

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Trails Committee

There was a special meeting for the above referenced ad-hoc committee held on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in a hybrid meeting style. The in-person meeting location was Bloomfield Town Hall – Warhawk Room/Conference Room 2, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT, and the virtual location was via Zoom.

Committee Members present were: *In-person:* Councilor Joseph Merritt, Chair; Kevin Gough; and *via Zoom:* Cory Bowie

Committee Members absent were: Mayor Danielle Wong; Councilor Elizabeth Waterhouse; and Robert Dickinson

Also present were:

In-person: Paula Jones; Lynn Weisel, Recording Secretary; and *via Zoom:* Councilor Cindi Lloyd; Rob Trottier, Town Engineer

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

There was not a quorum, so no official business took place.

Approval of 11/14/24, 1/9/25 & 3/13/25 Meeting Minutes

There was not a quorum, so this item was tabled.

Town Engineer's Report

Mr. Trottier provided an update of key items related to trails from the department. (Full report attached). Highlights included:

- *East Coast Greenway Preferred Alignment Draft Study:* There was a robust discussion of the Draft East Coast Greenway Draft Study. Suggested edits included the inclusion of Bloomfield's two LOTSIP projects, as well as some feedback regarding layout and the addition of appendices. The preferred alignment in Hartford was discussed, as well as the connection to Windsor. Mr. Trottier will be meeting with a representative from iQuilt to ensure that Bloomfield and iQuilt are on the same page.

Concerns included the route through Bloomfield Town Center, and discussion included temporary options through the Town Center while it is being developed. Mr. Gough proposed a temporary route and will send his feedback directly to CRCOG.

There was conversation on the connection between Bloomfield Town Center and Day Hill Road. The preferred alignment follows the Griffin Line corridor.

CRCOG has requested public outreach to get feedback on the study. Holding an event at 330 Park Avenue was suggested, and Mr. Trottier will inquire about available dates.

- *LOTSIP—Trail from Town Center to Bloomfield High School:* They are aiming to have the trail on the North side of Park Avenue. There is limited space on the North side, so a road diet is being considered. If the trail will not fit, a five-foot sidewalk will be installed instead. It is

anticipated that the design and review will be completed by February 2026. Crossing the rail line will be an obstacle.

- *Trail from Tyler Street to Rockwell Park:* VHB is designing the project, and has met with Town staff to discuss the preliminary design. Town staff also met with Eversource regarding a license agreement for the part of the trail that is proposed on their property along the old trolley line.
- *Transportation Alternatives Project—Trail from Hartford Town line to Bloomfield High School:* BL Companies is the designer for this project. The alignment stays on the east side of the Griffin Line, and there is no crossing of the tracks. There is the possibility for the trail to go through the field behind Copaco, instead of along the rail line in that area. There is also the potential for a parking lot at the end of Tobey Road to enable parking for the trail.

There was a brief discussion about sidewalk installation along Cottage Grove Road as part of a traffic signal project and a new development.

- *Town Center to Day Hill Road:* There were no new updates for this trail.
- *Blue Hills Complete Streets Project:* The Blue Hills project is a third of the way complete. The grant pays for an inspector, and the project includes new sidewalk, bike lanes, and a road diet.
- *School Street / Wintonbury Ave Intersection:* VHB is working on a design, and has completed the survey of the area.
- *Tunxis Avenue Sidewalks:* Zsyk Brothers will be breaking ground on the project next week. The project will include a crossing at Midas to Geissler's, and the Town is coordinating work with the new Popeyes located in the same area.

Mr. Gough inquired about a connection to Alexandria Manor. It was also noted that a trail has been constructed between Alexandria Manor and the Scott Trail in Filley Park. There was concern about the environmental impact of this, and it was recommended that the Town Wetlands Agent evaluate.

- *Maple Avenue Street Calming:* The street calming design will have temporary chockers in place by July 1 to slow traffic in the area.

