

Wethersfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan – Open House and Workshop

Help Make Wethersfield More Bike & Walk Friendly

Bike/Ped Planning OPEN HOUSE

Pitkin Community Center
OCTOBER 30th
6:30 to 9:30PM
*Presentations & *Prizes



For More Info:



Scan me

Welcome

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



Introductions - Stakeholders Advisory Committee

- Town Council – Mary Breton,
- Town Engineer – Derrick Gregor,
- Planning and Zoning – George Oickle,
- Residents – Nancy and Jim Arnold, Kaci White, Kim Bobin,
- Police Department – Tom Mitney,
- Parks and Recreation - Rachel Mattioli,
- Superintendent of Schools – Michael Emmett,
- Bike/Walk Wethersfield – Kevin Sullivan and Rob O'Connor,
- Adv Committee For People With Disabilities – Kathy Kanya,
- Central Connecticut Health District – Charles Brown and Ann Hartman,
- Physical Services – Sally Katz,
- Tourism – Chris Traczyk and Carol Bruce,
- Great Meadows Cons. Trust – Jim Woodworth,
- Planning and Economic Development - Peter Gillespie
- Interim Town Manager – Kathy Bagley
- Numerous Volunteer Residents

Guests Tonight – Please Visit Their Tables

- 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
- Wethersfield Parks and Recreation

Tonight's Agenda

- Purpose of the Plan – Why?
- Role of the Stakeholders Advisory Committee
- Schedule
- Working Groups
- Community Survey Results
- Recent Grant Awards
- Questions and Comments
- Work Stations
 - Vision and Goals
 - Pedestrian Improvements
 - Bicycle Routes
 - Plans and Reports
 - My Big Idea

Website

- <https://www.wethersfieldct.gov/bike-pedplan>
- Agendas, Meeting Notes, Background Reports, Survey etc...
- Link to Survey – Please take survey!

Why Create a Bike/Pedestrian 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
- Documents Community Needs (Grants)

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 throughout Region.
- Complete Streets Policy
- Action Plan

What are Complete Streets?

- Complete Streets are streets designed to be safe 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.

Project Schedule

- Kick Off Meeting (May)
 - Conditions Analysis (May – September)
 - **Workshop/Open House (October) ***
 - Committee Meeting (November)
 - Draft Plan (December)
 - Workshop (January 2019)
 - Final Plan (March 2019)
 - Approval (April 2019)
- **It's Still Early In The Planning Process!**
 - **Just Beginning To Document Ideas.**

How Bike and Walk Friendly is Wethersfield?

- Bike Walk Connecticut - 2014 Town Scorecard
- **Wethersfield #30** out of #136
- Low Ranking on Municipal Leadership and Engagement 16/100
(Plan, Committee, Public Outreach, Complete Streets Policy)
- 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



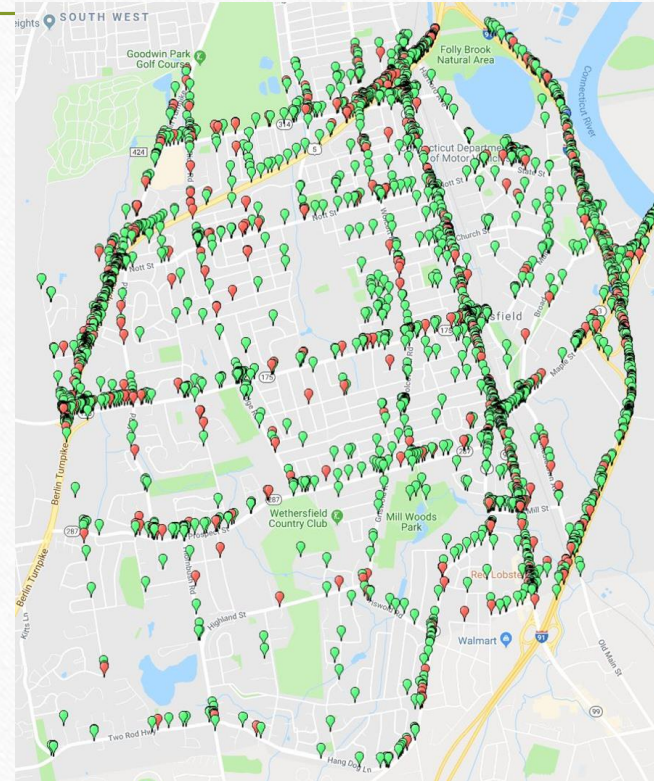
What Has Bike/Ped Committee Been Doing?

