

Complete Streets Committee Minutes for Wednesday, August 6, 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
Caroline Grodinsky, voting member
Hanif Nazerali, voting member
Nancy Schulz, voting member

Evelyn Prim, City Communications Coordinator (sitting in for Corey Line, DPW)
Dona Bate, MTAC member (pending merger with CSC)

Stephen Whittaker, citizen
Stan Brinkerhoff, citizen (online)

5:30: Approve July minutes ([file](#)) and August agenda ([file](#))

- Nancy Schulz moved to approve the July minutes.
- Hanif Nazerali seconded the motion.
- July minutes were unanimously approved.
- Nancy Schulz moved to approve the August agenda.
- Hanif Nazerali seconded the motion.
- The August agenda was unanimously approved.

5:35-6:00: Public comment & CSC member announcements

- Steve Whittaker commented on the poor condition of sidewalks in town. He suggested that the city has access to LIDAR data of the city's sidewalks, allowing targeted repairs of the worst sections. He suggested that CSC should be advocating to City Council to take action.
- Stephen Whittaker commented that CSC should take a more active role in the planning process for the Country Club Rd property.
- Stephen Whittaker commented on the need for public restrooms to address the city's homelessness problem.
- Hanif Nazerali announced that funding for the bike share scoping study came through. He inquired whether any CSC members are interested in joining a steering committee to select a consultant for the project. David Ory volunteered to review the RFP on behalf of committee.

6:00-6:45: Committee Agenda Items

Status of consolidation with Transportation Advisory Committee

- CSC is waiting on an official decision from city council
- Carolyn was approved to join the CSC by city council

Events

- No items this month

Education

- Approach to Front Porch Forum Communication (FPF)
 - Nancy shared that she has drafted a few educational posts about bike riding on sidewalks and dogs on leashes since the last meeting.
 - Caroline Grodinsky noted that she is in favor of a rapid response strategy to future public comments on FPF.
 - Holly Fowler noted that CSC could be updating its city website more frequently and then directing FPF readers there, rather than needing to provide customized responses to all FPF posts. She also noted that it would be helpful to have standardized responses with links to agendas/minutes and offers for the public to attend upcoming CSC meetings.
 - Evelyn Prim agreed with the strategy of directing FPF readers to a CSC FAQ page. Evelyn and Corey both have ability to edit and update the city's CSC website as additional FAQ items are needed.
 - Hanif Nazerali noted that it was clear to him from last meeting that it's okay for members to respond on behalf of committee when offering facts. If folks want to share opinions, they can respond as citizens.
- Hanif and David suggested that acting chair should field responses on behalf of committee. Nancy and Carolyn are active FPF readers - they will forward issues as they arise.

Advocacy

- Protective fencing around railroad ROW through downtown (Holly, Corey)
 - VT Rail systems owns rail line. Corey shared that they have hired a design consultant and is in active conversations with them.
 - Holly Fowler noted that many community members are likely to care about this issue. She suggested that CSC should be considering collecting stats on railroad usage, ped crossings and accidents in preparation. She also noted that CSC needs to know more about the actual plan and that we should request a presentation from the railway's consultant.
 - Steve Whittaker mentioned that state, not the railroad, controls the ROW and leases it to the railroad, a private entity. Senator Perchlik (aperchlik@leg.state.vt.us ; 802-279-0471) on state transportation committee might be a helpful resource as we learn more about this issue.
 - CSC will await Corey Line's thoughts on if and how CSC can engage on the issue.
- Big Belly trash compactor siting recommendations
 - Nancy Schulz noted that Christ Church has too many receptacles close to each other, but there are trash receptacles needed elsewhere. She sent Corey suggestions on siting that she will forward to the CSC.
 - Nancy also noted that the citizen's group "Trash Tramps" has distributed cigarette "butt buckets" around town to minimize cigarette butt littering, but that people are using the buckets as trash bins due to lack of real trash receptacles.

- Nancy also noted that private citizens have been cleaning Confluence Park, thus masking the need for increased receptacles and pick-ups.
- Stan Brinkerhoff noted that he has been cleaning around Confluence Park and has noticed that the homeless people that congregate there appear to be trying to place trash in bags. He suggested that there is a need for a trash barrel there due the park's increased usage.
- David Ory suggested that the CSC put the issues surrounding the increases use of Confluence Park on the next CSC agenda.
- Stephen Whittaker stated that he believes we need trash barrels on every block downtown and that the city manager and city council should be alerted to this issue.
- Evelyn Prim suggested that addressing infrastructure issues such as the need for additional trash receptacles directly to Corey Lineso would likely yield a more expedited response, as they would not have to compete with numerous other city manager priorities.
- Artful crosswalks collaboration with Montpelier Alive
 - Hanif Nazerali noted that this initiative is good opportunity for CSC to work more closely with Montpelier Alive. He is on the design committee and can share the committee's thoughts on placement and design. He shared two web addresses with examples of this type of project: <https://asphaltart.bloomberg.org/projects/> ; <https://kccitallahassee.com/project/crosswalkstoclassrooms/>
 - Holly agreed that this is a great opportunity to test a collaborative process with Montpelier Alive and to help document the impact of CSC for future grant opportunities.
- Seasonal crosswalk painting update
 - Repainting is underway and Evelyn will share some stats.
- Safe Routes to School
 - Holly met Caitlin Paterson, school nurse, who voiced interested in being a point person for the schools. Holly will invite her to a CSC meeting. She also spoke with Sofia Donforth who is submitting a safe routes to schools grant and is looking to identify opportunities for VEP to partner with communities.
 - Evelyn noted that any city collaboration on a grant needs to be brought to the finance department and city council. She requested that Holly send details to her and Corey and they will forward to the appropriate parties.
- League of American Bicyclists - Bike Friendly Community Designation Survey (Holly)
 - Holly is cleared to share link to survey for bike friendly communities.
- Street Infrastructure & Maintenance
 - Nancy inquired whether the malfunctioning pedestrian signal at Main St. and Barre St. would be addressed soon, or whether we would have to wait for the work on that corner to begin. Evelyn will forward the question to Corey. Evelyn noted that CSC can send similar future requests for DPW news to her going forward.
- Barre St. cycle track
 - Intermediate solution is in place. Keep on agenda for next meeting.
- Cummings Street traffic calming

- David Ory noted that the city has a traffic calming ordinance in place that compels the city to conduct a study when citizens complain. Holly noted that this is a good FAQ to add to the committee's running list.
 - David suggested that it would be preferable to use sidewalks to calm traffic as these issues arise instead of speed humps. He will pull together a few bullet points on this subject for the next CSC meeting.
- Next CSC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 3, 2025 in person at City Hall (City Manager's Conference Room) and online.
 - Scott Richardson will take over as rotating chairperson.
 - David Ory will take over as rotating co-chair.

6:50pm: With no further business to discuss, David Ory closed the meeting by unanimous consent.