

Wethersfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee  
Meeting #20

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Thursday January 14, 2021

# Introductions

- Peter Gillespie – Planning and Economic Development Director
- Kevin Sullivan - Bike/Walk Wethersfield
- Rob O'Connor – Bike/Walk Wethersfield



# Tonight's Agenda

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- Meeting Notes – Meeting #19 – December Meeting
- Draft Plan
  - Chapter 10 - Actions/Recommendations \*
  - Implementation Plan
- Update Bike/Ped Projects
- Other Business
- Next Meeting Date – February 11, 2021

# Meeting Notes

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December 2020 Meeting

# Draft Plan Status

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- Sections 1 – 9 have been posted on Town website
- <https://wethersfieldct.gov/bike-pedplan>

# Draft Plan Status

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- Section 1 - Acknowledgements
- Section 2 - Intro Executive Summary
- Section 3 - Benefits
- Section 4 - Community Involvement
- Section 5 - Vision and Goals
- Section 6 - Existing Plans
- Section 7 - Existing Programs
- Section 8 - Existing Conditions
- Section 9 - ADA Transition Plan

# Chapter 10 - *Actions/Recommendations*

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- Policies and Programs (6 E's)
- Pedestrian Facilities/Network
- Bicycle Facilities/Network
- Other Facilities (Racks, Bus Shelters)

# Policies and Program Recommendations (6 E's)

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1. Engineering (14)
2. Education (8)
3. Encouragement (18)
4. Enforcement (6)
5. Equity (5)
6. Evaluation (16)

# Recommendations/Implementation Plan

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- Priority A, B or C
- Description of Recommendation
- Lead
- Partners (Council, PZC, Engineering, Police, Physical Services, Bike/Walk W etc...)
- Target Date/Timing - TBD
- Funding and Source ( CIP, DOT, Grant) - TBD

# Prioritization Criteria

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With limited resources which projects have biggest impact and are higher priority?

- **A** – Highest Priority – Biggest Impact
- **B** – Medium Priority – Medium Impact
- **C** – Lower Priority – Little Impact

# Prioritization Criteria

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1. **Safety** – Impacts on Safety Improvements
2. **Equity** – Impacts on vulnerable or choice limited populations
3. **Feasibility** – Barriers to Implementation
4. **Opportunity** – Existing programs versus new programs
5. **Costs** – Implementation and Maintenance

## **PARTNERS (27)**

BPAC – Bike Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
CHC – Cedar Hill Cemetery  
COC - Chamber of Commerce  
CTDOT – Connecticut Department of Transportation  
GMCT – Great Meadows Conservation Trust  
HC – Heritage Commission  
PED – Planning and Economic Development  
PR – Parks and Recreation  
PZC – Planning and Zoning Commission  
SS – Social Services  
TE – Town Engineer  
WACPD - Wethersfield Advisory Commission For  
Person’s With Disabilities  
WHS – Wethersfield Historical Society  
WPD – Wethersfield Police Department

BWW - Bike Walk Wethersfield  
CCHD – Central Connecticut Health Distr.  
CRCOG – Capital Region Council of Govt.  
GHTD – Greater Hartford Transit District  
HA – Housing Authority  
OWSA – OW Shopkeepers Association  
PMO – Property Maintenance Officer  
PS – Physical Services  
RR – Riverfront Recapture  
TC - Town Council  
TM – Town Manager  
  
