

City of Norwalk
Norwalk Bike/Walk Commission
Meeting Agenda
October 2nd, 2017, 6:00 pm
Health Department, 2nd Floor Library
137 East Avenue, Norwalk CT 06851

1. 6:00 Approval of September 5th minutes (See attached)
2. 6:05 Subcommittee Reports
 - a. 6:05 DPW Liaison - Nancy Rosett (See attached)
 - b. 6:15 NCC – Colin Grotheer
 - c. 6:25 Bike Share – Nancy Rosett
 - d. 6:30 Website – Kaitlin Latham
 - e. 6:40 Strategic Plan – Nancy Rosett
3. 6:45 Discussion of Rules of Operation – Nancy Rosett
4. 7:00 Walking Update (See attached) – Kaitlin Latham
5. 7:10 Walkway Closure over the Yankee Doodle Bridge – Bruce Chimento
6. 7:15 Traffic Calming Request on Maple Street – Jud Aley
7. 7:20 Bicycle Facility Painting and Signage Priorities (See attached) – Peter Libre
8. 7:30 Adjournment

Next meeting:

6:00 – 7:30 pm

Health Department, 2nd Floor Library

Attachment 1

**City of Norwalk
Norwalk Bike/Walk Taskforce
Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2017, 6:00pm
Health Department, 2nd Floor Library
137 East Avenue, Norwalk CT 06851**

Attendees: Nancy Rosett, Peter Libre, Jud Aley, Peter Franz, Diane Luricella, Colin Grotheer

1. The minutes from the August 7th meeting was approved.
2. The minutes from the August meeting with DPW and BWTF were reviewed. There is a concern about bike lanes at intersections such as Strawberry Hill and County Street, Strawberry Hill and Dairy Farm Road and Water Street and Washington Street. Some ideas were putting bike lane symbols at the intersections or replacing the single cat tracks with double cat tracks so it's obvious a bike lane is crossing. It was also suggested that we point out to DPW that a smaller turning radius is safer for pedestrians.

3. The walking update:

Kaitlin is heading to the National Walking Summit this month to present on the success of the NorWALKer program. Here's a link to the conference program: <http://walkingsummit.org/2017-program-agenda>. If anyone has a particular interest in a session, let me know and I'll do my best to attend or at least grab some information for you.

Community walks:

- Wednesday, August 30, 6:15pm at Calf Pasture Beach. Meet at concert stage.
 - Saturday, September 2, 8:00am in Silvermine. Meet at Silvermine School parking lot.
 - TENTATIVE, will update if date changes] Saturday, September 30, 8:30am in West Norwalk. Meet at Fox Run School parking lot.
 - East Norwalk and South Norwalk walks are on hiatus due to walk leaders being on vacation. Walks should pick up again in the fall.
 - If anyone wants to start up a community walking program in their neighborhood, please contact Kaitlin at klatham@norwalkct.org.
4. Nancy reported the Common Council approved the creation of the Bike/Walk Advisory Commission at its August meeting. The Mayor has sent his seven appointees (Peter Libre, Nancy Rosett, Kevin Kane, Peter Franz, Mike Heslin, Jud Aley and Colin Grotheer) to the Common Council for their approval at its September 12th meeting.

5. Based on the favorable response to the survey about bringing a bike share program to Norwalk, the committee has sent a questionnaire to the vendors we know about. The committee is meeting tomorrow to decide next steps.
6. Redevelopment is looking for a vendor working for the Board of Education to perform the fix on the bike trough.
7. It was agreed that France Street and West Rocks should be considered as a single road. Nancy will contact DPW to find out when West Rocks is scheduled for repaving. Peter Libre pointed out that if we don't do something soon on France Street, people will get used to parking on the road and it will be more difficult to put bike lanes there in the future. Based on that information, we'll decide what makes sense for that road. Since we were talking about West Rocks, Colin Grotheer pointed out that the crosswalk at Jarvis needs to be repainted as it's very faded and school children walking to Tracey Elementary, West Rocks Middle and All Saints schools.
8. Jud Aley said crossing Wall Street at Knight is very dangerous. Nancy Rosett will put this on the agenda for our next Friday meeting with DPW.
9. Nancy Rosett reviewed the progress on our strategic plan. Colin Grotheer suggested we develop a card for bike shops to hand out to their customers based on the educational materials we're developing for our website. It would be good to have one side in English and one in Spanish.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Attachment 2a

Norwalk Department of Public Works and Norwalk Bike/Walk Task Force Meeting September 15, 2017

Attending: Nancy Rosett, Paul Sotnik, Jud Aley, Peter Libre, Bruce Chimento, Colin Grotheer, Kevin Kane

Current Projects:

- DPW is working to update the current bike plan map as well as developing a second map showing only existing facilities which would be more useful to people looking for areas to ride in.
- Peter suggested a mini roundabout at the intersection of Cove and Fifth. That would require OSTA approval since it's a traffic control device.
- DPW has funding for an off-road bike path along Seaview on the south side. They don't anticipate building it until late 2018 or early 2019. It was suggested putting it close to the road might be attractive to both recreational and commuting cyclists. Bruce said even without a bike lane, there would still need to be at least a 2' shoulder eastbound.
- Concern was expressed that nothing be done on West Av for the Pinnacle project that would preclude bike lanes on West Av when the entire road is repaved. Bruce is considering an 11' bike lane up the middle of West Av from Belden to Mathews Park.
- ConnDOT is milling and repaving Route 1 from the Darien line to Belden. Bruce has asked District 3 and Newington if they could narrow the lanes to make 4' shoulders on either side. Peter asked if they would consider 5' shoulders - not painted as bike lanes as that's a show stopper. 5' lanes would also provide room for bus pullovers.
- ConnDOT will be closing the walkway over the Yankee Doodle Bridge for a few months as part of their project on the bridge. They have offered a 24 hour shuttle which the group felt was excessive.

