

Welcome to the Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update!

Can you envision a network of roads and trails throughout Connecticut where bicyclists and pedestrians are provided a safe, continuous, and enjoyable experience?

Providing quality routes and updating our roads to accommodate all users encourages opportunities for physical health, increased economic development opportunities, community cohesion, and social equity. Whether large city or small coastal town, all communities benefit from accommodating non-motorized transportation.

The CT Department of Transportation and local consulting firm Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. (FHI) are undertaking the Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and Map Update.

This effort has two prongs: the first is the Update to the 2009 Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan. Goals include review of the existing plan and policies, and updating them to be consistent with today's regulations, infrastructure, and Connecticut residents' needs and desires.

The second project is the update to the map that was completed in 2009, reflecting the changes in Connecticut's bicycling infrastructure. The Statewide Bicycle Map will detail amenities, regional trail networks, and suggested on-street bicycle routes. This interactive map, available for both desktop and mobile viewing, will assess streets' suitability for bicycling based on factors such as posted speed limit and truck traffic volumes.



What's changed since 2009?



Multiple federal initiatives have been implemented to help communities create safer, better connected bicycling and walking networks.



New Connecticut legislation aims to make the streets safer for all users.



CTDOT is exceeding statewide bicyclist and pedestrian funding targets.



CTDOT makes continuous progress in Complete Streets policy and design.



Local municipalities are making strides to adopt policies, programs, and designs that support bicyclist and pedestrian planning.



A growing number of advocacy groups and communities are championing implementation of safer streets.



Who's Steering This Project?

While everyone in Connecticut is invited to participate throughout the 18-month Plan Update process, a Steering Committee has been selected to advise the project team and guide the process.

The Steering Committee represents the Nutmeg State's diverse regions and interests. Committee members come to the table from various agencies, municipalities, advocacy groups, and non-profits to share their local knowledge and insights.

Specifically, the Steering Committee will:

- Provide expertise on local and regional issues and priorities
- Help raise awareness about the Plan and Map Update across the state
- Offer insight on deficiencies in the statewide network
- Assess improvement alternatives
- Review the Plan and Map Update

Our Project Team and Steering Committee held a kick-off meeting in early February. We conducted an interactive exercise to revisit the 2009 Vision Statement, and outlined project goals and milestones. Attendees were asked to choose three key words or phrases from the 2009 Vision that are most essential for our future going forward, and three words or phrases that are missing from that 2009 Vision. The results from



this exercise are illustrated in the word clouds below, which give greater prominence to the words that were selected most often. The room was brewing with excitement and ideas to create a more robust culture of bicycling and walking coordinated with transit here in Connecticut.

Visit the project website to learn more, including meeting minutes, agendas, and a full list of Committee members.

Key Words Essential for the Future



Key Words Missing From the 2009 Vision



Visit CTBikePedPlan.org to Stay Informed!

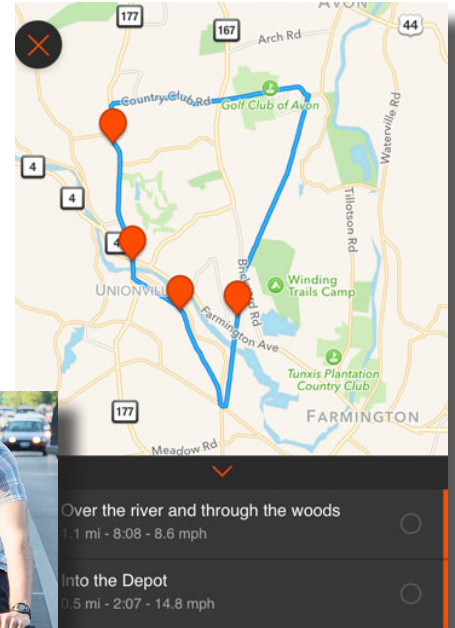


Track Your Rides and Runs With Strava!

