

Taking the Show on the Road 2016 PUBLIC MEETINGS RECAP



Throughout November, public meetings were held in Fairfield, New Haven, West Hartford, and Willimantic.

Over the past year, the Project Team has collected data and worked closely with the Steering Committee to update a number of key items from the Plan, such as the draft Vision and Mission for bicycle and pedestrian travel in Connecticut (see inset).

In addition, the Committee provided guidance on how to potentially update the bicycle map, which led to the development of the Draft Bicycle Network Map.

With some preliminary items developed, the Project Team was eager to get public input. The team hosted four public meetings in November 2016 to introduce the Plan Update and its process. These four meetings were held in various locations across the state and included the same content at each event. Attendees learned about the project with informational boards and in a brief presentation.

They were also encouraged to provide their input by drawing on map handouts, participating in an interactive exercise about the action strategies, and engaging in a group discussion, sharing feedback and ideas. Check out the project website to view a detailed summary of these discussions. Thank you to all who attended for this valuable input!

Bicycle Network Identification and Analysis

Past versions of the Bicycle Map contained various features. In 1999, the Map included cross-state routes, loop (or recreational) rides and roadways not recommended for riding. A suitability analysis was included in the 2009 Update that highlighted the condition of *(continued on page 4)*

Draft Project Vision & Mission

Vision

The State of Connecticut will encourage, promote and continue to improve the conditions for bicycling, walking, and other forms of active transportation, so that any person, regardless of age, ability, or income will be able to walk, bicycle, or use other types of active transportation modes safely and conveniently throughout the State of Connecticut.

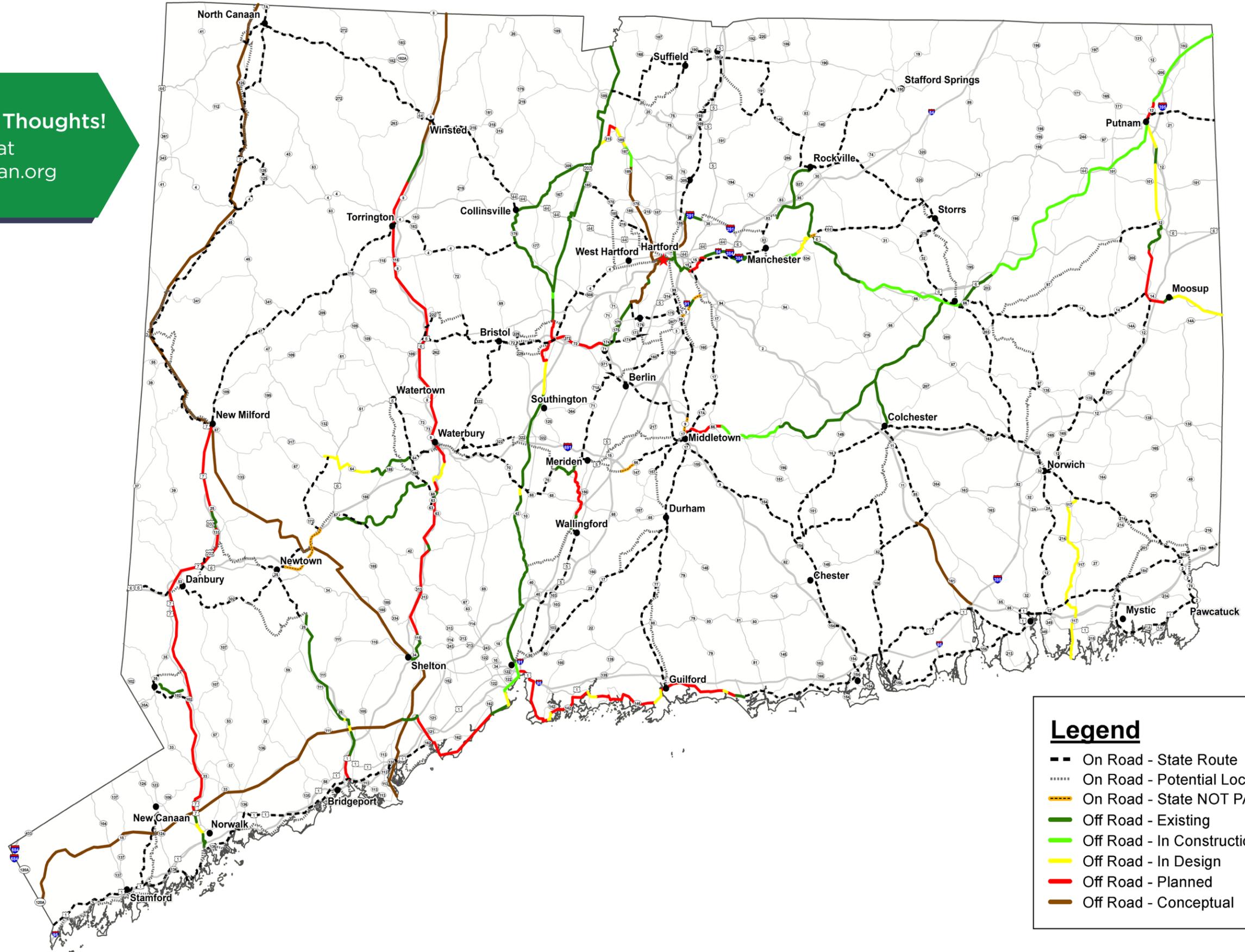
An integrated network of on-road facilities and multi-use trails will connect key destinations, municipalities, and regions, while strengthening Connecticut's links to neighboring states.