We have \$89,337.30 remaining in the capital budget. Nancy will organize a conference call to discuss our priorities.

We also discussed ways to make the intersections of bike lanes such as at Strawberry Hill and County St safer as well as making the eastern end of Wall St safer for pedestrians to cross. DPW will look at ways to slow down traffic coming down the East Wall St hill.

Attachment 4

Walking Update

- Kaitlin Latham attended the National Walking Summit in St. Paul, MN in September, presenting on the success of the NorWALKer program and the community walks that have come from that initiative. The crowd was extremely impressed with the support the City has shown for improving walkability and promoting physical activity, and were even a bit jealous that our walking program was so coordinated! The NorWALKer poster that was presented is attached.

- Confirmed community walks for October:

- Silvermine: Saturday, October 7, 8am at Silvermine School ([Link](#))
- We'll provide updates on South Norwalk, East Norwalk, and West Norwalk walks at the meeting, as these walks are not confirmed at this time.

Norwalk Hospital, now fronting Maple Street, requests traffic calming

By Robert Koch

Published 6:05 pm, Tuesday, September 26, 2017

NORWALK — With cars flying down the hill, crossing Maple Street at Prospect Street on foot near Norwalk Hospital can mean taking one's life into one's hands, according to hospital employees.

Two doctors and the hospital's attorney made their case to the Norwalk Traffic Authority on Monday afternoon for installing a crosswalk — or some other traffic-calming measure — to tame motorists speeding down Maple Street.

About 100 Norwalk Hospital employees and their families live in two hospital-owned apartment buildings on Prospect Street and must cross Maple Street to get to and from work.

"They're crossing that street at all hours, day and night, because they're working 24/7 to take their patients at the hospital," said Dr. Eunice Kang, program director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program. "I'm just concerned about the increase in traffic and people can fly down that hill, especially if there's a little bit of snow or ice, it's really easy to lose control."

Hospital employees aren't the only people risking their lives when crossing Maple Street at Prospect Street. Kang said a pedestrian was struck by a motor vehicle at the intersection two years ago, suffered serious injuries and had to be air-lifted to Yale New Haven Hospital, which has a level one trauma center.

Shift to Maple Street

Norwalk Hospital, now part of the Western Connecticut Health Care Network, emerged two years ago from a \$102 million expansion that shifted the bulk of the hospital's services to Maple Street.

"We enter most of our activity at the hospital now on Maple Street," said Frank Zullo, attorney for the hospital. "So we have the McGraw Center and the main entrance to the hospital and the ambulatory (center) entrance on Maple Street."

In addition, the hospital relocated its Whittingham Cancer Center from Stevens to Maple Street, and doubled the size its emergency room, which has always been located along Maple Street.

Zullo said the two 40-unit apartment buildings owned by the hospital on Prospect Street house hospital resident students and students enrolled at the University of Vermont. Earlier this year, WCHN became Connecticut's newest medical school when the state approved the network as a clinical branch campus of the University of Vermont's Lerner College of Medicine.

"We have a population of over 100 persons in these two buildings, and they're constantly moving from the hospital to the buildings, because they're residents, 24/7, and this intersection here creates a problem for pedestrians," Zullo said. "Hopefully the (police) chief and traffic department could come up with something that would ease the safety concerns that we have here."

Dr. Alexander Ho, a third-year resident student at the hospital, said students cross Maple Street throughout the day and often must wait a long time before venturing across the roadway.

"Depending on the time of day you cross, you wait five or 10 minutes just to wait for safe (circumstances)," Ho said. "The cars travel very quickly being that the road is on a hill." City to explore options

Therein lies the problem with painting a crosswalk or installing stop signs, according to Fred Eshraghi, traffic engineer in the Norwalk Department of Public Works. He noted that the nearest stop sign lies past the top of the hill — at Magnolia Street — or about 600 feet up from Prospect Street.

"That 600 (feet) is a good amount of distance for the cars to speed up. So to bring them down to the speed that they can stop for the pedestrian to cross is a little bit difficult," Eshraghi said. "Definitely we could put the crosswalk, but this crosswalk is going to be unprotected and it's very dangerous as well because we have this 600 feet for the traffic coming down."

Placing stop signs at Prospect Street would pose "another issue" for motorists driving Maple Street in snow and ice during the winter, according to Eshraghi.

Director of Public Works Bruce Chimento said he and Michael Yeosock, the department's assistant principal engineer, visited the area to see where signed crosswalks could be installed.

“We have to do something, to look at it again and study it,” Chimento said. “We looked at putting crosswalks in and where we could put them in. Again, we have to meet ADA requirements. I think a couple spots need ADA ramps to be put in there. We’ll see about putting those in and we’ll do a whole study for it and come back to you guys.”

Mayor Harry Rilling, chairman of the three-member Traffic Authority, is awaiting the results of that study.

“I think we all agree something has to happen here,” Rilling said.

Attachment 7

Bicycle Facility Painting and Signage Priorities

Sunset: bike lane east to Beacon; sharrow west from Beacon to East: \$300

Beacon: sharrows southbound, and north bound from Sunset to Willow; bike lane north Willow to Strawberry Hill: \$1000

West Rocks: bike lanes except sharrow southbound from Jarvis to France: \$16,000

Richards: paint bike lane symbols in existing shoulders Route 1 to Cedar; paint bike lanes from Cedar to Flax Hill: \$2500

East Ave: southbound bike lane on west side from Cottage Street to Seaview: \$500