Old Business

Adams/Hoskins to Simsbury Connector Update

Mr. Trottier recommended reviewing this item in the fall, with the potential to design in-house.

East Coast Greenway Study Advisory Committee Update

This item had been discussed earlier in the meeting and there was no further discussion.

Bicycle-Friendly Community Status Update

There was no update at this time. It was noted that pursing bicycle-friendly community status would be easier in the future when the trails that connect to the schools have been installed.

New Business

There was no new business.

Public Comment

Councilor Merritt inquired about the status/possibility of a trail connecting Filley Park to Duncaster Road. Obstacles for creating a trail were discussed.

Ms. Jones reported the Town's goal to regain Sustainable CT certification. She noted one new requirement is community engagement, and highlighted that the East Coast Greenway Draft Study outreach may qualify for this requirement. She will follow-up with Jon Colman.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.



Memorandum

To: Councilor Joseph Merritt and members of the Bloomfield Trails Committee
From: Robert Trottier, P.E., Town Engineer
Date: June 17, 2025
Subject: Town Engineer Update for 6/17/2025 Trails Committee Meeting

Bloomfield Greenway Update

East Coast Greenway DRAFT Study

The draft study was just issued and forwarded to the trails committee today. CRCOG is looking for some direction on public outreach, see email sent by Rob today. Rob will review at meeting.

Town Center to High School, State Project L011-0003

A Purchase Order was issued to BL Companies on 3/14/2025 for the design of this project. The survey has been completed and work has begun on Preliminary Engineering which includes looking at the feasibility of installing the multi-use trail on the north side of the road. A field site walk with BL was held on 5/30/2025 to review details of the alignment on the north and south sides of the road. A follow up meeting was held with CTDOT and CRCOG on 6/12 to begin discussions on the railroad crossing and possible road diet to make more room for the trail on the north side. Current schedule identifies design completion plus CRCOG and State reviews by February 2026 subject to acquiring any necessary rights for construction.

Tyler Street to Rockwell Park, State Project L011-0004

A Purchase order was issued to VHB on 3/27/2025 for design. Similar to the Town Center to High School project, survey has been completed and town staff met with VHB on 5/30/2025 to review the preliminary design. Discussion have been started with Eversource to begin the process of acquiring a license agreement for the trail on Eversource property.

Hartford Town Line to High School, State Project 011-XXX

We received the Design Consultant Selection Approval from CTDOT on 5/8/2025 and held a field walk assignment meeting with the Selected Consultant, BL

Companies on 6/11/2025. BL companies is currently developing a scope of work based on the assignment meeting. This project was submitted to CRCOG for funding under the FHWA Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program and was selected by the CRCOG Transportation Committee as the top project to advance to CTDOT for review.

Town Center to Day Hill Road

No funding is currently identified for this project, however, a draft of the CRCOG ECG Study was just issued and CTDOT is making East Coast Greenway gap projects a priority and actively looking at options for funding these projects.

Compete Streets Projects

Blue Hills Avenue Compete Streets Improvements, Hartford Town Line to Britton Drive, State Project L011-0002

Our contractor, Tabacco and Sons from Bristol, has been working for the past couple of months and is approximately 1/3 complete with the project. We anticipate an early completion date well ahead of their contract date.

School Street and Wintonbury Complete Streets/Intersection Improvements, State Project L011-0005

VHB was retained to respond to comments and submit an updated LOTCIP application to CRCOG which resulted in a commitment to fund from CTDOT on 1/24/2025. VHB was also retained for the design and has completed the survey and is currently working on preliminary design.

Tunxis Avenue Sidewalk Project, State Project 0170-3513

This design was completed in house and advertised for construction with a bid opening on 3/21/2025. Zsyk Brothers from West Hartford was the selected contractor and is scheduled to break ground next week. Construction is anticipated to take 2-3 months.

Maple Avenue Traffic Calming

Design by East West Engineering has started and temporary delineators are scheduled to be installed by DPW at one location by July 1st.