WL – Wethersfield Library  
WSS – Wethersfield School System

## Evaluation

Priority	Description	Target Date	Funding	Leader	Partners			
<b>A</b>	1. Implement the new complete streets policy for the planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation of new and retrofit transportation facilities, to safely accommodate access and mobility by pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit users, and motorists of all ages and abilities.			<b>BPAC</b>	TE	PED		
<b>A</b>	2. Create a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.			<b>TC</b>	TM	PD	PED	TE
<b>A</b>	3. Evaluate the existing sidewalk snow removal policy and enforcement program to encourage more timely and effective compliance.			<b>TC</b>	TM	PD	PS	
<b>A</b>	4. Establish a program to implement and monitor the SRTS recommendations for each elementary school and the Middle school.			<b>WSS</b>	PD	TE	PTO	
<b>B</b>	5. Establish a GIS database to monitor all pedestrian and bicycle improvement projects including: sidewalk locations, conditions, ADA curb ramps, marked crosswalks, signs, sidewalk improvements, ped/bike counts and ped/bike crashes etc...			<b>TE</b>	BPAC	PED	PS	
<b>A</b>	6. Review the language in the zoning regulations, subdivision regulations and Town Code as it pertains to sidewalk improvements, repair, liability and funding and make changes necessary to support this plan.			<b>PZC</b>	PED	TM	<u>TC</u>	<u>TE</u>
<b>A</b>	7. Include a bicycle parking requirement in the parking section of the zoning regulations for future development projects.			<b>PZC</b>	PED	TE	BPAC	
<b>B</b>	8. Review the effectiveness of the sidewalk maintenance/repair program to consider a cost sharing formula with residents.			<b>TC</b>	TM	TE		
<b>B</b>	9. Review the effectiveness of the existing part-time sidewalk enforcement program.			<b>TE</b>	TM	TC		

## Evaluation

Priority	Description	Target Date	Funding	Leader	Partners
<b>B</b>	10. Evaluate the vegetation removal/tree trimming program <u>to insure that</u> obstructions, overhangs and hazards are removed in a timely manner.			<b>TM</b>	TM PD PMO TE
<b>B</b>	11. Review the existing posted speed limits on all local streets and consider changes where appropriate			<b>PD</b>	TE CTDOT BPAC
<b>B</b>	12. Establish baseline data and to regularly measure the number of bicyclists and pedestrians			<b>BPAC</b>	PED CRCOG
<b>A</b>	13. Track and evaluate bicycle and pedestrian crashes, including crashes that do not involve a motor vehicle; <u>take action</u> to address problems that led to the crashes			<b>BPAC</b>	WPD TE
<b>B</b>	14. Explore demand for recreational bicycle facilities such as BMX parks, etc.			<b>PR</b>	BPAC
<b>A</b>	15. Produce an annual report of Wethersfield's Bicycle and Pedestrian accomplishments.			<b>BPAC</b>	PED TE
<b>A</b>	16. Aggressively pursue grant funding for top projects on the prioritized list of bicycle and pedestrian improvements.			<b>BPAC</b>	BWW TE PED

## Education

Priority	Description	Target Date	Funding	Leader	Partners			
<b>A</b>	1. Create programs to teach adults about the foundations of bicycle road riding and improve their cycling skills.			<b>BPAC</b>	PR	BWW		
<b>A</b>	2. Establish pedestrian education programs, classes or clinics.			<b>BPAC</b>	PR	BWW		
<b>A</b>	3. Continue to work with the Wethersfield school system to expand the bicycle and walking training and education for children into the curriculum.			<b>BWW</b>	WSS			
<b>B</b>	4. Establish an education and media campaign targeted to property owners to inform about responsibilities for sidewalk maintenance and snow removal.			<b>TM</b>	PS	WPD	TE	
<b>B</b>	5. Educate motorists about sharing the road with cyclists.			<b>WPD</b>				
<b>B</b>	6. Provide educational materials and brochures about the dangers of speeding or other violations, especially in school areas, at major community gathering locations such as the Library, commercial businesses, churches, shops and Town buildings			<b>WPD</b>	TM	WSS	WL	
<b>A</b>	7. Send staff to bicycle and pedestrian specific conferences, training opportunities etc...			<b>TM</b>	TE	PS	PED	
<b>B</b>	8. Provide comprehensive pedestrian and bicyclist safety training to police officers			<b>WPD</b>	BWW			

