
II. VISION, GOALS, & ACTION STRATEGIES

This chapter presents the vision, goals, and action strategies for bicycle and pedestrian planning in Connecticut. This vision and goals will be used by CTDOT over the coming years to guide bicycle and pedestrian planning initiatives in the state. CTDOT clearly recognizes the contribution of non-motorized travel (e.g. bicycling and walking) as essential components of the state transportation system, for both mobility and health benefits. CTDOT is committed to providing accommodations for all users of the state transportation system, including non-motorized modes, and will incorporate such provisions in all transportation initiatives whenever possible, considering need and feasibility, funding availability, environmental constraints, municipal and public input. CTDOT will strive to achieve the vision and goals presented in this Plan to the fullest extent possible.

Vision

The vision was developed early in the planning process by CTDOT with input from the Steering Committee and general public. The vision for bicycle and pedestrian planning in Connecticut is:

To encourage and promote bicycling and walking throughout Connecticut by providing for the safe, convenient, and enjoyable use of these modes of transportation.

Any person will be able to walk, bicycle, or use other types of nonmotorized transportation modes safely and conveniently throughout the State. A network of on-road facilities and multiuse trails will connect towns, regions, and Connecticut to neighboring states. Specifically, residential areas, employment centers, shopping areas, transit centers, recreation and cultural attractions, and schools will accommodate the walking and bicycling needs of users,

both within the development and to nearby destinations.

Goals and Action Strategies

After the overall vision was developed, CTDOT and the Steering Committee worked closely to identify goals and action strategies that can best implement the vision. Table 4 identifies the goals and action strategies identified to implement the vision. In addition, potential implementation options are identified for each action strategy. The implementation options are specific courses of action, or recommendations, that CTDOT and others can take to achieve the action strategies, goals, and vision. Any number and/or combination of the implementation options could be utilized to build toward the overall vision of the Plan. This list is not all inclusive, as other mechanisms not listed may be used to achieve the vision of the Plan. In addition, programs and practices may currently be underway, at CTDOT and at other agencies, which meet the vision and goals outlined in this chapter.

Table 4: Goals, Action Strategies, and Implementation Options

GOAL 1 - Develop and maintain a safe, efficient, accessible, and convenient pedestrian and bicycle system that allows users to travel safely and comfortably.		
Action Strategy		Implementation Options
1.1	Develop and construct new, expanded, or upgraded bicycle and pedestrian facilities as part of road and transit facility construction, reconstruction, or maintenance projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include bicycle and pedestrian measures in CTDOT Performance Metrics Report • Review and maintain a Department sidewalk policy that supports the development of pedestrian facilities, including revisiting local sidewalk match requirements • Update / clarify the design review checklist to ensure the CTDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian coordinator is involved in process • Coordinate further with CTDOT Design staff and CTDOT Maintenance staff • Provide early notification to municipalities of maintenance/restriping schedules (as this is the best time to incorporate bicycle and pedestrian facilities) • Establish a funding target for bicycle and pedestrian improvements
1.2	Maintain sidewalks, on-road bicycle facilities, and multi-use trails in a safe condition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with CTDOT Maintenance staff • Consider Memorandum of Understanding agreements with local jurisdictions • Establish scheduling protocol
1.3	Designate an overall network of on-road bicycle facilities that accommodates the needs of commuting, recreational, touring, and utility bicyclists of all ages and abilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an inventory of all bicycle facilities • Designate overall network • Provide signage on network • Conduct regular route field reviews • Identify missing links and projects that can enhance the overall network. • Provide early notification to municipalities of maintenance/restriping schedules (as this is the best time to incorporate bicycle and pedestrian facilities) • Establish on-line, interactive resource for most current Bike Map and bicycle and pedestrian related amenities, programs, etc. • Establish a funding target for bicycle and pedestrian improvements
1.4	Evaluate and implement opportunities to widen paved shoulders, and install route markers, pavement markings, and uniform signing on bicycle routes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review AASHTO standards and innovative approaches • Utilize design toolbox • Provide signage on network • Coordinate with CTDOT Design and CTDOT Maintenance staff to provide training on bicycle and pedestrian Plan Updates and protocol

