

Wethersfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan –  
Committee Meeting #6

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Thursday November 29, 2018

# Welcome

- Peter Gillespie – Planning and Economic Development Director  
Town of Wethersfield
- Kevin Sullivan - Bike/Walk Wethersfield



Please Sign-In

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HANDOUTS

# Tonight's Agenda

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- Meeting Notes – September Meeting
- Vision and Goals
- Review of Workshop – Oct 30
- Working Groups
- Community Survey Status
- Update Bike/Ped Projects
- Meeting and Project Schedule
- Other Business

# Meeting Notes

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September 2018 Meeting

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

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The Town of Wethersfield will be a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community where local and regional destinations are connected through a comprehensive network of safe, convenient and accessible infrastructure that encourages travel, recreation, economic vitality, equity and a healthy and active quality of life for all users utilizing all modes of transportation.

# Vision Comments – Oct 30 Workshop

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- Address Work
- Traffic Enforcement
- Every street should be a Complete Street
- Intercommunity connectivity (5 green dots)
- Good, well thought out
- Incorporate marketing and media
- Good Vision Statement

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

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1. Improve, expand and maintain the network of streets, intersections, sidewalks, trails and bike lanes throughout Town to encourage more bicycle and pedestrian activity.
2. Develop a comprehensive education and promotional program to encourage bicycling and walking as safe and healthy options for transportation and recreation.
3. Increase funding for projects that will improve the transportation network with a particular emphasis on walking and bicycling.

# Goals – Oct 30 Comments

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- Transportation to work
- I agree with all of the draft goals
- Mention people with limited mobility
- More connections to the River
- Goal 3 – Increase Funding (8 green dots)

# October 30 – Workshop and Open House

## Thanks!

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- Ann Hartman and Charles Brown, CCHD
- Kevin Sullivan, Tom Brown and Rob O'Connor, BWW
- Mary Breton, Town Council
- Kaethe Podgorski
- Tom Carson
- Town Engineer Derrick Gregor
- Kathy Bagley, Town Manager
- Heather Thomas
- Jim Woodworth

# October 30 – Workshop and Open House

## Guests

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- Central Connecticut Health District
- Bike Walk Wethersfield
- Riverfront Recapture
- Bike Walk Connecticut
- Watch For Me CT
- LimeBike Hartford
- Bike Karma Podcast
- Great Meadows Conservation Trust
- Wethersfield High School Bike Club
- Cycling Without Age
- S. Windsor Bike Education
- Town Engineer Derrick Gregor

# October 30 – Workshop and Open House Summary

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- 16 Stations/Displays
- 20 Raffle Prizes
- 90 Attendees (Public)
- 20 (Guests/Committee)
- 4 requests for Plans/Reports
- 30 email sign ups
- 30 additional surveys completed
- Turnout exceeded expectations
- Great public interest in bike and ped issues
- Format and Layout worked well
- Interest from both Newington and Rocky Hill Elected Officials

# Work Stations

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- Vision and Goals
- Biking and Trails
- Pedestrian Improvements
- Plans and Reports
- My Big Ideas

# Utilizing Survey Responses

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- Preliminary Analysis of Survey Monkey Results
- 322 Biking Recommendations
- 398 Walking Recommendations

# Bike Survey Questions

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- 2% Bike to Work Daily
- 2% Bike Daily Errands/Shopping
- 14% Bike Daily for Exercise
- 45% Cite Lack of Bike Infrastructure as Major Reason Impacting Biking
- 43% Cite Bad Driver Behavior
- 23% Don't Have a Bike
- 2% Bike to School Daily
- 11% Weekly
- 24% Weekly
- 42% Cite Traffic Volumes and Speed

# Bike Recommendations

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## Recommendations

- 175 - Bike Lanes or Paths
- 50 – Silas Deane Highway
- 36 – Bike Racks
- 26 – Speeding/Bad Driver Behaviors
- 7 – Biker Education
- 6 - Fix Roads

## Streets

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| • 34 - Wolcott Hill   | 24 – Prospect      |
| • 21 – Main Street/OW | 17 – Putnam Bridge |
| • 17 – Wells Road     | 16 - Convert Rail  |
| • 11 – Maple          | 9 – Ridge          |
| • 9 – Nott            | 8 – Meadows        |