## Encouragement

3

Priority	Description	Target Date	Funding	Leader	Partners			
<b>A</b>	1. Support, host and organize programs and events that encourage bicycling and walking in Wethersfield such as Walk to Work/School Days, the Walking School Bus, National Walking Day, National Bike Month, contests, organized bike rides, walking tours, walking groups, bike groups and other initiatives to encourage children, parents, seniors and others to walk or bicycle.			<b>BWW</b>	TC	TM PR	WPD HC	WHS GMCT
<b>B</b>	2. Seek Bicycle Friendly Community designation from the league of American Bicyclists.			<b>BWW</b>	PED	TE		
<b>B</b>	3. Seek Walk Friendly Community designation from Walk Friendly Communities.			<b>BWW</b>	PED	TE		
<b>B</b>	4. Encourage existing businesses and commercial property owners to provide safe, secure, weather-protected parking for bicycles whenever feasible.			<b>PED</b>	BWW	COC		
<b>B</b>	5. Prepare a policy brochure to provide information on the appropriate recommendations for the preferred location and design of bicycle parking.			<b>BWW</b>	PED			
<b>A</b>	6. Encourage the Police Department to develop a culture about bike and pedestrian safety as an important public safety issue.			<b>WPD</b>	TM	BWW		
<b>A</b>	7. Create quarterly press releases and a series of public service announcement series on bicyclist and pedestrian safety to local media.			<b>BWW</b>	WPD			
<b>A</b>	8. Publicize the Town's Program that allows bicyclists, pedestrians and others to alert DPS to any poor maintenance conditions or hotspots for improvements such as potholes, damaged sidewalks, etc.			<b>PS</b>	BWW	TE		
<b>B</b>	9. Establish an annual budget appropriation specifically designated for bicycle and pedestrian improvements.			<b>TC</b>	TM	TE	PS	

## Encouragement

3

Priority	Description	Target Date	Funding	Leader	Partners
<b>A</b>	10. Highlight bicycling and walking in all tourist promotional materials			<b>HC</b>	BWW PED
<b>B</b>	11. Assist businesses in applying for the League of American Bicyclists "Bicycle Friendly Business" designation			<b>BWW</b>	PED COC
<b>A</b>	12. Create a bicycle map for distribution in print and electronically for download to popular bicyclist Town/Local Advocacy Groups such as Map My Ride, GPS and mobile applications			<b>BWW</b>	TE PED
<b>A</b>	13. Designate a staff person to initiate the actions necessary to fulfill the vision, goals, and recommendations of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.			<b>TM</b>	TC
<b>A</b>	14. The Historical Society, Great Meadows Conservation Trust and Cedar Hill Cemetery Foundation should continue and expand their excellent walking tours of the Town, encouraging residents and visitors to learn about the community's history.			<b>HC</b>	WHS GMCT CHC
<b>A</b>	15. Use the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master plan during project and development review for opportunities to implement the recommendations.			<b>PZC</b>	PED TE
<b>A</b>	16. Support the Annual Bike Festival Event.			<b>BWW</b>	TC
<b>B</b>	17. Expand the low-cost Bicycle Helmet program to include <u>reflective materials</u> and personal lights for evening walking and cycling.			<b>CCHD</b>	BWW
<b>A</b>	18. Create a public parking map to identify public parking and bicycle parking in Old Wethersfield.			<b>PED</b>	HC OWSA

## Enforcement

3

Priority	Description	Target Date	Funding	Leader	Partners			
<b>A</b>	1. Target enforcement efforts and police presence at identified intersections and streets where speeding or driving behaviors have been identified in response to neighborhood concerns.			<b>PD</b>	TM	BPAC		
<b>A</b>	2. Assign a police officer to coordinate all bicycle and pedestrian <u>safety</u> , enforcement and street improvement activities and to work with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission.			<b>PD</b>	TM			
<b>B</b>	3. Establish enforcement efforts that are related to cycling and pedestrian infractions.			<b>PD</b>	BPAC	BWW		
<b>A</b>	4. An emphasis should be placed on citing those who park on sidewalks, as this violation often deters individuals from walking.			<b>PD</b>	TM			
<b>A</b>	5. Enforce strict compliance with ordinance prohibiting projections or encumbrances upon any street, sidewalk or public easement that impedes pedestrian or bicycle traffic			<b>PD</b>	TE	PS	PMO	
<b>B</b>	6. Establish a Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program to be responsive to concerns from residents and property owners regarding traffic speeds and volumes, safety, and the quality of life within residential neighborhoods.			<b>PD</b>	TE	PED	PS	