1.5	Develop and expand the network of multi-use trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with a Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee • Coordinate with regional planning agencies and local jurisdictions • Coordinate with CT DEP and the CT Recreational Trails Program • Coordinate with statewide user / advocacy groups • Establish a funding target, from sources other than Recreational Trails Program, for multi-use trails
1.6	Promote flexibility in design strategies to incorporate best practices and innovative funding, design, and construction solutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review ASHTO standards and innovative approaches • Utilize design toolbox • Coordinate with CTDOT Design and CTDOT Maintenance staff to provide training on bicycle and pedestrian Plan Updates and protocol • Coordinate with regional planning agencies and local jurisdictions
1.7	Review and maintain the Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and Map so that they remain relevant and up-to-date.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate regular meetings of Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee • Conduct regular route field reviews • Provide regular updates to Plan and Map • Establish on-line, interactive resource for most current Bike Map and bicycle and pedestrian related amenities, programs, etc. • Monitor website visitors / requests for materials. • Consider the development of regional maps • Coordinate with other state agencies to maintain relevancy
1.8	Establish a Statewide Bicycle Advisory Committee that meets regularly to address ongoing issues and Plan and Map relevance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate regular meetings of Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee • Include representatives of other various CTDOT departmental staff, state agencies, Regional Planning Agencies, local jurisdictions, and user / advocacy groups

GOAL 2 - Integrate and connect the pedestrian and bicycle system with other transportation systems (roads, rail, bus, etc).

Action Strategy		Implementation Options
2.1	Provide pedestrian and bicycle connections and address gaps near intermodal facilities to enable the public to safely access these facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct site audit at state owned intermodal and Park & Ride facilities • Develop program to increase bicycle and pedestrian related amenities at intermodal and Park & Ride facilities • Increase signage of bicycle and pedestrian amenities at intermodal and Park & Ride facilities • Coordinate with CT Transit and other transit service providers • Coordinate with regional planning agencies and local jurisdictions

2.2	Provide sufficient bicycle storage facilities (racks and/ or lockers) to accommodate the demand at state operated transit stations and Park & Ride lots.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage installation at non-state operated facilities • Provide CTDOT supported designs to operators of facilities • Provide information resources, including on-line, on available amenities • Consider public-private partnerships for facilities
2.3	Provide accommodations for seamless bicycle travel on all buses and trains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with bus and rail transit service providers • Conduct site audit at state owned intermodal and Park & Ride facilities • Develop program to increase bicycle and pedestrian related amenities at intermodal and Park & Ride facilities • Increase signage of bicycle and pedestrian amenities at intermodal and Park & Ride facilities • Establish education program for users
2.4	Encourage through the Department representative, the State Traffic Commission to address pedestrian and bicycle access and egress as well as bicycle storage opportunities in their certification process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate opportunities to recognize potential trip reduction credits • Consider public-private partnerships for facilities

GOAL 3 - Support and encourage pedestrian and bicycle connections between neighborhoods, commercial areas, employment centers, schools, state and municipal parks, and other destinations serving the community.

Action Strategy	Implementation Options	
3.1	Encourage local municipalities to make community destinations and recreation facilities accessible and convenient for use by all ages and skill levels of pedestrians and bicyclists.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop statewide route network plan • Utilize design toolbox • Continue to fund training initiatives for regional and municipal officials (e.g. training by UConn T² Institute) • Support other education programs
3.2	Encourage future developments to consider existing and possible future pedestrian and bicycle connections to employment areas, schools, parks, transit areas, and commercial areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with STC to increase awareness of bicycle and pedestrian issues • Continue to assess modal split options and opportunities to encourage bicycle and pedestrian trip credits during STC review • Consider public-private partnerships for facilities
3.3	Coordinate with the Office of Policy and Management's State Plan of Conservation and Development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going coordination by CTDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator • Include Office of Policy and Management representative on Advisory Committee

GOAL 4 - Encourage and support pedestrian and bicycle safety (Note: These action strategies are recommend for consideration on state owned roadways and recommended for support on local roads).

Action Strategy		Implementation Options
4.1	Investigate opportunities and implement available methods to monitor and analyze vehicle-pedestrian, vehicle-bicycle, bicycle-pedestrian, and bicycle-only crash data for on- and off-road locations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete annual review and audit of pedestrian and bicycle accident safety issues • Work with State and Municipal Police to further enhance accident reporting information • Research obtaining non motor vehicle-related crash information from such sources as hospitals and clinics • Educate bicyclists and pedestrians on reporting of all crashes, and their location and causes
4.2	Develop and implement improvements and mitigation strategies to reduce vehicle-bicycle crashes and vehicle-pedestrian crashes on state roads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize design toolbox • Develop Share the Road campaign and safety information, including signage • Coordinate with CT DMV on educational material related to bicycle and pedestrian awareness • Educate bicyclists and pedestrians on reporting of all crashes, and their locations and causes • Develop a "Report and Issue" page on the bicycle and pedestrian website • Coordinate with CTDOT Maintenance and Engineering Design staff
4.3	Implement roadway design features on state roads, where appropriate, to reduce traffic speeds and create more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly facilities that minimize vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian conflicts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review AASHTO standards and innovative approaches • Coordinate further with CTDOT Design staff • Update / clarify the design review checklist to ensure the CTDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian coordinator is involved in process