# Biking and Trail Network Map

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- Bike Path/Routes
- Pedestrian Trails/Off-Road
- Greenway/Rail Trail

# Bike Paths and Routes

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## North-South

- Goff Road
- Ridge Road
- Griswold/Folly Brook
- Wolcott Hill
- Maple
- Silas Deane
- Middletown/Spring
- Highland/Thornbush

## East-West

- Jordan Lane
- Nott
- Church
- Wells
- Prospect
- Two Rod/Hang Dog

# Bike Paths and Routes

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## Others

- State/Hartford Ave.
- Main Street
- Marsh/Great Meadow
- Broad Street
- Genesee and Wyoming Rail/Trail

## Trails

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|---------------------|----------------|
| • Mill Woods        | Old Reservoir  |
| • Heritage Walk     | Heritage Way   |
| • Wintergreen Woods | Goodwin Park   |
| • Meadows           | Wilkus Farms   |
| • Kycia Farm        | Cedar Mountain |
| • Cove Park         |                |

# Q15 – Recommendations To Improve Biking

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- “Complete the Putnam Bridge to Glastonbury route.”
- “There should be bike lanes in "New Wethersfield”
- “Silas Deane - I would not even consider biking on as is - might help bike lane - separated from cars - trees to make it friendlier to non-cars - just needs to be more pedestrian-bike friendly.”
- “Bike racks in Old Wethersfield to stop for dining/shopping.”

# Oct 30 Bike Comments (Notes)

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## 55 Comments

- 23 Comments On Trails (Millwoods, Old Reservoir, Meadows, Cove Park, Cedar Mountain, Kycia, Wilkus Farms and Rail Trail)
- 5 Comments on Intersections
- 2 Comments Cycling w/out age
- 10 Comments on Broad Street Walkers in Street
- 7 Comments on Putnam Bridge Connection
- 5 Comments Bike Racks and Boy Scouts
- 3 Comments missing sidewalks SDH/Jordan Lane

# Oct 30 Bike Comments (Map Dots)

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## 40 Dots

- 12 Green Dots on RR Greenway
- 3 Dots Great Meadows
- 3 Dots Old Reservoir
- 3 Dots Cove Park/River Trail
- 2 Additional Intersections
- Add Bike Lane on Thornbush
- 3 Dots For Connection To Riverfront Recapture/Charter Oak

# Pedestrian/Walk Questions

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- 8% walk to work daily
- 13% walk to errands/shopping daily                      24% once a week
- 13% to visit friends/family daily                              30% once a week
- 14% walk to school daily
- 60% walk for exercise each day
- 31% Cite Bad Driver Behavior Impacts Walking Frequency
- 28% Cite Unsafe Intersections

# Pedestrian Improvements

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- 157 – Close Gaps in Sidewalks
- 95 - Fix Intersections
- 90 – Sidewalk Repairs/Maintenance
- 53 – Traffic Speed/Enforcement
- 30 – Silas Deane Highway
- 28 – Nothing/Things are Great
- 14 – Create Bike Lanes
- 14 - Utilize Rail Road Corridor
- 12 – Lighting Improvements
- 11 – Bushes/Trees
- 11 – Off Road Trails

# Pedestrian Improvement Plan

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- Missing/Sidewalk Gaps
- Traffic Speed Areas
- Intersection Improvements
- Other Improvements

# Pedestrian Improvements

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## Speeding

- Broad Street
  - Nott
  - Hang Dog
  - Ridge
  - Church
  - Coppermill
  - Church
  - Folly Brook
- Wells
  - Jordan
  - Collier
  - Wolcott Hill
  - Highcrest
  - Silas Deane
  - Main
  - Highland

## Intersections

- Several in Old Wethersfield
- Silas Deane Highway corridor
- Wolcott Hill Road corridor
- Wells Road corridor
- Prospect Street corridor
- Highcrest/Highland area
- Goff/Prospect
- Willow/Prospect
- Goff/Wells

# Pedestrian Improvements

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## Sidewalk Gaps

- Berlin Turnpike
- Jordan Lane
- Silas Deane – North and South Gateways
- Middletown/Spring
- Wells
- Prospect
- Collier
- Highland
- Coppermill
- Ridge
- Crest
- Western Boulevard
- Willow
- Thornbush
- Mill
- Marsh/Great Meadow
- Cumberland
- Hang Dog/Maple
- Goff