## Equity

3

Priority	Description	Target Date	Funding	Leader	Partners			
<b>B</b>	1. Evaluate the location of all CT Transit bus stops as it relates to the provision of bus shelters, safe and accessible waiting areas, crosswalks, sidewalk connections and space for buses to pull off the road to pick-up/drop-off riders.			<b>TE</b>	PED	GH TD		
<b>B</b>	2. Ensure that bus route maps and schedules are readily available in multiple languages for potential riders.			<b>GHTD</b>	SS			
<b>A</b>	3. Evaluate the connectivity of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure to all low-moderate income housing developments.			<b>PED</b>	HA	TE		
<b>B</b>	4. Implement projects from the ADA Transition Plan particularly infrastructure improvement projects where non-compliant ADA curb ramps, sidewalks and crosswalks exist.			<b>TE</b>	WACPD			
<b>B</b>	5. Install bicycle and pedestrian facilities in all parts of Town.			<b>PED</b>	BWW	TE	TC	

## Engineering

3

Priority	Description	Target Date	Funding	Leader	Partners		
<b>B</b>	1. Integrate Complete Streets infrastructure and design features into street design and construction			<b>TE</b>	BWW	BPAC	PED
<b>B</b>	2. Implement the bicycle and pedestrian network as identified in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.			<b>BPAC</b>	TE	PED	
<b>B</b>	3. Continue to update pedestrian and bicycle signage and markings to current standards.			<b>BPAC</b>	TE	PS	
<b>B</b>	4. Install additional public bike maintenance stations.			<b>BPAC</b>	PS	CCHD	
<b>B</b>	5. Install bicycle and pedestrian wayfinding signage.			<b>BPAC</b>	TE	PS	PED
<b>A</b>	6. Inspect and restripe bicycle and pedestrian facilities annually.			<b>TE</b>			
<b>B</b>	7. Conduct a comprehensive sidewalk conditions inventory and survey.			<b>TE</b>	BPAC	PS	
<b>B</b>	8. Create and fund a sidewalk gap program.			<b>TC</b>	TM	TE	
<b>B</b>	9. Re-examine the Heritage Way Bike Trail to implement enhancements including drainage, surface treatment, signage etc...			<b>BPAC</b>	TE	PS	
<b>A</b>	10. Continue to incorporate the reconstruction of non-compliant curb ramps and sidewalks into Town infrastructure projects.			<b>TE</b>	PS		
<b>B</b>	11. Work with neighboring communities to establish a trail system along the Connecticut River and through the Meadows.			<b>BPAC</b>	CRCOG	RFR	TE PED
<b>B</b>	12. Install bicycle parking and other bicycle storage at all existing public buildings, schools, recreational facilities, community facilities and <u>high density</u> multi-family residential developments.			<b>BPAC</b>	TM	TE	PS

## Engineering

3

Priority	Description	Target Date	Funding	Leader	Partners
<b>B</b>	13. Create a tree planting program for all major street corridors.			<b>PS</b>	TW PED TE
<b>B</b>	14. Expand funding to enhance Town street tree planting program.			<b>TC</b>	TW PS TM

# Next Meeting

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- **Implementation Plan**
  - Maps
  - Specific Recommendations/Improvements
  - Costs/Funding (CIP, DOT, Grant)
  - Timing (Short, Medium or Long Term)
  - Phasing – Corridor Approach
  - Priority (A, B or C)

# Draft Plan - Remaining Tasks/Next Steps

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## Community Involvement

- Public Meetings
- PZC
- Town Council
- Public Hearing
- Adoption of Plan

# Project Updates

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- CCGP Grant – Old Wethersfield
- AARP Community Challenge Grant 2019
- Wolcott Hill Road Improvements
- Highland Street Pavement Rehabilitation
- Hartford Avenue Repaving Project
- Great Meadow Road Improvements – Heritage Way
- Putnam Bridge Trail
- PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program
- CT DOT – Highway Bike Routes

Questions?

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Comments?

# Reminder

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Photographs

Bicycle and Pedestrian Activity

# Next Meeting

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Thursday February 11, 2021

6:30 p.m., Virtual Zoom Meeting