



## Meeting Notes

Place: New Britain Public Library  
Community Room  
20 High Street  
New Britain, CT 06051

Date: October 4, 2016

Notes Taken by: Andrea Drabicki

Project #: 42201.00

Re: Steering Committee and Technical Team Workshop  
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Gap Closure Study and  
CTfastrak Connection Study (Gap Closure Trail Study)

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### **ATTENDEES**

#### Steering Committee & Technical Team

Tim Malone, Capitol Region Council of Governments  
Bruce Donald, East Coast Greenway Alliance  
Jim Cassidy – Farmington Valley Trails Council / Plainville  
Greenway Alliance  
Pete Salomone – Plainville Greenway Alliance  
Mark Devoe – Town of Plainville  
Garrett Daigle – Town of Plainville  
John Bossi – Town of Plainville  
Keith Hayden – Town of Southington  
Carl Gandza, City of New Britain  
Mark Hoffman, Bike New Britain  
Thomas Maziarz – CT Department of Transportation (CTDOT)  
Grayson Wright, CTDOT  
Edward Sabourin – CTDOT  
Kevin Tedesco, CTDOT  
Maureen Lawrence, CTDOT  
Sue Jacozzi – Plainville-Southington Health District

#### Consultant Team

Dave Head, VHB  
Andrea Drabicki, VHB  
Chris Faulkner, VHB  
Mark Jewell, VHB  
Dan Burden, Blue Zones  
Samantha Thomas, Blue Zones  
Mary Embry, Mobycon  
Lennart Nout, Mobycon

#### Guests

Curtis Edward Shank – Plainville, Citizen

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The Steering Committee and Technical Team planning workshop took place on Tuesday, October 4 and was scheduled from 10:00-1:00pm. The meeting consisted of a presentation and series of collaborative exercises with the public and consultant team.

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Tim Malone, CRCOG, called the meeting to order at 10:10am and welcomed the Steering Committee and Technical Team.
2. **Public Comment:** No one chose to speak at this time.
3. **Project Updates:** Mr. Dave Head explained the objectives of the study, study area, and what has been completed to date.

Mr. Dave Head then introduced Mr. Thomas Maziarz, Bureau Chief of Policy and Planning at the Department of Transportation. Mr. Maziarz updated the committee members as to the recent discussions with Pan Am Railways regarding potential use of their rail road right-of-way through the project area. Based on discussions between the Department and Pan Am Railways is willing to consider sharing their property that runs along Robertson airport and allow the use of their bridge over the Pequabuck River allowing the trail to get from Northwest Drive to Cronk Road. However, another location to store rail cars will need to be found. Mr. Maziarz relayed again that while efforts to negotiate use of the rail line for the trail have not been successful in the past, he feels that this time talks are proceeding differently and all parties are at the table communicating well.

#### 4. Community Values Exercise

- a. Ms. Samantha Thomas and Mr. Dan Burden, Blue Zones, then asked those in attendance to participate in the Community Values Exercise. Each committee member was given five (5) slips of paper and asked to write down one word per piece of paper which represents their community values.

Questions posed to the public were:

- Why did you move into your Connecticut community?
- Why do you live or work here in Connecticut in the Greater Hartford area?

- b. Mr. Burden presented the principles that are involved in establishing healthy communities
- c. Blue Zones then reported back the answers received from the public based on the community values exercise.
  - Connectivity/Proximity/Location/Access (13)
  - Safety (11)
  - Environment/Climate/Nature (9)
  - Community (9)
  - Economy/Opportunity (8)
  - Family & Friends (6)
  - Quality of Life (5)
  - Active Lifestyle/Health (5)
  - Education (3)

- History (3)

## 5. Star Analysis Mapping Exercise

- a. Mr. Lennart Nout, Mobycon, presented best practices applied in the Netherlands
- b. Ms. Mary Embry, Mobycon, then explained the Star Analysis Mapping exercise and encouraged the public to break into groups. During this exercise the public was given a user type, based on trip types, to plan for. These user trip types consisted of, Shopping and Entertainment, Primary and Secondary Schools, Employment and Commercial and Commute Trips. People were asked to identify residential areas and plot routes to their user type (Schools, Recreation areas). Then they were to try and combine the individual routes into a single route connecting Downtown Plainville with the CT**fastrak** station in New Britain.

## 6. Group Report Out

- a. Each table or group was asked to report out their major findings from the Mapping Exercise. They were asked to answer several questions. Below is the questions and summary response:
  - i. What their user group was.
    - Each Table reported which user group they had.
  - ii. How well the trail alignment fit their user group network.
    - The alignment fit, but there is a need for an east/west connection, or a loop in Town.
  - iii. Did your user group change your route?
    - Yes the user group influenced the route that was chosen. Several groups came up with several alignments trying to connect all the locations their user group was travelling to.
  - iv. What were your key challenges?
    - Infrastructure as a challenge in Plainville, especially at crossings and railroads
    - Traffic is an issue

## 7. Next Steps: Mr. Dave Head then proceeded to explain the next steps in the process for the consultant team:

- a. Take all the information received from the mapping exercises in both communities of Plainville and New Britain and place all the drawn alignments by the public and combine them all into one map.
- b. The consultant team will then spend an entire day reviewing all the alignments, values, and then report back to the public what they heard and saw on October 6 from 6-7pm at New Britain City Hall in Room 504 the findings from both the Plainville and New Britain workshops.

## 8. Conclusion of Meeting: The Meeting adjourned 1:00pm.

**Next Steps**

- The consultant team will present and hold the same workshop format later the same evening in the City of New Britain on October 4 from 5:30-8:30pm at the New Britain Public Library in the Community Room located at 20 High Street, New Britain.
- The consultant team will then spend an entire day reviewing all the alignments, values, and then report back to the public what they heard and saw on October 6 from 6-7pm at New Britain City Hall in Room 504 the findings from both the Plainville and New Britain workshops.

**Statement of Accuracy:**

- We believe these minutes accurately describe the discussion and determinations of this meeting. Unless notified to the contrary within 5 business days, we will assume all in attendance concur with the accuracy of these notes.

Notes Submitted by:



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David Head

Notes Approved by:



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Tim Malone

Distribution: Attendees

Project File 42201.00