

**City of Norwalk
Norwalk Bike/Walk Taskforce
Meeting Agenda
March 7, 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, Jud Aley, Jonathan McMenamin-Balano, Mike Mushak, Sue Smith, Gunnar Waldman

1. The February 2016 minutes passed unanimously.
2. Present members reviewed feedback from the strategic plan vetting sessions. The next stakeholder vetting sessions are:
 - a. March 10 – Public sessions, 11am and 5pm at the Norwalk Health Department
 - b. March 17 – Norwalk Community College Wellness Committee, 2:30pm at NCC
 - c. March 28—Neighborhood Association, 7pm at City Hall
3. The city submitted the Community Connectivity Program application on February 28, 2016. Nancy will keep the Taskforce updated on the application's status.
4. Mike Mushak and Peter Libre met with Marvin Beach Association's executive board and they are supportive of making lower Gregory Boulevard a no parking zone with bike lanes. Kevin Kane will speak with Shore and Country about supporting the project, and will discuss talking points with Mike Mushak.
5. Calf Pasture Beach Road will be repaved this spring and will have two 10' travel lanes and 5' bike lanes where they will fit, and 4' bike lanes elsewhere.
6. The Healthy for Life Project (of which the Norwalk Health Department is a member) is launching its new and improve NorWALKer Routes program on Saturday, April 9th from 10am-1pm at Veteran's Park. BWTF members were invited to the event, and to have a booth at the event to distribute bike/pedestrian safety information donated from the Injury Prevention Center of the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Mike and Gunnar offered to man the booth, and Mike kindly offered to provide tents for the event, if needed.
7. Sue Smith from Bike/Walk Connecticut shared that the Discover CT Rides will take place in Glastonbury on 9/11/16 and New Britain on 9/25/16. Norwalk submitted an application to be the third ride location, but recently withdrew. The Taskforce and Bike/Walk Connecticut hope that Norwalk reapplies for 2017.

Sue also shared that Bike/Walk Connecticut has been advocating for HB5403 ("An act increasing penalties for failure to yield to pedestrians in crosswalk and failure to exercise due care to avoid hitting a pedestrian or cyclist.") to pass. She will keep us updated.

The Bike/Walk Connecticut Board meeting is on Wednesday, 3/9/16. Sue will share information on the NorWALKer launch event, our request for information on similar bike/walk groups in Connecticut, and our difficulty with getting state approval for bike infrastructure in Norwalk with the Board at this time.

8. Colin Grotheer shared his draft op-ed piece. Members were asked to send any correction requests to Colin via email. The Taskforce plans to publish this piece as an introductory article, and then publish new

articles monthly.

9. Using www.ridewithgps.com, Colin Grotheer mapped a North-South and East-West bicycle route that the Taskforce would like to see installed in 2016. The North-South route starts at the New Canaan border (New Canaan Ave) and ends at Rowayton Ave. The East-West route starts at Rowayton Ave and ends at the Westport border (Saugatuck Ave).

The Taskforce will share this information with DPW at the next Friday morning meeting.

10. Kaitlin Latham led a discussion of the next Mayor's Challenge – Challenge Area 3: Gather and Track Data. Members responded to the following questions:
 - a. What are our current activities related to and gathering and tracking walking and biking data? How do we want to use that data? What opportunities to expand or initiate data gathering and tracking? What are some potential challenges and/or constraints?
 - i. Lack of funding is a major constraint.
 - ii. Strava could be a helpful data source, but it costs money that the Taskforce doesn't have.
 - iii. Mike Mushak suggested that new zoning applications require bike/ped counts in order to establish baselines. Tilly Hatcher said this information would be useful for developers so they can show that their design increased bike/ped traffic.
 - iv. NCC Architecture and Design students can be helpful in taking bike/ped counts.
 - v. Survey asking people to comment on their walking/biking route's safety, cleanliness, etc.
 - b. Potential partners, opportunities to leverage other activities and resources?
 - i. NCC students are potential partners.
 - ii. David Marcus – creator of the Livable Norwalk Facebook groups – might be a good resource.
 - iii. American Community Survey
11. Kaitlin Latham shared information on a Complete Streets workshop, hosted by the National Complete Streets Coalition. The workshop would take place in Norwalk at a time of our choosing. Kaitlin will set up a conference call with the organizer so Taskforce members can learn more and ask questions.
12. Jonathan McMenamin-Balano shared that members of the Taskforce met with NCC's president in February, and the entire pedestrian bridge project on Richards Avenue is on hold indefinitely.
13. Kevin Kane has been working hard at creating a OneNote platform for the Bike/Walk Taskforce. He provided an overview of the program and plans to share the link with the entire Taskforce shortly. Due to technical difficulties, City of Norwalk employees are not able to access the Taskforce's OneNote page. The Health Department's IT manager will work on correcting this issue.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.