

Complete Streets Committee Minutes for Wednesday, July 2, 2025

Location: In person at City Hall (City Manager's Conference Room) and online

PRESENT

David Ory, voting member, Chair

Scott Richardson, voting member, Co-chair

Nolan Carver, voting member

Holly Fowler, voting member

John Kim, voting member

Hanif Nazerali, voting member (listening online only)

Nancy Schulz, voting member

Corey Line Project Management Director, DPW

Sal Alfano, City Council representative (online)

Donna Bate, MTAC committee member

Richard Amore, Local Motion Complete Streets Program Director

Caroline Grodinsky, citizen

Dana McCarthy, citizen

5:30: Approve June minutes and July Agenda

- Nancy Schulz moved to approve the June minutes.
- Holly Fowler seconded the motion.
- June minutes were unanimously approved.
- David Ory suggested moving the discussion of CSC/MTAC consolidation to the top of the agenda.
- Nancy Schulz moved to approve the amended July agenda.
- Holly Fowler seconded the motion.
- The amended July agenda was unanimously approved.

5:35-6:15: Discussion of CSC/MTAC consolidation

- Two options – merging CSC and MTAC or retaining CSC and dissolving MTAC – were discussed.
- Donna Bate, the current (and only) member of MTAC, stated that she thinks merging committees makes sense.
- David Ory relayed Hanif Nazerali's written comments that merging committees makes sense, but that CSC should be proactive about maintaining its advocacy role. His note also suggested an adjusted

meeting cadence to accommodate both committees' current activities, e.g., focusing exclusively on Complete Streets one month and a MTAC the next.

- Holly Fowler stated that she was in favor of a merger, but that that infrastructure should be folded in under the existing Complete Streets moniker.
- Nancy Schulz, John Kim, Nolan Carver, and Scott Richardson all concurred with merging.
- Corey Line noted that councilor Jim Sheridan suggested that the city council needs to be more proactive in guiding committees on city priorities. Sal Alfano noted that it would also be helpful for CSC to provide feedback and suggestions to the city council.
- Nancy Schulz moved to approve a merger of CSC with MTAC, maintaining the Complete Streets Committee name, with nine voting members with one alternate.
- Holly Fowler seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the committee.

6:15-6:50: Public comment & CSC member announcements

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Nancy Schulz informed the committee Harris Webster, a former active CSC member, just passed away. She recounted that he was a great advocate for pedestrians and played a significant role in helping city staff with inventorying sidewalk conditions throughout Montpelier.
- Nancy Schulz noted that several people have approached her about people riding bikes on the sidewalks downtown. City law states that bicycling on sidewalks in the business district (eg. wherever there is a parking meter) is prohibited.
- Nancy also mentioned that she witnessed an incident in town where a dog accosted a pedestrian on the sidewalk.
- Holly Fowler reported that she received citizen feedback while tabling at the farmer's market regarding the repaving of Granite St., foliage overhanging the sidewalks on Elm St. and along Route 2 that is impeding pedestrians, bike riding on sidewalks, and road erosion near a drain on Court St.
- There was a short discussion of how CSC can respond to direct citizen complaints as well as general complaints on FPF regarding bike/ped issues going forward. David Ory suggested tabling the issue for fuller discussion at the next meeting. In the interim, Nancy agreed to take the lead drafting a sidewalk cycling and dog/pedestrian interaction messages and CSC members can respond as citizens to FPF with factual information as necessary.
- Holly Fowler raised the issue of the possible installation of a fence by the railroad company along the railroad tracks through downtown. Corey Line noted that CSC has some time to discuss before construction is scheduled to begin.

MEMBER RECRUITMENT

- David Ory spoke with a local teen who may be interested in joining the committee as a student liaison.

CITY PLAN

- John Kim has reviewed the city plan and provided a brief report to the CSC. He relayed that there are a number of chapters relevant to CSC, including sections on "Land use", "Transportation", "Economic development" (specifically transportation needs of residents), and "Housing development".

- Corey Line noted that the CSC should begin thinking about how it incorporates the existing plan into its activities going forward.
- John raised the question of how CSC can provide input into future plans.

EVENTS UPDATES

- Bike Rodeo
 - Holly Fowler reported that the event was a success, with good weather, volunteer participation, and attendance of youth ranging in age from 3 1/2 - 11 years old.
 - This year's event was moved to the VT Department of Labor parking lot along the bike path, which turned out to be a better location than the high school parking lot.
 - Community outreach at farmers market and direct marketing to the public proved successful in driving awareness and participation.
 - Corey Line reported that he relayed a big thanks to VT DOL on the committee's behalf.
 - Holly suggested moving the event to an every-other-year cadence, perhaps alternating with an all-ages "learn to ride" event.
- Adult Bike Workshop Series Update
 - Nancy Schulz reported that 15 people in total attended courses, with only four attending the final session. She noted declining participation since last year's series and is not planning to repeat it next year. Caroline Grodinsky mentioned that she has been volunteering leading AARP rides for seniors and sees an opportunity for continued outreach to that group.
 - Nancy also stated that she has compiled a contact list with 135 email address from interested citizens that CSC may be able to use for sparse bike/ped outreach going forward. Holly Fowler mentioned that she has also compiled a list from bike rodeo outreach. Nancy and Holly will work together to merge the lists.

STREET INFRASTRUCTURE AND MAINTENANCE

- The Barre St. cycle track was "reapproved" by city council. Corey noted that he does not have a specific date for implementing temporary solution yet, but it will happen in July. He reported that he will know more about funding for the permanent project in August.
- David Ory has had several conversations with John Snell regarding the East State Street design. David advocated to John that an option that should be considered is adding a bicycle lane, removing on-street parking, and staying in the existing streetscape footprint.
- The new benches downtown were discussed. David and Nancy noted that they provided suggestions for placement as citizens. John Kim mentioned a link to these and other examples of "functional art" in the city plan. Holly Fowler mentioned that this concept was also covered in the Bike Friendly Community Designation application.
- Crosswalk painting has started for the summer and will continue as weather allows.
- The city has procured five Big Belly trash receptacles (two in front of court house, two on the corner by Julios, one by Positive Pie). Corey Line reported that six more (to be placed at three locations), have been ordered. CSC members should bring their suggestions on placement to the next meeting.

LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS BIKE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY DESIGNATION APPLICATION

- Holly Fowler reported that she submitted the application and that is was labor-intensive process.

- She is hopeful that the city should be able to maintain its “bronze” status, but noted that we will need to reestablish “safe routes to schools” compliance to be competitive for “silver” status in the next round.
- She mentioned that she has had a conversation with a potential safe routes to school champion, who is a nurse at the middle school.
- The next step in the process will be a forthcoming survey for residents.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

- Nancy Schulz motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm
- Holly Fowler seconded the motion and the committee approved unanimously.