

Asylum Hill Bike & Walk Audit

By Bernie Michel

On March 19th nearly two dozen friends and neighbors participated in an audit of safety conditions in the main thoroughfares of Asylum Hill from the point of view of pedestrians and cyclists. Hartford, and indeed Connecticut has struggled for a long time with public transportation infrastructure that favors automobile traffic to the detriment of most other modes. Recent efforts to correct that have been aided by Transport Hartford an initiative of the Center for Latino Progress in Frog Hollow which seeks to balance the needs and safety of the approximately 40% of the population who live their lives without access to automobile transportation.

This was the second such audit in Hartford this year, following up on the nine that were conducted in 2018.

Groups of 2-4 people walked one of two routes in Asylum Hill, each about 1.5 miles beginning about 4:30pm with the goal of identifying conditions that would make life difficult for cyclists and pedestrians.

Each group made a list and added photos where appropriate. The group I was in mostly found a lot of broken sidewalk, a shortage of clear crosswalks and in some places overgrown bushes that both obstructed the view and obstruct the sidewalk.

Performing these audits and collecting the data can help to discover patterns as well as raise awareness. It can also help to direct resources so the City can invest more in safe infrastructure and spend less on legal settlements after the fact.

Credit for bringing this audit to Asylum Hill goes largely to Wildaliz Bermudez, an Asylum Hill resident and member of Hartford City Council. She has long been an advocate for alternate modes of transportation as well as a champion for the interests of the disadvantaged. Last year she was the master of Ceremonies at the Multimodal and Transit Summit that took place in November. More information on the Summit can be found at http://www.ctprf.org/programs_services/transport-hartford/multimodal-summit-2018/

Results from the audit should be available in the next few weeks and can be obtained by contacting either Tony Cherolis tony_cherolis@ctprf.org or Gannon Long gannon_long@ctprf.org

For more photos from at least one of the audits go to:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/evEXGo1HfheULMes9>