Mission

The Connecticut Department of Transportation is committed to the principle that walking and bicycling promote healthy lives, strong communities, and more sustainable environments.

Draft Bike Network

Share Your Thoughts!
Take a look at
ctbikepedplan.org



Legend

- On Road - State Route
- On Road - Potential Local Alternative
- - - On Road - State NOT PASSABLE
- Off Road - Existing
- Off Road - In Construction
- Off Road - In Design
- Off Road - Planned
- Off Road - Conceptual

Taking the Show on the Road, *continued*



(continued from page 1)

bicycling on all state routes by assessing shoulder widths and traffic volumes.

When the Project Team started this Map Update, we learned that while the suitability might be useful for cyclists, it didn't provide clear guidance to designers and engineers about how to responsibly make improvements with limited resources. A missing element was a statewide network indicating where designers and engineers should focus bicycle planning efforts.

The Draft Statewide Bicycle Network Map was thus developed through a combination of data collection, technical analysis; and input from the Steering Committee, stakeholders, and the public. This Network is not a detailed compilation of existing conditions, but rather a statewide foundation that local networks can build from. The focus is on connecting key destinations such as transit stations, major employment or population hubs, and universities. It is also meant to provide guidance on future planning efforts. Therefore, some identified connections might require improvements to be accessible to all bicyclists.

Have we missed any key connections?

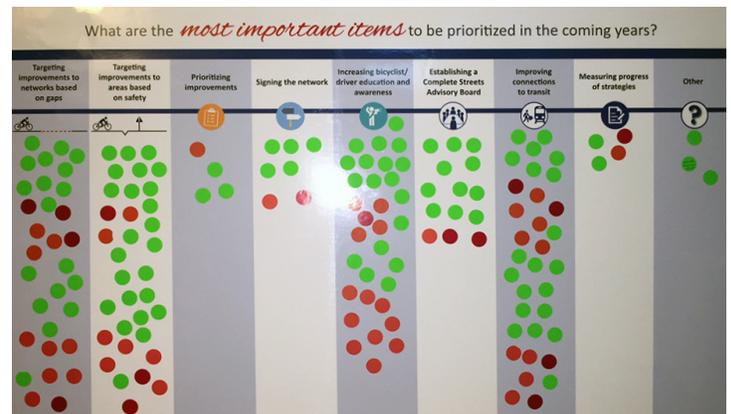
Attendees Discuss Action Strategies

In addition, The Project Team asked the public to provide input on which action strategies they felt should be emphasized in the 2017 Plan Update. A list of potential action strategies was developed after meetings with many stakeholder groups. The Project

Team displayed these potential strategies on a board and provided each attendee with four sticker dots. The public was asked to place these dots beneath the action strategies they thought should be emphasized – they were welcome to disperse the dots evenly or place them all underneath one. Four action strategies that clearly stood out:

- Targeting improvements to areas based on **safety**
- Improving connections to **transit**
- Increasing bicyclist/driver **education and awareness**
- Targeting network **improvements based on gaps**

This input helps guide the development of the Plan Update, and there's still time to provide your input! **Share which action strategies matter most before March 31, 2017, by submitting a comment via the project website: <http://ctbikepedplan.org>.**



Attendees marked action strategies with a dot exercise.

What's Next?

The Project Team will soon enter a new phase of work (once the network is officially defined). It is expected that this effort will build upon the current scope of the Statewide Bicycle Network Update by providing additional details and information on the network from a transportation connectivity and safety perspective. We will develop bicycle facility design, including guidance specific to the Connecticut bicycle network and a methodology for selecting appropriate treatments.

The outcome of this work will provide roadway designers specific guidance to create safe bicycling accommodations based on data, information, and implementation best practices.