

## ECC Bike Plan Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

November 26, 2007

### 1) Purpose of Group

#### a) Group name/meeting time/membership

The group name will be the Elm City Cycling Bike Plan Subcommittee, and will have a separate listserv for group e-mails and discussion. The discussions will be made visible via the Elm City Cycling website.

#### b) Goals

It was decided that, broadly speaking, the goal of the Bike Plan Subcommittee is to serve as support for Elm City Cycling's overall platform as it relates to all elements of physical infrastructure related to bicycling in the New Haven region. We will research topics and provide recommendations to help ECC develop positions on infrastructure improvements to the transportation network that will ultimately be incorporated into ECC's platform.

Our immediate goal is to develop a draft of a prioritized list of possible infrastructure improvements. As part of this, the group agreed to familiarize themselves with both the 2003 New Haven Bike Plan and the Bike Plan DeStefano released in 2005. The committee will also review the draft platform, included below.

Prior to issuing final recommendations for a platform, the Bike Plan Subcommittee will also meet with the City of New Haven, State of Connecticut DOT and/or other appropriate parties about relevant items, in order to refine the agenda items and create a timeline for specific improvements.

Following the creation of ECC's final platform, the Bike Plan Subcommittee will then create a timeline of potential strategies that can be used to move agenda items forward, including a list of who to contact, when and where to contact them, key meetings to schedule or attend on an ongoing basis, and what issues to address specifically with each public or elected official or organization. The Bike Plan Subcommittee will work with ECC to closely monitor this timeline and ensure that key strategic actions are completed.

### 2) Projects (for draft of ECC infrastructure platform, see Section 2-2. DRAFT PLATFORM, below)

#### a) Bike Racks

-The city is at a point in their budgeting process where there may be money available for more bike racks.

-Hua mentioned that the city may have a GIS layer containing bike rack locations. We need to determine if the city does indeed have this information and see if we can obtain a copy.

- The group agreed to also investigate government policy tools that could be used to promote the use and development of more bicycle racks, particularly relating to zoning and planning issues and

requirements.

b) Bike Lane Debate and Research

- It was agreed that there is some controversy over bike lanes and that they are a potentially divisive issue. Rather than immediately taking a stand on this issue, it was decided that more research needs to be done. For now, the focus should be on calling on municipalities for general increases to the safety of bike routes to and from downtown New Haven, as well as within downtown.

c) Greenways and Multi-Use Trails

- The committee decided to advocate for the completion of the greenways and multi-use trails currently planned throughout the New Haven Region, particularly the East Coast Greenway, Harborside Greenway (which routes through the Port Authority of New Haven), Farmington Canal Greenway and Fair Haven waterfront greenways.

d) Traffic Calming

- This topic was only briefly discussed, and this is something we will be looking into once we have reviewed some of the bike plans already put forth for the area. The focus of the committee will be specifically on roadway designs that lower traffic speeds, not on enforcement issues.

2-2) DRAFT ECC INFRASTRUCTURE PLATFORM

a. Bike Racks:

- ECC advocates for the incorporation of adequate, safe and usable bicycle racks (bicycle parking) at all municipal buildings, schools, major transportation hubs, hospitals, major employment sites, major retail corridors and supermarkets within the New Haven area.  
- ECC advocates that adequate racks will be installed in a timely fashion and the need for such bicycle facilities will be reevaluated by municipal and state officials on an annual basis, given the growing number of users.

b. Bicycle Routes:

- ECC advocates for safer bicycling routes throughout New Haven, with an emphasis on those that link Downtown New Haven with every City neighborhood and to each of the surrounding municipalities in the region.  
- ECC advocates for safer bicycling routes that circulate within Downtown New Haven, including from Downtown to Union Station.  
- ECC advocates that local and state government conduct a regular evaluation of all bicycle route "facilities", particularly signage and road markings, to see if such "facilities" are appropriate for the number of cyclists, traffic volume and road conditions.  
- ECC advocates that government ensures that bicycles have full rights and responsibilities of the road.

c. Greenways and Multi-Use Trails

- ECC advocates that governments work to complete, as soon as possible, the major proposed Greenway systems in our region. These include:

--- The Farmington Canal Greenway, which connects Cheshire (as well as points north to Northampton, MA) with Hamden and New Haven

(Newhallville, Science Park, Yale, Downtown, and New Haven Harbor).

--- The Harborside Greenway, which enables cycling along the entirety of New Haven Harbor, basically following the coastline from the Kimberly Avenue interchange in City Point to Lighthouse Point.

--- The East Coast Greenway, which connects cities from Florida to Maine and which includes major sections in Connecticut from the New York border, through Fairfield County to New Haven, then from New Haven (along the Farmington Canal Greenway) to Hartford and points north.

--- The Fair Haven Greenway, a system of linear parks and bicycle trails enabling access to the waterfront in Fair Haven, along the Mill River, New Haven Harbor and Quinnipiac River systems.

--- The West River Greenway, a proposed linear park and bicycle trail following the West River from City Point through the Hill, Edgewood and Westville.

- ECC advocates appropriate signage for Greenways to provide directions and identify them as facilities that connect to a wider, regional network of bicycling infrastructure.

#### d. Traffic Calming

- ECC advocates for reasonable traffic speeds within the New Haven Region, particularly in densely-populated neighborhoods, which include all of the City of New Haven. Reasonable traffic speeds help ensure the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians.

- ECC advocates that local governments will work with neighborhoods to conduct a regular evaluation of methods that can be used to slow traffic speeds, particularly in conjunction with roadway designs involving major bicycle and pedestrian routes. Following such evaluation, we advocate that governments will implement such measures in a timely fashion.

#### e. Other Infrastructure

- ECC advocates improvements to other aspects of bicycling infrastructure, including but not limited to:

--- Specialized recreational or educational facilities, such as velodromes and youth training centers;

--- Adequate bicycle parking and bicycle accommodation on regional trains, buses, trolleys and other forms of mass transit;

--- Shared, public and/or rental bicycles;

--- Educational signage and markers that serve to raise the profile of bicycling infrastructure (including routes and Greenways) and bicycling in general.

#### 3) Next steps

- It was decided that due to the Holidays next month, our next meeting will be on Monday, January 7, at 6:00 in the New Haven City Hall. Several committee members suggested that the first Monday of each month would be a better meeting day, so the committee decided that all future meetings will be scheduled for the first Monday of every month

at 6:00 in the New Haven City Hall.

- The subcommittee will review and comment on the proposed "Draft Platform" above before it is discussed at the public ECC meeting at City Hall in January.
- Holly recommended familiarizing ourselves with the information that is already out there, so all members should review the 2003 New Haven Bike Plan and Destefano's Bike Plan, which will be discussed at next month's meeting.
- A listserv will be set up specifically for this committee (Tom).
- We will make an inquiry to the city to see if they have a GIS layer of bike rack locations.
- Everyone will be sending their ideas for the initial list of roadway improvements to the listserv so that we have something ready for discussion at the January 7, 2008 meeting.