

Complete Streets Committee Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Location: In person at City Hall (City Manager's Conference Room) and on-line

Present:

Scott Richardson, voting member
David Ory, voting member
Nolan Carver, voting member
Holly Fowler, voting member
Carolyn Grodinsky, voting member
Hanif Nazerali, voting member, co-chair
Nancy Schulz, voting member, chair
Corey Line, City Representative, Project Management Director, Public Works

Bevin Barber Campbell - Guest Speaker

Unable to attend:

John Kim, voting member
Sara Halstead, no longer a member - resigned.

Sal Alfano, City Councilor

Administration

Introductions

Noted the resignation of Sara Halstead.
This opens a position for an alternate voting member.

Vote to approve December minutes

Scott made the motion, and David seconded, with all in favor.

Vote to approve January agenda

Scott made the motion, and David seconded, with all in favor.

CSC member announcements and public comment

Nancy announced a forthcoming series of 5 speakers at the MSAC 2026 Armchair Travels (Jan-Mar), and circulated a flyer.

Actions from the last meeting

1. Corey drafted CSC suggestions after the discussion on the Main St/Barre St intersection design; Corey will send members that draft, and what was shared in DPW's submission to VTrans Rail Section. Corey noted our suggestion on realignment of crosswalks and sidewalks to ensure safe passage to Shaws (and signage on the multimodal/ shared use path crossing?). Corey will give project updates at CSC meetings as and when available.
2. CSC Budget FY 2027 - Holly requested for \$5,000 (full amount) through City Rep Corey. Expect to hear back by end of January.

"Owl" camera for future CSC meetings (Nancy)

Corey requested from Montpelier Alive. The Owl was in use at this meeting, and Corey will ensure it is available for our subsequent meetings.

Events

Glow Walk report (Carolyn, Holly)

A success! Fifteen people attended the walk (1 hr 15 min). visited most of the illuminated bridges, excepting Spring and Granite. Interesting presentation from Vivian Ladd, Montpelier Alive, on all the bridges. Observing that in general the lack of reflective clothing among pedestrian traffic at night is dismal, there is more to do!

Glow Run update (Holly, Scott)

Next Wednesday January 14th 5:30 Meet at ORO. Promoted through CVRunners, 250 VT. To do: post Montpelier Alive, The Bridge.

Safety, Education and Advocacy

Sidewalks: Bicyclists riding on downtown sidewalks (Carolyn, Scott, Officer Mike Philbrick, MPD)

ACTION: Moved to February agenda. Scott to invite MPD.

Bevin asked for some background, and advised that some cities have "dismount rules" in specified areas.

Bike-Friendly Community (BFC) update (Bevin Barber-Campbell)

BFC Application Update: result is not yet out, expected by end January.

Bevin is a biking advocate, with a registered non-profit, currently living in Peacham, while working in Montpelier. Bevin helped Newport with their BFC application. She was a judge for this round of BFC applications, but recused from scoring Montpelier's BFC application.

Able to access our application, Bevin gave thoughts and suggestions on 'low hanging fruit' and initiatives that may improve Montpelier's BFC score looking ahead to future upgrading:

1. HMC covered bike parking. Incentives for employees to bike to work.
2. Celebrate Bike to Work Day, Bike to Shops, Bike to Statehouse Day.

Bevin had some funding success through NEK Climate Catalyst Innovation Fund to start on an initiative 'Ticket to Ride' that aims to promote bicycle commuting and transportation equity across three counties including Washington County. CSC agreed and willing to partner on this initiative. Bevin has on-boarded RCT as a partner in a trial of bike to bus commuting; plans for a pilot cohort, enrolling 'choice riders' from National Life, Cabot Creamery, and other big employers. Her proposal includes e-bike lending for participants in the trial. Bevin circulated a slide deck that gives members the detail.

As a new staff member at Hunger Mountain Co-op, Bevin has asked for meeting with management to look into covered bike parking and a bike to work day.

Crosswalk safety (Hanif, Corey)

Priority crosswalk locations for illumination:

Barre St. between MSAC and the Rec Center (mid block)
Main St. at City Hall (2 crossings, mid block)
State St. at Rialto Bridge (mid block)
Plus four crosswalks at Main and School Streets (intersection)

Hanif heard from Montpelier Alive that there is a \$200k grant for repairs to the City's street lighting following the flooding; asked whether crosswalk illumination could be assessed and improved through this exercise.

ACTION: Corey will investigate, as he is not directly involved.

Corey advised the Committee to broaden the scope for crosswalk safety by requesting a safety assessment of "all unprotected crosswalks downtown". Request assessment of safety, illumination.

ACTION: CSC to draft a letter to City Council indicating lighting, visibility are safety concerns (Corey - first draft for Hanif to review and circulate to members).

Ordinance prohibiting parking within 20 feet of crosswalks (Corey)

Holly shared a link to the ordinance, "Article VII. Parking and Parking Meter Zones". There is a section referring to crosswalks, and also a section providing for safety at intersections. The relevant sections of the ordinance, enacted October 9th 2024, are transcribed here:

Section 10-718B Parking Prohibited at Marked Crosswalks

The City Manager or DPW Director may, upon determining that it is necessary for safety based on existing traffic conditions and sight lines, designate a no parking zone within a distance up to 20 feet from any marked crosswalk.

Section 10-718C Parking Prohibited at Intersections

The City Manager or DPW Director may, upon determining that it is necessary for safety based on existing traffic conditions and sight lines, designate a no parking zone within a distance up to 50 feet of the curbline of another street.

Members agreed to send an email to DPW specifying locations, and explaining the safety concerns.

Infrastructure and Maintenance

Cummings Street and East State Street (final design work ready for review and comment?) (David, Corey)

CC meeting postponed to 21st. Dave Ory asks there be two proposals side by side, including no-cost option replacing on street parking with an uphill bike lane. Corey did not believe this as something DPW could act on. Members agreed that the earlier omission of this option in the consultants / DPW presentation to City Council justified further action. There is need to highlight - the misrepresentation - that providing an uphill bike lane and extension of sidewalk could only be accomplished at an additional cost of \$2 million.

CSC will write a letter requesting this option be considered by Council (ACTION: Dave Ory).

Budget and Funding Opportunities

VTrans small safety improvement grants (Holly)

Corey had the training - this grant is for maintenance only! Due Feb 2 - \$50k, DPW elected To apply for re-striping edging of Class 1 municipal controlled state roads. This will free funds to other priorities.

Holly asked "Who can we work with to have CSC priorities funded?".

City Planning and Zoning Dept has someone focused on funding where municipalities are eligible. CVRPC / Transportation Officer Reuben Macmartin may also be a channel.

Other Business

Nancy asked the Committee to start planning for the Spring 2026 bike safety hands-on training for adults, for discussion at the Feb meeting.

Adjournment

7:00 PM Scott and David made the motion, and seconded, with all in favor.
