

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE FAIRFIELD
BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AUGUST 22ND, 2012**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andrew Graceffa, Alyssa Israel, Katina Wolfe, Jack Franzen, Larry Ogren, Betsy Gardner, Clif Meyers. **ABSENT:** Meg Capodanno, Kirstin Etela, Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Selectman. **ADVISORS PRESENT:** Gary MacNamara, Chief of Police, Lt. Jim Perez, Mark Nielsen, Greater Bridgeport Regional Council, Richard Jacobs, TPZ Commissioner, Bill Hurley, Town Engineer, Anthony Calabrese, Fairfield Parks & Recreation.

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Jack Franzen, Vice-Chair in order to hear from Bill Hurley who had to leave the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Andrew Graceffa, arrived at 5:10 p.m. and chaired the remainder of the meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Katina Wolfe *moved* to accept and Clif Meyers *seconded* the approval of the July 25th minutes. *Motion to approve the minutes was passed unanimously.*

III. PLAN COMMENTARY ON ENFORCEMENT: Clif Meyers stated that speeding and traffic volume were among the greatest concerns cited by the 500+ survey respondents. He challenged the Police Department to implement a Speed Enforcement Day in Fairfield. Lt. Jim Perez responded positively to this request by offering to organize a *Speed Enforcement Week!* The group then discussed Alyssa Israel's suggestions on enforcement. Edits and additions from the Committee were incorporated into the attached version.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

- Bill Hurley reported that Mill Plain Road is in the process of being repaved and restriped. Sarah Levy, Fairfield's Public Health Educator, has requested \$7,535 from the Preventive Health Services Block Grant to pay for bike shoulder lines, bike route signs, and sharrow stenciling. Once the grant is approved by the RTM, these bike route facilities will be installed on Mill Plain Road...the first ever in Fairfield!
- Bill also reported that ConnDOT is planning a traffic signal upgrade by Mill Plain Road/Carter Henry Drive/Thorpe Street/US 1 (at Starbucks). The group discussed the possibility of meeting with ConnDOT to urge them to make other improvements to this busy intersection such as adding countdown pedestrian signals.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Andrew Graceffa adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Israel, Secretary

1 Attachment

Alyssa Israel's Suggestions on Enforcement Strategies

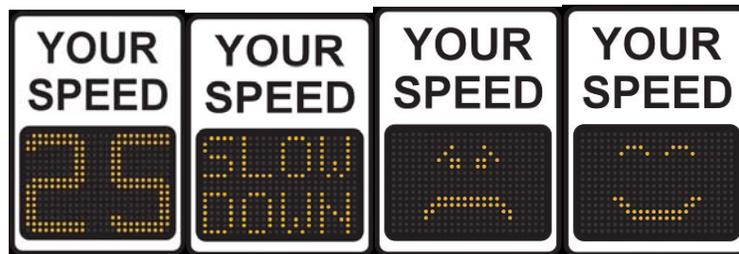
August 22, 2012

(includes additions and edits from Committee members)

1. Assign a Traffic Safety Officer to coordinate all bicycle and pedestrian safety and enforcement activities within the Police Department.
2. The designated Traffic Safety Officer should meet regularly with the Town Engineer, ConnDOT and the Bike Walk Advisory Committee to redesign areas that are particularly hazardous to pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.
3. Target enforcement of speeding and red-light running to high-accident areas.
4. Utilize traffic signage to encourage motorists to slow down, to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks, and to discourage riding bicycles on sidewalks. Some examples are shown below.



5. Install more speed feedback signs possibly with "emotion display" at key locations around town.



6. Stage cross-walk stings on a regular basis.
7. Utilize officers on bicycles whenever possible to educate/warn/ticket other cyclists and pedestrians for violating the *Rules of the Road* such as jaywalking, cycling against traffic, ignoring traffic signs, and not using tail and head lights at night.
8. Train all officers in bicycle and pedestrian safety laws.
9. Assist in coordinating bicycle rodeos/clinics at our schools.

- 10. Educate residents about the *Rules of the Road* by posting them on the Police Department Website and mailing a flier to every Fairfield household once a year (possibly as part of the Fairfield Parks & Recreation bi-annual catalog mailing).***
- 11. Utilize the media whenever possible to educate residents about the *Rules of the Road* and to promote awareness of the Police Department's targeted enforcement efforts to make our streets safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.**
- 12. Continue tracking and GIS mapping of vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian accidents. Use the data for targeting enforcement efforts, improving street design and evaluating progress.**

* Rules of the Road

(suggested for the Police Department Website and mailing to all households)



Drivers

- Remember to watch for cyclists before opening your driver-side door, when crossing an intersection or making a turn.
- Bicyclists are considered vehicles and have the right to ride in the travel lane under certain circumstances (i.e. to avoid car doors and obstacles, and when making a left turn).
- Stay at least 3 feet away from the cyclist (it's the law!) and wait until it is safe to pass. Please don't honk.
- Always stop for pedestrians who are crossing the street whether in a crosswalk or at an unmarked intersection.
- Avoid cell phone use and other distractions while driving.
- Slow down and obey stoplights and stop signs. They are designed to improve safety for everyone.



Pedestrians

- Use sidewalks and marked crosswalks where available. Do not jaywalk.
- If you have to walk on the road because there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic.
- Always check for turning vehicles before stepping off the curb.
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing busy streets and watch out for traffic the entire time you are in the crosswalk.
- Wear bright colors and reflective clothing when walking at night. Carry a flashlight.



Cyclists

- Always wear a bike helmet.
- Ride with traffic on the right side of the road. Wrong-way biking is illegal.
- Adults are discouraged from riding on sidewalks. It is safer for you and pedestrians to walk alongside your bike on the sidewalk.
- Ride single file unless you are in a bike lane or on a very wide shoulder.
- Always use hand signals when turning right and left so drivers know your next move.

- Look back before you make a lane change or a turn.
- Obey all traffic signals and stop signs. Cyclists are safest when they act and are treated as drivers of vehicles.
- At night, wear reflective clothing and always ride with a head and tail light. It's the law!
- Avoid cell phone use and other distractions while riding.
- Recumbent bicycles should have a visibility flag.

Thanks for doing your part to be a safe and courteous driver, cyclist or pedestrian!