



Transportation Committee - Board of Representatives

Robert "Gabe" DeLuca, Chair Terry Adams, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Monday, September 15, 2014
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Republican Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard

The Transportation Committee met at the above time and place. In attendance were Chair DeLuca, Vice Chair Adams and Committee Member Reps. Di Costanzo, Franzetti, Giordano, Kooris and Pratt. Absent or excused were Reps. Kolenberg and Moore. Also present were Reps. Ryan and Zelinsky; Kathy Emmett, Corporation Counsel; Ernie Orgera, Director of Operations; Mani Poola, Traffic Engineer; John Ruotolo, DSSD; and John R. Harnes.

Chair DeLuca called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. T29.017	REVIEW; DSSD Pedestrian Safety Recommendations. 07/24/14 – Submitted by President Skigen 08/11/14 – Held at Steering	REPORT MADE & HELD IN COMMITTEE

Mr. Ruotolo explained that these recommendations came out of a new DSSD committee formed by a planner to work on a public space action plan and the goal of creating a better pedestrian experience in Stamford downtown. This coincides with the Mayor's street smarts initiative and the Master Plan section calling for a complete streets ordinance.

The DSSD is recommending some of the points contained in the Master Plan Complete Streets proposal. They have been working with the Mayor and Director Orgera on this.

Ms. Emmett stated that Complete Streets is a State program and New Haven has an ordinance. She knows of no reason such an ordinance could not be adopted. The law department could pursue an ordinance using David Kooris' draft.

The Committee discussed:

- Whether legislative action needs to be taken or whether a Complete Streets ordinance is already within the authority of the Director of Operations

- Rep. Kooris explained that the goal of the complete streets ordinance is not to tie the administration's hands and waste money but to require the administration to assess the appropriateness of sidewalks and bike lanes, particularly around schools, train stations and bus stops, and demonstrate why they are not appropriate. It does not allocate any additional capital to any projects.
- Whether these activities will prevent pedestrian accidents or whether other actions need to be taken, including increasing fines for drivers and fines for vulnerable users (e.g. pedestrians, street construction workers).
- The need for better education of drivers and pedestrians.
- Infrastructure improvements to protect all users.

Mr. Ruotolo explained that the DSSD is working on physical layout issues to improve pedestrian safety. The City is addressing education and enforcement.

Mr. Orgera said the administration is working on various ways to improve pedestrian safety in intersections, including:

- improving visibility
- making "no turn on red" signs more visible
- reviewing mid-block crosswalk
- advanced pedestrian crossing signs
- ways to correct distracted driving
- safe routes for schools
- different colored crosswalks

Committee members discussed:

- 4-way stops for all traffic at lights
- Audible crossing signals
- That a pedestrian in a cross walk automatically has the right of way
- The need for automatic walks at every lights
- No right on red at all downtown intersections

Mr. Poola stated:

- Any signal changes need to be approved by the State

2. T29.020	REVIEW; CGS 14-300, et seq.; State statute re: Pedestrian Right of Way in crosswalk 07/29/14 – Submitted by Rep. Adams 08/11/14 – Held at Steering	REPORT MADE & HELD IN COMMITTEE
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This item was mostly covered in the discussion of Item No. 1. Rep. Adams would like to put out signs reminding drivers that pedestrians have the right of way at all unmarked intersections. He would like to see a similar ordinance.

Committee members discussed whether an ordinance that is more stringent than the State statute is necessary.

3. T29.022	ORDINANCE for publication; Complete Streets Ordinance to ensure that capital projects and transportation improvements implemented in the city	HELD IN COMMITTEE
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are designed to meet the needs of all users as appropriate for the project context.
09/03/14 – Submitted by Reps. Kooris, DeLuca, Fountain, Reeder, Kolenberg and de la Cruz

This item was mostly covered in the discussion of Item No. 1. Rep. Kooris will work with the administration on this item.

Chair DeLuca adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gabe DeLuca, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).