# October 30 Pedestrian Comments (Notes)

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## 48 Comments

- 4 comments add trails
- 3 comments traffic calming
- 11 comments sidewalk gaps/improvements
- 9 comments speeding
- 17 comments intersections
- 1 bike lane
- 1 bus shelter
- 1 Broad Street

# October 30 Pedestrian Comments (Map Dots)

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## 35 Comments/Dots

- 5 Additional Intersections
- 2 High Speed Streets

## Q7- Recommendations To Improve Walking?

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- “Conversion of the rail tracks to a bike/pedestrian trail will improve access, at least from Old Wethersfield, to the Silas Deane Highway.”
- “The Church St - Main St intersection is an excellent example of a dramatically improved intersection with relatively small investment-cost.”
- “I would love sidewalks in my neighborhood including Fox Hill Rd and Cloverdale Circle. There are so many children in this area it would be wonderful to have sidewalks.”

# Several Themes Are Emerging

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- Many Preferred Bike/Ped Routes Have Similar Characteristics:
  - Speeding
  - Sidewalk Gaps
  - Need Intersection Improvements
  - State Routes
  - Higher Rate of Traffic Accidents
  
- Silas Deane Highway – Wells Road – Prospect – Jordan – Nott Street

# Several Themes Are Emerging

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- Other Preferred Bike/Ped Routes Have The Following Characteristics:
  - Speeding
  - Need Intersection Improvements
  - Town Roads
  - Accident Rates (Lesser Extent)
  
- Wolcott Hill – Highcrest/Highland and Old Wethersfield

# Previous Plans and Reports

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- 2014 Putnam Bridge Multimodal Trail  
Connection Feasibility Study (23 green dots)
- 4 Requests For Plans/Reports

# October 30 - My Big Idea

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## Walking

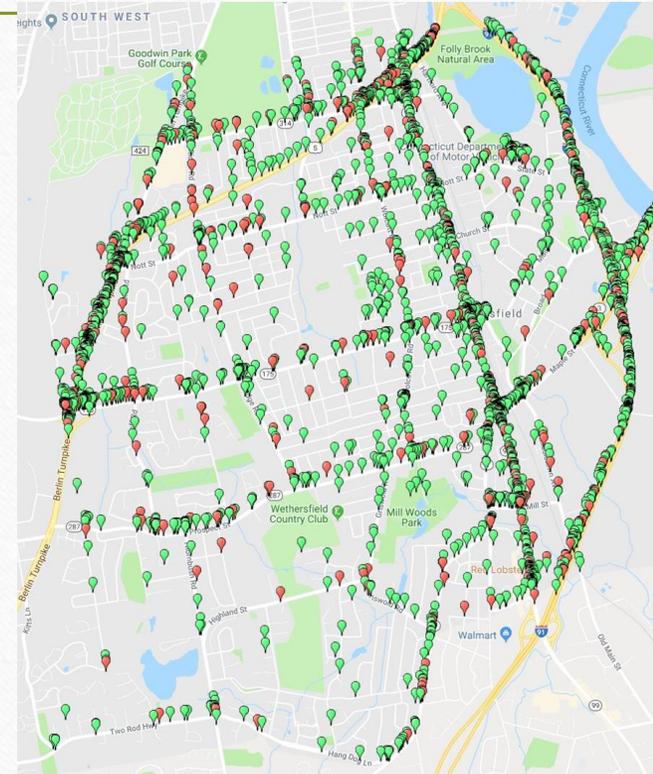
- Additional Crosswalks
- Traffic Calming Along SDH – Greenway in the middle
- Unsafe Sidewalks – Tripping Hazards
- Implement Beaver Brook Plan
- Sidewalks on Berlin Turnpike
- PSA For Drivers - 4 way stops
- More welcoming access to River at Cove Park

## Biking

- Safe Crossing of Berlin Turnpike
- Connect Business and Recreational Areas
- Connect To Riverfront Recapture
- Connect to Riverfront
- Signs in Meadows
- P.E. Classes
- Silas Deane Traffic Calming
- Rail Trail
- Dedicated Bike Path/Greenway

# Working Groups

- Data
- Funding
- Infrastructure
- Plans and Policy
- Programs and Events
- Complete Streets Policy



