

RIVERCOG SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL (SS4A) COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN

Stakeholder Advisory Committee 3 Summary

Attendees

- Eric Couture, Killingworth First Selectman
- Cindy Lignar, Chester First Selectwoman
- John Hall, The Jonah Center
- Grayson Wright, CTDOT Intergovernmental Affairs
- Marek Kozikowski, Middletown
- Brendan Geraghty, River Valley Transit
- Chris Costa, Old Saybrook

RiverCOG: Robert Haramut, Sam Gold

FHI Studio: Michael Ahillen, AICP, Hannah Brockhaus, AICP

Tighe and Bond: Collene Byrne, PE

Summary

Michael Ahillen, Project Manager from FHI Studio, welcomed attendees and led a presentation which covered the following topics, assisted by Hannah Brockhaus at FHI Studio.

- Project Overview and Update
- Engagement
- Policy Review & Draft Recommendations
- Focus Corridor Selection
- Next Steps

The following presents a summary of the discussion items.

Policy Review

- Marek Kozikowski said Middletown has been approved for four speed camera locations; they have not been installed yet.
- First Selectman Eric Couture said Killingworth is installing license plate readers on state roads. This is part of the state police program.
- John Hall noted that Portland and Middletown are working on a regional bike connectivity plan including the Central Connecticut Loop Trail. He said they are trying to make it possible to bike into Middletown from East Hampton, and also from Old Saybrook and Essex using Old Rt 56 (Saybrook Rd) and Newfield Street. Middletown has also been awarded SS4A grants to examine corridors of concern.
- First Selectwoman Cindy Lignar said Vision Zero is a source of inspiration for recent safety infrastructure projects in Chester. These include installing bike-pedestrian hub at 20 Water

Street municipal parking lot in hopes that they can eventually support the proposed Lower Connecticut River Valley Heritage Trail Loop; this trail would link into the trail loop from Old Saybrook to Middletown. The Town will apply for Community Connectivity Program grant for a crosswalk, near Chester Elementary School (State Street to Pleasant Street). She said the Rt 148 road safety audit noted high speeds. She added that there is a new business on Rt 154 called Kaleidoscope that is trying to attract multigenerational engagement; the Town is looking for funding for a crosswalk there.

- John Hall said vendor-in-place projects are an important inclusion to the policy recommendations. Without paving projects, it is very difficult to imagine improvements to the roadways that build out transportation networks.
- Marek Kozikowski said there is interest in vulnerable user strategies in Middletown, particularly around Wesleyan campus. He said Middletown has an active Complete Streets committee to fund and build projects. He also encouraged target speed design principles.

Focus Corridors

- A participant asked if all the focus corridors were State roads. Michael Ahillen clarified that most were State roads; he noted that the methodology also produced a list of the top local roads, which are incorporated into the municipal profiles.
- John Hall asked if “regionally significant roads” are for drivers or all roadway users. Michael Ahillen noted that high crash rates tend to be in areas frequented by drivers. However, the methodology included a specific “vulnerable road user” criteria, which helped emphasize areas with a higher frequency of non-motorized users.
- First Selectman Eric Couture noted that Route 80 does not intersect with Champlin Road; Michael Ahillen said this was an error. (Note: The correct cross street is Chestnut Hill Road.)
- The participants said Middletown locations should be removed from consideration for the site investigations and concepts because they are included in the SS4A project in Middletown.