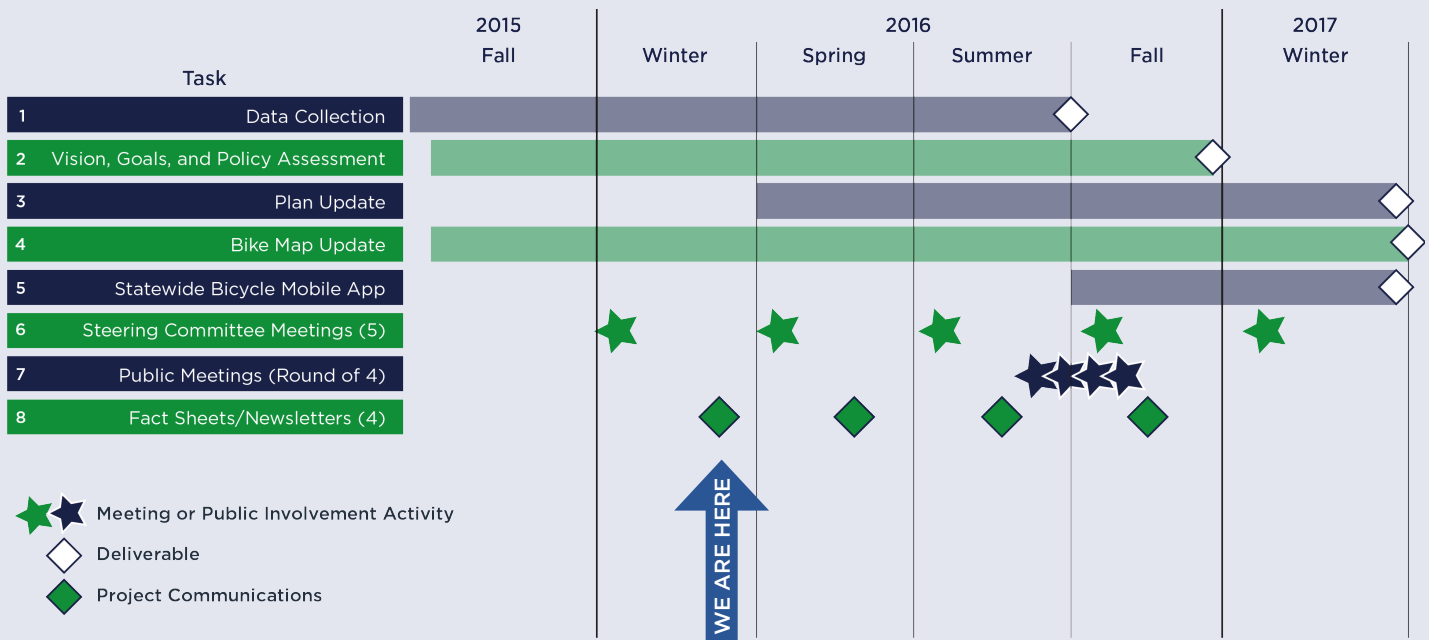
Strava is a leading website and smartphone app that allows users to track their bicycle rides, runs, walks, and more, and to share their favorite routes with other users. One of the app's most popular features is the Global HeatMap, which provide compelling map imagery to illustrate the most popular roads and routes for its users.

The app also collects anonymous data from its users, including information when people are traveling and general origin and destination points. As part of this Map Update, CTDOT has purchased Strava's Connecticut dataset so planners and engineers can have a better understanding of where people are actually riding today. This data will provide a

valuable baseline of information and will be utilized in conjunction with various other sources, such as crash data and local knowledge, to develop the Map Update. The more registered Strava users there are in Connecticut, the better informed we'll be, so download the free Strava app today and start tracking!



Project Schedule

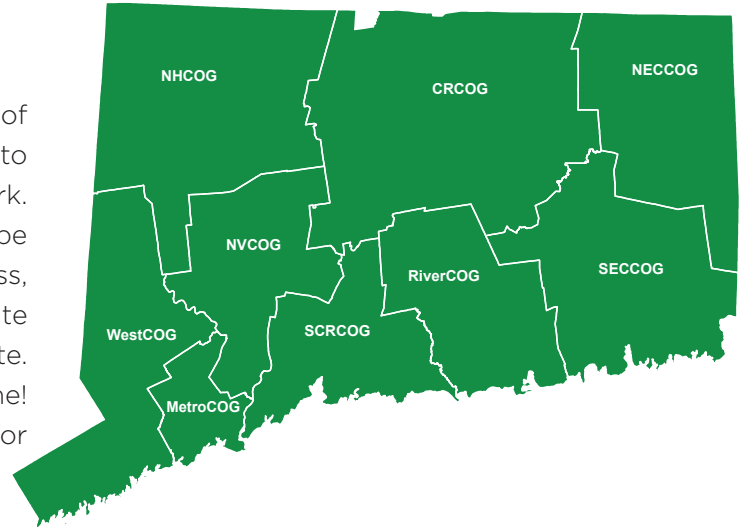


Meeting With Connecticut's RPOs

The Project Team met with all nine of Connecticut's Regional Planning Organizations (RPOs), who provide transportation and community planning support to the municipalities in their regions. The purpose of these meetings was to gather insights on current efforts in the entire region and specific municipalities. The Project Team was eager to learn of each RPOs desires for the Plan and Map Update.

Who Loves Data?

We do! We are developing an inventory of planning documents and data resources to assess our facilities and develop our network. If you have materials that you think should be incorporated or part of our planning process, please send them our way. This will help us create a more accurate, robust Plan and Map Update. Database and GIS files are especially welcome! Contact Marcy Miller at mmiller@fhiplan.com for questions or to provide information.



Visit the Project Website

at CTBikePedPlan.org to learn more, share your ideas, insights, and concerns, and provide feedback on draft recommendations.



Join our Email List

and we'll keep you informed. We promise not to flood your inbox!

Get Involved!

Improving the Plan and Map Update depends on input from YOU! You know your communities best. We want to hear what's working, and what isn't. So how can you get involved?



Read the Project Newsletter

so you can impress your friends with your knowledge of the Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update.



Spread the Word!

Tell your friends about this effort, and bring them along for the ride. We'd like to hear from the novice to the expert, the kids and the octogenarians, and everyone in between. The more the merrier!



Attend a Public Meeting

We're hosting series of four public meetings this fall. The meetings will be held throughout the state in bike-friendly locations, so everyone can join. The dates and locations are to be determined.