# Data Collection

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- Pavement Widths
- Sidewalk Gaps
- Pavement Markings
- Intersection Audits
- Traffic Counts
- Accident Data
- Bike Facilities (Racks)
- Sidewalk Locations/Conditions
- Gateways/Connections To Neighboring Towns
- Bus Routes/Stops
- Destinations
- Survey

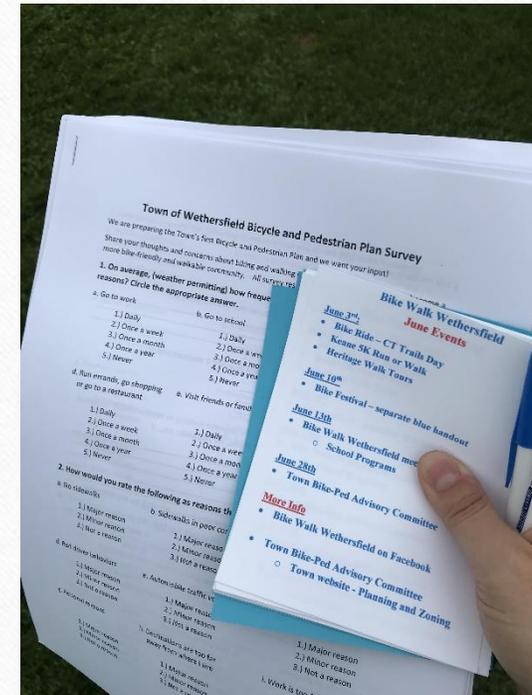
# Working Groups

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- Should Set Up Meetings To Discuss Progress and Remaining Work To Be Done.

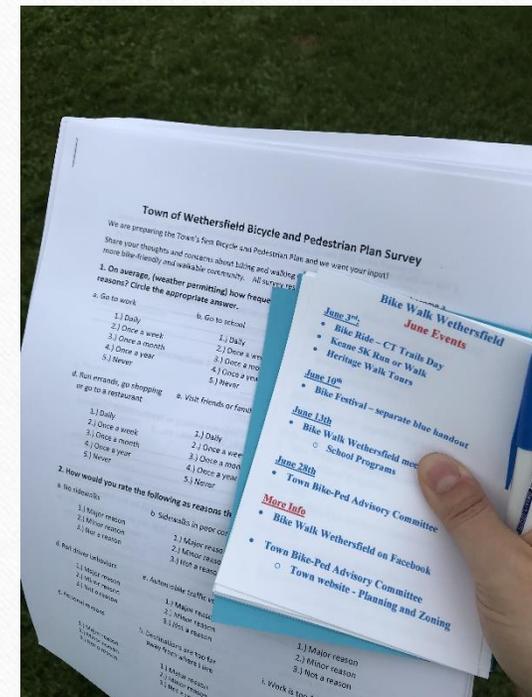
# Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Survey

- Over 600 Surveys Completed (610)
- 170 included emails for future notifications
- 63% Respondents Female
- 35% Male
- 28% Age 35-44
- 21% Age 45-54



# Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Survey

- Last Call For Surveys!
- Friday December 14, 2018
- Will Generate A Final Summary



# Grants

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- Wolcott Hill Road Reconstruction - \$2,351,200 – Jordan Lane to Hartford City Line
- Highland Street Pavement Rehabilitation – Rocky Hill Town Line to Thornbush Road - \$640,800
- Community Connectivity Grant – 11 Projects in Old Wethersfield - \$393,300
- Still waiting for Guidance/Paperwork from Funding Sources Before Scheduling Public Information Meetings

# Project Schedule

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- Kick Off Meeting (May 16)
- Conditions Analysis  
(June 28)  
(August 30)  
(September 27)
- Workshop/Open House (October 30)
- Committee Meeting (November 29)
- Next Committee Meeting (January 10)
- Draft Plan Review (February 7 and 28)
- Workshop/Hearing (March 14)
- Final Plan (April)
- Approval (May)

# Other Business?

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- October 11 - CRCOG Complete Streets Local Policy Workshop
- November 19 - Multimodal and Transit Summit 2018
- CRCOG – Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Public Meetings – Connect 2045 - Dec 4 New Britain YMCA and Dec 6 Capital Community College – On Line Survey

Questions?

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Comments?

# Next Meeting

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Thursday, January 10, 2019

6:30 p.m., Council Chambers

Happy Holidays

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