenue crosswalk. Students use this crosswalk daily, and it is part of a NorWalker Route. Even with a pedestrian bridge, the crosswalk's removal would threaten pedestrian safety.
14. Mike Mushak shared that he and Peter Libre planned to meet with the Marvin Beach Association on February 2, 2016 to discuss Gregory Boulevard, and that Bruce Chimento supports 10' driving lanes with 5' bike lanes on this road.
15. There is a meeting at 6pm at City Hall on February 2, 2016 regarding the East Avenue widening project. All Taskforce members were urged to attend and voice their opinion on the project. Mike Mushak shared a drawing of his opinion of what East Avenue could look like if a Complete Streets approach is taken.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.