

Complete Streets Committee Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, February 4th, 2026 at 5:30 PM

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

Present:

Scott Richardson, voting member
Nolan Carver, voting member
Holly Fowler, voting member
Carolyn Grodinsky, voting member
John Kim, voting member
Hanif Nazerali, voting member, co-chair
Nancy Schulz, voting member, chair
Corey Line, City Representative, Project Management Director, Public Works
Sal Alfano, City Councilor, CSC Liaison

Mike Philbrick, invited guest, Montpelier Police Department (from 6:10 PM)
Stephen Whitaker, public (in person)
Stan Brinkehoff, public (Zoom - later)

Unable to attend:

David Ory, voting member

Open seats:

Alternate, non voting
Student, non-voting

Administration

Opening & Introductions

Nancy opened the meeting at 5:30. All present at that time were introduced.

Vote to approve January minutes

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

Vote to approve February agenda

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

Noted that the meeting will end by 6:30 so as to proceed to the City Council special meeting on East State Street re-build.

CSC member announcements and public comment

Nancy reported on the Osher series at MSAC - Armchair Travels that will continue January-March. Bret Appel will be among those presenting (Feb. 23rd).

Noted that Hanif will assume the rotating chair for March through May. Carolyn volunteered as co-chair for that same period.

Actions from the last meeting

1. Carried forward from previous meetings: Corey drafted CSC suggestions following from 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. At the January meeting CSC agreed the need to draft a letter to City Council indicating lighting, visibility are safety concerns (Corey - first draft for members to review at soonest).
3. CSC Budget FY 2027 - Holly requested for \$5,000 (full amount) through City Rep Corey. The update on the City's budgeting was not covered at this meeting.

Events

Glow Run Report (Holly/Scott):

There was a good turnout on the day, January 14th, and we received the planned support from ORO/ CVRunners/ 250 VT. This marks the end of the Be Bright at Night series for 2025/2026. Noted that following that event Stan B. reported a light out of order to DPW.

Learn to Ride Event Planning (Holly)

Noted that this series will be for all ages, all abilities. The need was triangulated by post-rodeo, and post-safety classes series led by Nancy. We have interests in collaboration from Bevin Barber-Campbell, and from Jeff/ VT Adaptive. CSC decided to alternate this event (2026, 2028, etc.) and the bike rodeo (2025, 2027, etc.). Funding will be needed. Nancy suggested AARP. Noted that we will need to organize competent instructors and trained volunteers.

Safety, Education and Advocacy

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

Scott gave some background to this issue. The ordinance allowed for cycling in the downtown district - that designation no longer holds - roughly the area having metered parking. Holly gave an anecdotal report of an incident on Main St. CSC members may have differing views on which areas are appropriate for this allowance. Nancy is not on board with kids riding on sidewalks; often the issue is limited space, and vulnerable pedestrians.

Mike P. acknowledged the need for the City to draft a change in the ordinance; he advised that if unclear, any ordinance is hard to enforce. In this case, appropriate signage, education, and advocacy would be important before police officers could comfortably approach/ warn according to ordinance. Mike acknowledged the changing situation with bicyclists since the advent of electric assist bikes. Speed is also an issue with standard bikes. Parents walking alongside their biking kids should not cause a problem. Steve W. brought up other 'wheeled-users', such as skateboarders. Mike P. noted that the skateboarding ordinance was a recent (rewritten?) ordinance.

Scott asked if there were reported accidents on sidewalks? Mike P. replied, no, reports related to DIU (driving under the influence) mainly. Otherwise, not reportable by the State of VT. Noted that reckless behavior may be reported, and recorded, at the discretion of MPD.

ACTION: City Council will need to re-write giving new definitions, and areas included. Sal A. was present. With increasing use of shared paths, and prevalence of electric assist technologies, emerging (re-)classification of e-bikes, new regulations may be needed regarding helmet use, and speed limitation to ensure safety to self and others. CSC will take up any required (CSC) actions at the next meeting.

Bike-Friendly Community (BFC) update (Holly)

The League of American Bicyclists reinstated Montpelier's 2017 BFC Bronze status for a 4-year period.

Noted that while Safe Routes to School was part of the 2017 application, the program was not maintained (by 2019!). Last year, CSC tried to resume the program, with support of Melanie Grubman at Local Motion, and contact with our schools, without success. This remains a key initiative for CSC if we are to achieve Silver.

Holly will have access to the detailed public responses to the BFC survey, which may have been an important consideration in the BFC award. Hanif also sees the residents and users' survey responses as important, and these voices could be part of a future in-depth article.

What channels should we use to publicize our BFC Bronze status?

Carolyn suggested The Bridge – 'Heard on the Street' column, also the Montpelier Alive newsletter.

Action: Holly indicated she could draft a press release for the City, as well as routine channels from FreeRide, ORO and others.

Sidewalk illumination (Hanif/ Corey)

Hanif reiterated that the hope was this issue could be included as part of the assessment of streetlight repairs under an available 200k grant.

On-street locations that present safety issues, whether on account of lighting or line of sight (referencing the ordinance discussed last meeting) need to be identified.

ACTION: Carolyn will compile CSC members' listing of unsafe locations, to be emailed to her within two weeks (February 18th). The list will then go to the City.
Corey has drafted a letter to CC – will circulate to members and receive comments.

Infrastructure and Maintenance

E State St Rebuild (All)

The CSC draft letter has been reviewed by all members. It will be shared at the Special CC meeting scheduled for 6:30 PM today.

MOTION: CSC letter on E State Rebuild - Holly proposed, Hanif seconded.
“We approve as a Committee this draft circulated to all members. We will attach in our Minutes, and copy to John Odum, City Clerk.”

Motion passed with one abstention.

ACTION: Holly will read out the letter at the special CC meeting.

Other Business

Universal Design

Holly explained this concept as presented at the Maine Outdoor Economic Summit (Holly attended last week). Instead of ADA fixes, this is a more holistic design process. Has this been discussed by the City / Committees? Sal A. is on the ADA committee, and they have not had any meetings. Chris Lumbra is the committee chair.

Adjournment

Scott/Carolyn made the motion/seconded. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

The next meeting is as usual, the first Wednesday of the month, March 4th, 5:30.
