

Wethersfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and Complete Streets Policy

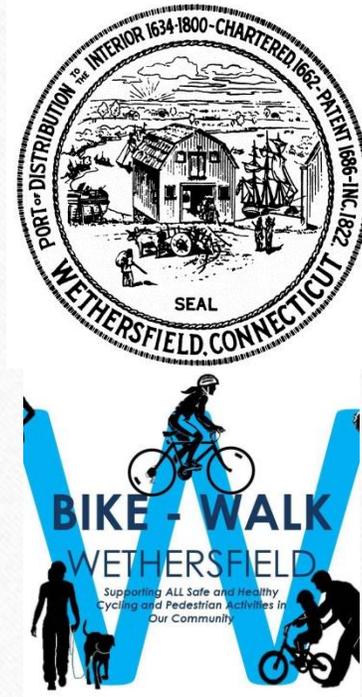


May 16, 2018
Kick-Off Meeting



Welcome

- Tony Margiotta – Vice-Chairman,
Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC)
- Kevin Sullivan - Bike/Walk Wethersfield



Introductions - Stakeholders Committee

- Town Council – Mary Breton,
- Engineering Department – Derrick Gregor,
- Planning and Zoning Commission – Tony Margiotta and George Oickle,
- Residents – Nancy and Jim Arnold, Kaci White, Kim Bobin,
- Police Department – Tom Mitney,
- Park and Recreation Department Kathy Bagley and Rachel Mattioli,
- School District – Michael Emmett,
- Bike/Walk Wethersfield – Kevin Sullivan and Rob O'Connor,
- Advisory Committee For People With Disabilities – Kathy Kanya,
- Central Connecticut Health District – Ann Hartman,
- Physical Services – Sally Katz,
- Tourism Commission – Chris Traczyk and Carol Bruce,
- Great Meadows Conservation Trust – Jim Woodworth,
- Planning and Economic Development Peter Gillespie and Denise Bradley.
- Town Manager – Jeff Bridges.

Tonight's Agenda

- Purpose of the Plan
- Role of the Stakeholders Advisory Committee
- Schedule
- Vision
- Goals
- Previous Planning Efforts
- Existing Conditions Inventory and Analysis
- Community Involvement
- Draft Plan
- Complete Streets Policy

Scope of Work

May 9, 2018

Website

- www.wethersfieldct.gov/government/pzc/bikes
- Agendas, Meeting Notes, Background Reports
etc...

Why Create a Bike/Ped Plan?

- 2013 Plan of Conservation and Development
- Chapter 5 – Maintain Community Character and Quality of Life
 - Extend Sidewalks and Trails
 - Establish Bicycle Routes
 - Enhance Transit Service
 - Enhance Streets
- Benefits
 - Affordable Transportation Option
 - Encourage Healthy Lifestyles
 - Improve Safety
 - Supports Economic Development
 - Reduce Pollution
 - Reduce Traffic Congestion

CRCOG Regional Complete Streets Plan

- The Capital Region Council of Governments is in the midst of a project to develop a comprehensive plan for a complete streets network in the Region.
- www.crcog.org/csplan
- Develop a map of desired complete streets linkages.
- Complete Streets Policy
- Action Plan

Role of Stakeholder Advisory Committee

- Attend Meetings
- Attend Workshops
- Community Outreach
- Provide Input from your Area of Expertise or Interest
- Help with Background Data
- Prioritization

Key Tasks Next 12 Months

- Form Advisory Committee
- Community Participation
- Vision and Goals
- Review Existing Policies, Programs, Plans and Studies
- Existing Conditions Inventory and Analysis
- Final Plan
- Complete Streets Policy

Schedule

- Kick Off Meeting (May)
- Conditions Analysis (May – September)
- Workshop/Open House (October)
- Draft Plan (December)
- Workshop (January 2019)
- Final Plan (March 2019)
- Approval (April 2019)

VISION - How does Wethersfield foresee the integration of bicycling and walking in the community?

- Wethersfield residents, workers, and visitors will view walking and bicycling as comfortable and convenient ways to get around the town.
- Walking and bicycling will be a part of Wethersfield's culture, making the town a healthy and vibrant place to live.
- Wethersfield's residents, commuters, students and visitors of all ages and abilities can walk and bicycle with confidence and security. Its excellent bicycling and walking facilities are central to the city's valued transportation network and contribute to its identity, economic vitality, public health and overall quality of life.
- Walking and biking will be practical, convenient, safe, and pleasant ways to travel to destinations within and adjacent to the town.

GOALS - The goals provide a level of specificity that shape and provide a framework for prioritizing the Plan's recommendations.

- Improve the safety of walking and bicycling in Wethersfield.
- Increase the number of walking and bicycling trips in Wethersfield.
- Advance Wethersfield's reputation as a town where walking and bicycling are a visible part of everyday life.

How Bike and Walk Friendly is Wethersfield?

