



CITY OF DANBURY
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PLANNING COMMISSION*
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*POCD Oversight Committee

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**2023 PLAN OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT (“POCD”)
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
July 20, 2021**

The web based meeting hosted on Zoom was called to order by Sharon Calitro, City of Danbury (“COD”) Planning Director, at 4:04 PM.

Present were Oversight Committee Members Arnold Finaldi (PC Chairman), Joel Urice (PC Vice-Chairman), Helen Hoffstaetter (PC), Bob Chiochio (PC), Perry Salvagne (PC), Sharon Calitro (COD Planning), Jennifer Emminger (COD Planning), Roger Palanzo (COD Business Advocacy), Fernanda Carvalho (COD Health), Matthew Cassavechia (COD Emergency Services), Richard Janelli (Board of Education), Juan Rivas (ZBA), Timothy Nolan (COD Public Services), Candace Fay (ZC), and Fred Visconti (City Council). Also present from Fitzgerald & Halliday were Francisco Gomes, Marcy Miller, and Parker Sorenson.

Absent: Kevin Haas (PC), Gary Renz (PC), PJ Prunty (Chamber of Commerce), Ed Siergiej (Former Env./Lake Commission), Brigid Guertin (Danbury Museum & Historical Soc.), and Vincent DiGilio (City Council).

Fred Visconti motioned to accept the June 15, 2021 minutes, Juan Rivas seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Sharon Calitro welcomed the Oversight Committee and turned the meeting agenda over to Francisco Gomes from Fitzgerald & Halliday (“FHI”).

Francisco briefly reviewed the agenda for the meeting. The meeting would include a review of transportation and commuting statistics and trends in Danbury, review of ongoing transportation and infrastructure projects, and an update on the status of the public engagement schedule. He introduced Marcy Miller and Parker Sorenson from FHI who were also present in the meeting.

Parker noted that Danbury’s residents are highly dependent on the local roadway network for getting to work, identifying that nearly 75% of residents drive to work alone. Parker discussed traffic volume trends with average annual daily traffic counts measured from 12 locations across the City and 12 interchange ramps. Francisco noted that since 2004 traffic volume has remained stable

and noted that it may have shifted throughout parts of the City. Parker discussed local road infrastructure and identified that Danbury has fewer miles of roadway per resident than both Fairfield County and the State, which results in reduced maintenance costs. Roadway safety was discussed and Danbury's crash rate is consistent with the State's rate. He provided a vehicular crash map showing higher crash rates along high traffic corridors.

Parker next discussed the various transportation plans and studies that were reviewed by the project team. These include the WestCOG's Regional Safety Plan, the I-84 Danbury Project, the Danbury and New Fairfield (Route 37) Corridor Study, CT Active Transportation Plan (Bike/Ped). He identified ongoing bike/pedestrian studies/efforts that include the expansion of the Still River Greenway Route through Danbury and the Norwalk River Valley Trail.

Danbury's transportation infrastructure was next discussed. Parker noted that Danbury has 93 local and State bridges and ongoing bridge projects are funded through the City's capital improvement program and other State programs. Railroads were discussed next, with two rail corridors including the Housatonic Railroad and the MetroNorth Branchline service that terminates in downtown Danbury. Parker briefly discussed the feasibility study of extending the MetroNorth service to/from NY along the Housatonic Railroad. Parker next discussed HARtransit and noted Danbury is served by seven bus routes with the Pulse Point located in downtown Danbury. Bicycle and pedestrian networks were next discussed. Parker noted the sidewalk network is concentrated in downtown and the immediate vicinity and there is very little infrastructure dedicated to bicyclists.

Francisco next discussed maintenance and current capital improvement project for roadways and sidewalks. Improvements range from sidewalk maintenance/repairs throughout the City, traffic calming and Walk to School safety projects, traffic signal modernization, Downtown Streetscape Renaissance Project, intersection/bridge/railroad crossing improvements across the City, drainage and stormwater management improvements.

In addition to transportation infrastructure, the City also manages stormwater infrastructure, a water distribution system, and the disposal of wastewater. The City's water distribution system currently serves approximately 76% of the City's population and consists of 8 reservoirs, 1 well site, 2 water treatment plants, and 14 pump stations. The sewer service area and sewersheds serve approximately half of the City with the rural areas dependent on private septic/community systems. Francisco also discussed the ongoing improvements to the Danbury Water Pollution Control Plant.

Marcy next discussed community engagement with a plan to initiate the online survey, attendance at pop-events and focus group meetings through the fall.

The project schedule was reviewed. The next meeting will include discussion of Danbury's historic and cultural resources.

The 2021 meeting schedule was discussed and the next scheduled meeting is August 17, 2021.

Arnie Finaldi made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Perry Salvagne. The meeting adjourned at 5:42 pm.