

Town of Mansfield Transportation Advisory Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting – October 23, 2104

Present: Hultgren (Chair), Marcellino, Ryan, Bupta, Hall, Nowak, Aho, Carrington (Director of Public Works).

The meeting was called to order shortly after 7 PM and introductions were made. The minutes of the June 24, 2014 meeting were approved on a motion by Ryan/Hall with Nowak abstaining.

As the Director of Planning was not able to make this meeting, the status of the bikeway/walkway priority listing was not known. It should be in the Mansfield Tomorrow final report, and chair Hultgren will obtain this information and send it to committee members.

Carrington updated committee members on the status of the completion of construction on the Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center. He said the final work to convert the heating system to respond to the different temperatures upstairs and downstairs in the building had just been completed. He said the Traveler Information System was now operating and the staff was learning how to use it and to have it display helpful information to travelers and visitors. The UConn and WRTD bus arrival information is being displayed in real time, but the Peter Pan bus company has yet to provide the GPS information to the Town to be able to update their bus displayed arrival times. The center has recently been staffed by an intern from the Town Manager's office, but two reception/ambassadors have recently been hired to staff the center's front desk.

Hultgren said that the bike commuting facilities in the center (showers, locker rooms & secure bike storage cages) are complete and ready for use, but the sign-up/waiver form for people who will be enrolling in the commuter program has not yet been reviewed and approved by the Town Attorney. He promised to check on the status of this so that the facilities can begin to be used. The Town also has two interns that can work on marketing and communicating these facilities to the public once the agreement form is OK'd.

Hultgren reported that he had been meeting with a group of Mansfield bicycle advocates the first Wednesday of each month to both promote bicycling in Town and further the Town's efforts to be designated as a "Bicycle Friendly Community" by the League of American Bicyclists. So far the group has recommended that sharrows be painted on the streets in Storrs Center and additional bike racks be placed there as well. A map was given to the DPW with these suggestions on it. The group also has developed a list of subjects for bicycle-related workshops to be given in a series of workshops sponsored in part by the Town's Parks and Recreation Department. The advocacy group will next be meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup> to review and recommend additional bike routes in Town (for example, the streets in Storrs Center are not currently Town bike routes). Anyone with an interest in bicycling is welcome at the group's meetings.

Since Mansfield is now a member of the Capital Region Council of Governments (CROG), the Town participated in the annual intersection bicycle & pedestrian counting program. Hultgren counted bikes and pedestrians at the 195/Bolton Road and 195/275 intersections on consecutive week days. Results (many peds and bikes, not too many helmets) were sent to CROG and filed in the Town Planning Office. An additional count may have been done by person(s) on the Town's Sustainability Committee – and should also be filed with the Director of Planning.

Hultgren and Carrington attended the recent CT Public Transportation Commission public hearing and reported on the comments the Commission received. Noteworthy was the progress of the WRTD bus

headquarters facility on the South Frontage Road (along Route 6) which should be complete in the early Spring. Because of budgetary constraints, this facility will NOT have either a fueling station or bush washing capabilities.

Carrington updated committee members on the status of several transportation projects in Town. The North Eagleville walkway (from Hunting Lodge Road to the Northwood apartments) is complete and in use, but a few of the remaining “punch list” construction items remain to finish the project. The requested extension of this walkway to Southwood Road will have to remain on the Town’s priority listing of walkway/bikeway projects (as noted in the second paragraph above). The plans for the Route 195 streetscape extension from Rte 275 to the Liberty Bank Plaza have finally (yeah!) been approved by the DOT and the project should be bid for construction to begin next Spring. No word yet from the state to start the Safe-Roads-to Schools grant to extend the Mansfield Center walkway to the Library and Southeast School. (The next project event will be the project design “kick-off” meeting, scheduled by the DOT.)

The Chairperson and staff were not able to give the status of the sidewalk ordinance draft. (This had been submitted to the previous Town Attorney for review, but was not completed prior to the appointment of the new Town Attorney.) Marcellino suggested this be retrieved for review by the committee at its next meeting. Additionally, Aho asked about the status of the Central railroad study – and an update will be obtained for the next committee meeting. The status of the CROG bike sharing study and its implementation will also be a topic for the next meeting.

The next meeting will be most likely in mid to late November or early December after the bicycle advocacy group’s bike route recommendations are made and the walkway/bikeway priority listing/criteria status is obtained from the planning department. The chair will poll members by email to obtain a suitable date

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lon Hultgren  
Chair