- 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 That Attract Bicycling and Walking
- Review of State, Regional and Neighboring Community Plans and Documents
- Work with Conn. Dept. of Transportation



Working Groups

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

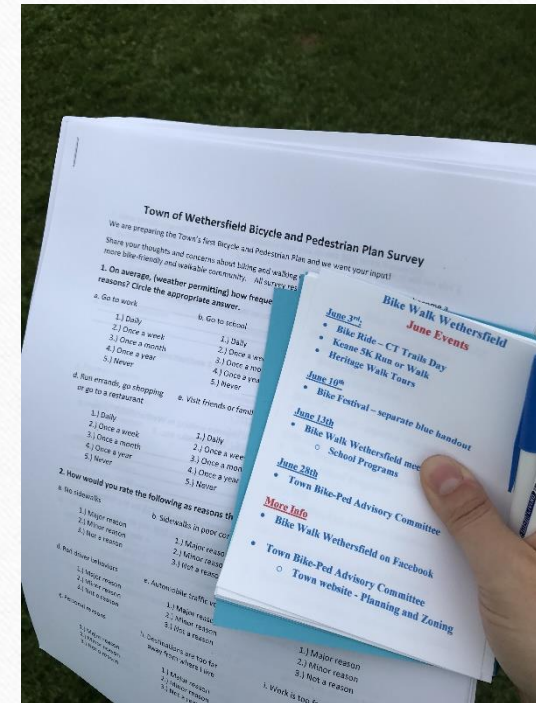


Data Collection

- 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

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Survey

- 565 Surveys Completed
- 170 Persons requested future notifications
- 63% Respondents Female
- 35% Male
- 28% Age 35-44
- 21% Age 45-54



Walk Questions

- 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

Q7- Recommendations To Improve Walking?

- **398 Suggestions**
- 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

Q7- Recommendations To Improve Walking?

Speed

- Broad Street
 - Nott
 - Hang Dog
 - Ridge
 - Church
 - Coppermill
- | |
|-----------|
| Well Road |
| Jordan |
| Collier |

Intersections

- Several in Old Wethersfield
- Several along Silas Deane Highway
- Several along Wolcott Hill
- Goff/Prospect
- Willow/Prospect
- Goff/Wells

Pedestrian Improvement Plan

- Sidewalk Gaps
- Areas Where Speeding Reported
- Intersections Where Improvements Suggested

Q7- Recommendations To Improve Walking?

- “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.”

Bike Questions

- 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

Q15 – Recommendations To Improve Biking

322 Suggestions

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

Streets Suggested

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

Q15 – Recommendations To Improve Biking

- “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.”

Q19 – Additional Comments

- “Make any bike paths. Like Farmington rail trail. I’m tired of hearing how great Farmington is. Wethersfield could be way better than Farmington.”
- “We walk through Folly Brook almost daily. Having bike/walking routes would be tremendously helpful for our town. It would encourage more community, healthy lifestyles and an improvement with public transportation.”
- “We moved here from West Hartford, in part, to live in a walkable community. I love that I can walk around Old Wethersfield, or walk to the library or to run errands in the stores on the Silas Deane. An idea to increase biking is to turn the rail road tracks that run parallel to the Silas Deane into a rails to trail to enable biking into Hartford for work.”

Community Connectivity Grant

- Eleven (11) Projects in Old Wethersfield:
 - Intersection Improvements
 - Sidewalks
 - Crosswalks
 - Bike Lanes – Main Street
 - Bike Racks
 - ADA ramps
- \$393,3000
- Church/Marsh Street Intersection
- Hartford Ave Intersection
- State Street Intersection
- Center Street Intersection
- Marsh/Broad Street Intersection
- Hanmer Road/Heritage Way Bike Path
- Nott/Garden Street Intersection
- Garden Street/Standish Park

LOTICIP Grants

- 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

Recent Projects

- Town Hall/Library Bike Repair Station – Funded Through Grant Obtained By Central Connecticut Health District
- Jordan Lane (Route 314) Repaving and Restriping Project – ConnDot – Narrower Travel Lanes and Wider Striped Shoulders

Questions?

Comments?

Raffle

- **Thanks To Our Generous Donors!**

- Main Street Creamery and Café
- Heirloom Market at Comstock Ferre
- LimeBike Hartford
- Wethersfield High School Bike Club

Old Wethersfield Country Store

Central Connecticut Health District

Bike Walk Wethersfield

Work Stations

We want your ideas for what you think is important to include in the Plan.

- Place your Green Dots on the ideas you like best.
- Place your Red Dots on the ideas you don't like.
- Mark up the Maps with your ideas.
- Write your ideas on the sticky note pads.
- Tell us what we are missing.
- Be Specific!

Work Stations

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

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

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.

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

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

Biking and Trail Network Map

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

Pedestrian Improvement Plan

- Missing Sidewalk Gaps
- Traffic Speed Areas
- Intersection Improvements

Previous Plans and Reports

- 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
- 2015 Safe Routes To School Reports



Courtesy Weth Historical Society

My Big Idea

- My Big Idea For Walking
- My Big Idea For Biking

- My Other Big Idea

Next Meeting

Thursday, November 29, 6:30 p.m.

Council Chambers