Committee Minutes

Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2024
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: *This meeting was held remotely.*

The Transportation Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Watkins, Vice Chair Adams, and Committee Member Reps. Gilbride, Grunberger, Moore, Sandford, and Strain. Also present was Rep. Jacobson; Frank Petise, Transportation Bureau Chief; Luke Buttenwieser, Transportation Planner; and members of the public.

Chair Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. T31.030	RESOLUTION and <u>Public Hearing</u>; Approval of Location Plans for Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices 04/03/24 – Submitted by Frank Petise **04/24/24 – Approved by Committee, as amended, 5-0-0**	**APPROVED AS AMENDED 7-0-0**

Chair Watkins opened the Public Hearing at 7:09 p.m. Letters from Stamford High School Principal Matthew Forker and Strawberry Hill School Principal Frank Rodriguez, both in favor of the item, were read into the record. Additionally, three members of the public spoke in favor of the item. Chair Watkins thanked the public and the two principals for their input. He stated that once this program begins there will most likely be other schools interested and recommended by the Transportation Bureau. Although this trial program is limited, it is a good starting point. There being no one else from the public wishing to speak, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:21 p.m.

Rep. Gilbride said that she has been working with Principal Rodriguez on safety issues in the area of Strawberry Hill School since 2021. There have been numerous safety measures attempted. The Transportation Bureau had a meeting with residents, and took a community walk to address concerns. Rep. Pollack has received complaints from parents. There have been close calls of accidents almost happening, including once when someone drove past a crossing guard who was holding up his sign.

Rep. Gilbride proposed an amendment to add a zone to the resolution to include Strawberry Hill Avenue northbound between Rock Spring Road and Colonial Road, and Strawberry Hill Avenue southbound between Colonial Road and Rock Spring Road.

Rep. Jacobson noted that Reps. Gilbride and Pollack are the representatives from District 11 on the westbound side of Strawberry Hill Avenue, and he represents District 12 on the other

side. The Strawberry Hill Avenue corridor traffic is dangerous and he supports this zone being added to the resolution. He thanked Mr. Petise, Mr. Buttenwieser, and the Transportation Bureau.

Mr. Petise said that it would not be a problem to add this zone to the initial program. While the zones in this resolution are not the only areas where speed needs to be controlled, Strawberry Hill Avenue is a high injury area.

Mr. Buttenwieser reviewed the timeline of the project. Upon approval of the BOR, the applications will immediately be submitted to CT Dept. of Transportation, which will then have 60 days to review. He is confident everything will go through with no issues. The RFP will then put out to get the vendor. The goal is to launch the program in the summer of 2025 to be ready for the 2025-2026 school year. If things are ready to be implemented before that, they will definitely do so.

A motion to amend Item T31.030 to add the following language,

> 13. Strawberry Hill Avenue northbound between Rock Spring Road and Colonial Road; and
> 14. Strawberry Hill Avenue southbound between Colonial Road and Rock Spring Road.,

was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Watkins, Adams, Gilbride, Grunberger, Moore, Sandford, and Strain in favor).

A motion to approve Item T31.030 as amended was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Watkins, Adams, Gilbride, Grunberger, Moore, Sandford, and Strain in favor).

Chair Watkins thanked everyone involved in moving this resolution forward.

Chair Watkins adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Watkins, Chair

This meeting is on video.