- Bike Walk Connecticut - 2014 Town Scorecard
- Wethersfield #30
- Low Ranking on Municipal Leadership and Engagement 16/100
- High Ranking on Bike Walk Friendly Score 64.7/100
- Combined Score **40.4/100**
- Top Score – Simsbury 80/100 and 69/100 Combined Score 74.5/100



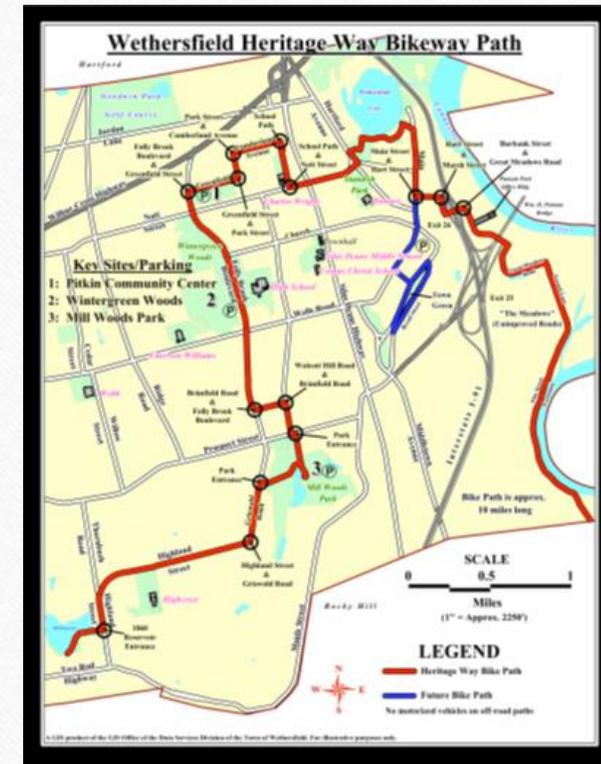
Previous Plans and Studies

- 2013 Plan of Conservation and Development
- 2008 Old Wethersfield Master Plan
- 2009 Beaver Brook Master Plan
- 2006 Silas Deane Highway Master Plan
- 2014 Putnam Bridge Multimodal Trail
Connection Feasibility Study
- Safe Routes To School Studies



Existing Conditions Inventory and Analysis

- Inventory of Existing Bicycle Facilities
- Inventory of Existing Pedestrian Facilities
- Data Collection
- Review of Existing Policies, Practices, Ordinances and Programs That Support Biking and Walking
- Destinations and Connections That Attract Bicycling and Walking
- Review of State, Regional and Neighboring Community Plans and Documents



Data Collection

- Existing Signs
- Pavement Widths
- Sidewalk Gaps
- Pavement Markings
- Crosswalks
- Traffic Signals
- Traffic Counts
- Accident Data
- Bike Facilities (Racks)
- Sidewalk Locations/Conditions
- Gateways/Connections To Neighboring Towns
- Bus Routes/Stops
- Destinations

Community Participation

- Stakeholders Committee Meetings
- Website
- Events – Farmers Market?
- Workshop/Open House - October
- Draft Plan Workshop – January 2019
- Media
- Additional Outreach? Survey?



Workshop/Open House

- Charette Style Workshop
- Hands-On
- Mark-Up Maps
- What's Good About Wethersfield's
Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure?
- What's Not So Good?
- What Ideas do you have?

