



## ***Transportation Committee - Board of Representatives***

David Watkins, Chair

Terry Adams, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Wednesday, October 30, 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, and Strain. Excused were Reps. Moore and Sandford. Also present were Reps. Stella, Summerville, and Walston; Frank Petise, Luke Bittenwieser, and Jianhong Wang, Transportation Bureau; Chris Dellaselva, Law Department; and members of the public.

Chair Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. T31.035	ORDINANCE; ORDINANCE for publication; Amending Chapter 231, Article X, Section 231-73.A to add Cove Road at Frederick Street and Cove Road at Soundview Avenue. 10/10/24 - Submitted by F. Petise & L. Bittenwieser	<b>APPROVED 5-0-0</b>

Mr. Petise reviewed this item and there was discussion.

The purpose is to add “do not block the box” painting at Cove Road intersections with Frederick Street and Soundview Avenue to address traffic congestion. These intersections need to be added to the current ordinance in order to be enforced.

The traffic light at Lockwood Avenue backs up frequently and blocks the intersections of Cove Road at Frederick Street and Cove Road at Soundview Avenue. The Traffic Bureau has received numerous complaints from the Police Department about this.

Rep. Strain raised concerns about the consistent enforcement of the current “do not block the box” in other areas. Mr. Petise could not speak to the enforcement side of it. Chair Watkins suggested a future review of enforcement measures as a separate agenda item.

A motion to approve Item #1 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Watkins, Adams, Gilbride, Grunberger, and Strain in favor).

2. [T31.036](#) APPROVAL; of an Agreement between the City of Stamford and VN Engineers, Inc. RFP 846 - Design and safe routes to schools and public transit. **APPROVED 5-0-0**  
09/27/24 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons

Chair Watkins stated that sidewalks have been left behind the street paving projects and this is an important topic.

Mr. Petise reviewed this item and there was discussion.

Funding was received through WestCOG. The project totals two miles, near Scofield Magnet and Northeast Elementary, and Westover Magnet and Stillmeadow Elementary.

This will use budgeted City funds. This contract is for the design, \$540K.

Safe Routes to School is an umbrella term for safe travelling to/from school for children walking and biking. Many sidewalks near schools are in poor shape or there are no sidewalks at all.

Mr. Petise assured the Committee that public outreach would be integral to the project, including keeping the community informed as it may impact residential property owners and businesses.

Chair Watkins asked that the District Representatives be informed about any part of this project affecting their districts.

Rep. Grunberger stated there is a deficiency in Stamford of good sidewalks. This is a great project that is going to improve Stamford dramatically.

A motion to approve Item #2 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Watkins, Adams, Gilbride, Grunberger, and Strain in favor).

3. [T31.037](#) APPROVAL; of an Agreement between the City of Stamford and AKRF, INC. – RFP No. 2024.0138; Design of City's West Main Street (U.S. RT. 1) Corridor improvements project. **APPROVED 5-0-0**  
09/27/24 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons

Mr. Petise and Ms. Wang reviewed this item and there was discussion.

This is for the planning and design. This project totals \$3.5M, and a RAISE Grant of \$2.1M was received. Since this is federal money, more requirements and approvals have to be met during the process.

There will be extensive public outreach.

This is to improve safety along West Main Street, aiming to reduce crashes and provide equitable transportation access for road users.

Vice-Chair Adams stated that he hopes the parking will remain on the street because that keeps cars from speeding in that area. He also voiced concern about eminent domain as

many of the properties have very little space in front. Mr. Petise said it is his goal to minimize the impact of private properties.

Chair Watkins stated that it is vital to formally notify the Representatives whose constituents are impacted by this project, and to copy the Committee on these notifications.

A motion to approve Item #3 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Watkins, Adams, Gilbride, Grunberger, and Strain in favor).

4. [T31.034](#) REVIEW; an update on Vision Zero Action Plan and Roadway Safety Efforts **REPORT MADE**  
10/07/24 – Submitted by F. Petise & L. Buttenwieser

Chair Watkins stated that the Vision Zero Action Plan was implemented several years ago with the objective of reducing the traffic fatalities to zero. The City has failed in that objective. There is a vast disparity between the stated objectives and the outcomes so far.

Mr. Buttenwieser explained there is a crash dashboard which can be located on the Vision Zero webpage <https://www.stamfordct.gov/government/stamford-vision-zero>. Crashes are a few hundred lower than in 2019. Stamford's roadways are significantly safer than other cities in the state. The plan involves data collection, public engagement, and planned safety improvements.

Mr. Buttenwieser shared the [attached presentation](#) in detail with the Committee.

5. T31.038 REVIEW; possible installation of Bus Shelters on the West Side of Stamford **REPORT MADE**  
10/10/24 – Submitted by Rep. Walston

Mr. Buttenwieser reviewed this item and there was discussion.

Bus stops are set by the CT Dept. of Transportation. Bus shelters are under the purview of the Stamford Transit District, which is an entity of the City. They are in charge of maintenance/repair/installation/advertising in shelters. The City gets involved with sidewalks and site work around the shelters.

There are about four or five bus shelters on the West Side.

Part of the West Main Street Corridor Improvement project will involve looking at the transit system on West Main Street, which includes bus shelters.

Due to the narrower sidewalk spacing in some areas, it is not easy to install shelters without getting easements. One solution is to create bus boarding islands which use parking lanes.

Some of the busiest bus stops in the City are on the West Side.

All new bus shelters will be lit with a photocell. This detects the sun's presence and will turn on when there is no sunlight.

Chair Watkins asked that when a new bus shelter is built that the district Representatives are notified.

Chair Watkins adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Watkins, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#)