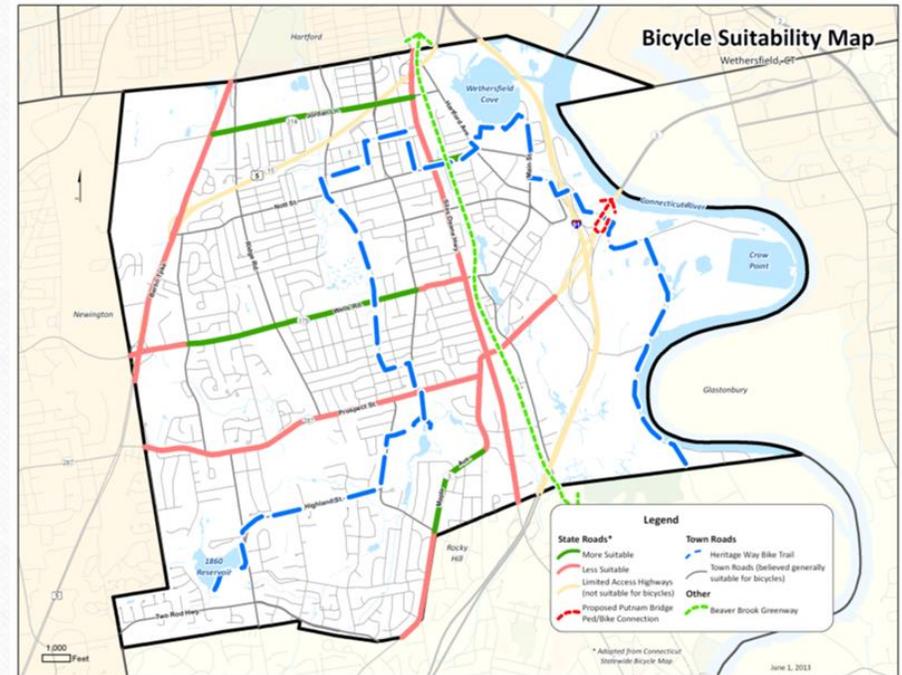
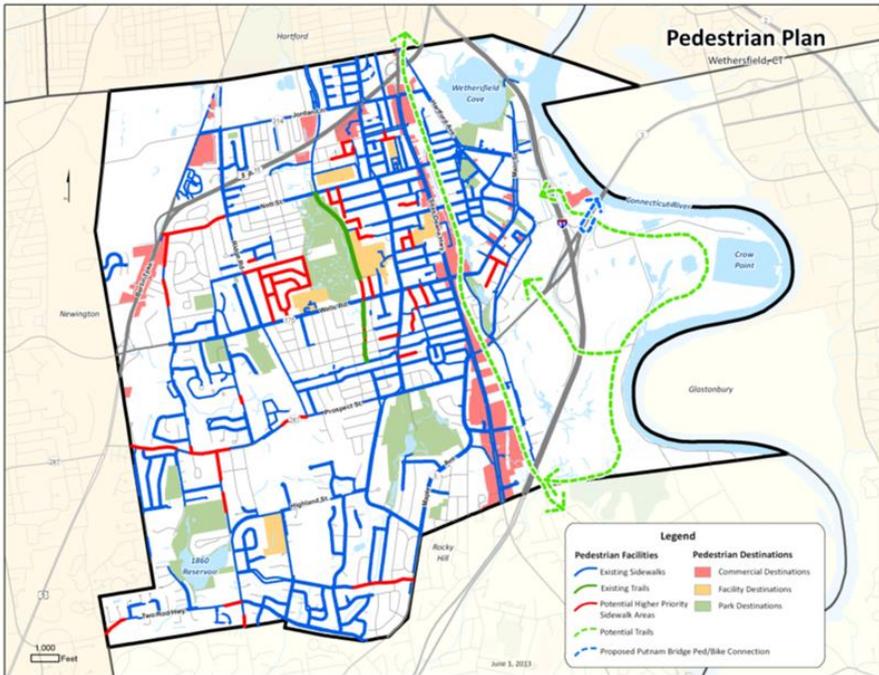


Plan Contents

- Pedestrian Plan
- Bicycle Plan
- Facilities and Improvements
- Policies and Programs
- Costs
- Priorities
- Funding Opportunities
- Benchmarks/Performance



Plan Contents



The League of American Bicyclists - The 5 E's

The Bicycle Friendly Community program provides a roadmap to improving conditions for bicycling and guidance to help make your community's vision for a better, bikeable community a reality.

- **Engineering:** Creating safe and convenient places to ride and park
- **Education:** Giving people of all ages and abilities the skills and confidence to ride
- **Encouragement:** Creating a strong bike culture that welcomes and celebrates bicycling
- **Enforcement:** Ensuring safe roads for all users
- **Evaluation & Planning:** Planning for bicycling as a safe and viable transportation option

What are Complete Streets?

- Complete Streets are streets for everyone!
- “Complete Streets are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and bus riders of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across a complete street.” National Complete Streets Coalition
- What does a Complete Street look like?
- There is no singular design prescription for Complete Streets; each one is unique and responds to its community context. A complete street may include: sidewalks, bike lanes (or wide paved shoulders), special bus lanes, comfortable and accessible public transportation stops, frequent and safe crossing opportunities, median islands, accessible pedestrian signals, curb extensions, narrower travel lanes, roundabouts, and more.

Complete Streets Policy

In total, over 1,200 Complete Streets policies have been passed in the United States.

In Connecticut – New Haven, Middletown, Hamden, South Windsor, Coventry, Torrington, Hartford, West Hartford and Milford.

Complete Streets policies formalize a community's intent to plan, design, and maintain streets so they are safe for all users of all ages and abilities. Policies direct transportation planners and engineers to consistently design and construct the right-of-way to accommodate all anticipated users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, motorists, and freight vehicles.

Complete streets is a transportation policy and design approach that requires streets to be planned, designed, operated, and maintained to enable safe, convenient and comfortable travel and access for users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation.

Next Steps

- Committee Meeting - Thursday **June 28** 6:30 pm
 - Vision and Goals
 - Previous Plans
 - Existing Conditions Analysis
- Thursday **September 27** 6:30 pm
 - Workshop Details
 - Existing Conditions
- Public Workshop/Open House – Community Center – Tuesday, **October 30**

Bike Repair Station – TownHall/Library



Community Connectivity Grant

- Connecticut Department of Transportation
- Filed Last August
- Twelve (12) Projects
- Old Wethersfield
- Intersection Improvements, Sidewalks, Crosswalks and Bike Lanes
- \$400,000 max/community

Wolcott Hill Road Reconstruction



WOLCOTT HILL ROAD RECONSTRUCTION
JORDAN LANE TO VICTORIA ROAD IN HARTFORD
CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PLAN

5/14/2016

Questions?

Comments?

Next Meeting

Thursday, June 28, 6:30 p.m.

Council Chambers