GOAL 5 - Develop and implement educational programs to ensure that transportation facilities will be used safely and responsibly.

Action Strategy		Implementation Options
5.1	Identify available and develop education programs to improve the skills of all bicyclists, regardless of age and ability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Share the Road campaign and safety information, including signage • Coordinate with CT League of American Bicyclist Certified Instructors to assist in bicycle education efforts

<p>5.2</p>	<p>Develop and provide educational materials for motorists, bicyclists, equestrians, and walkers to 1) improve their understanding of the rules of the road and applicable traffic, bicycle, and pedestrian laws, 2) improve driver awareness of bicyclists, equestrians, and pedestrians, and 3) encourage pedestrians to use available pedestrian safety devices and features (e.g. control signals, crosswalks).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with CT DMV on educational material related to bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian awareness • Develop Share the Road campaign and safety information, including signage • Coordinate with advocacy groups and law enforcement to promote and enforce safe practices
<p>5.3</p>	<p>Make available the Connecticut Bicycle Map and education and information materials dedicated to informing the public of the availability and safe use of bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout the State.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish on-line, interactive resource for most current Bike Map and bicycle and pedestrian related amenities, programs, etc • Coordinate with Advisory Committee, advocacy groups, regional planning agencies, local governments, and other state agencies to assist in distribution of materials
<p>5.4</p>	<p>Develop and implement a promotional and advertisement campaign to encourage increased usage of bicycling and walking.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review media options • Review and utilize applicable innovative strategies and best practices

GOAL 6 - Provide financial and technical support and seek to utilize all available funding for the development and construction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout Connecticut, within CTDOT's available resources and consistent with federal program initiatives.

Action Strategy		Implementation Options
<p>6.1</p>	<p>Review the statewide practice on providing non-federal match for bicycle and pedestrian improvements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and update policy regularly • Review and utilize applicable innovative strategies and best practices
<p>6.2</p>	<p>Allocate and support the use of federal aid program funds from all programs that are eligible to be used for bikeway, trail, and walkway projects, within the transportation program priorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a more formal funding tracking mechanism and provide announcements of funding opportunities for bicycle and pedestrian projects • Develop training resources on submitting for bicycle and pedestrian funding opportunities

6.3	Evaluate streamlining the project scoping, design, and review processes within CT-DOT to maximize project efficiency and value.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Working Committee with CT DEP, regional agencies, and municipalities on design and review process • Coordinate with CT DEP on streamlining the permitting process • Review and utilize applicable innovative strategies and best practices
6.4	Provide technical assistance to local towns and regional planning organizations in the development and advancement of bikeway, trail, and walkway plans and projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop statewide route network plan • Develop a training manual on the project development process • Develop a pro-active information clearinghouse to inform regional agencies and municipalities of upcoming projects • Develop formal coordination program with CTDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for coordination on projects with regional agencies and municipalities
6.5	Coordinate and facilitate multi-town, regional or inter-regional bikeway, trail, and walkway projects to expedite project development, design, and construction, and ensure consistency and interconnectivity of the system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a pro-active information clearinghouse to inform regional agencies and municipalities to upcoming projects • Develop formal coordination program with CTDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for coordination on projects with regional agencies and municipalities
6.6	Evaluate opportunities for and implement non-traditional sources of funding and innovative financing techniques for bicycle and pedestrian facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review benchmark study and case studies to develop a clearinghouse of information on non-traditional funding sources
6.7	Provide nonmotorized transportation training for CTDOT staff, consultants, and other transportation professionals on pedestrian and bicycle facility design and planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to fund training initiatives for regional and municipal officials (e.g. recent training by UConn T² Institute) • Utilize design toolbox

GOAL 7 - Contribute to public health by providing safe and attractive opportunities for walking and bicycling.

Action Strategy	Implementation Options
7.1	<p>Support programs and policies that allow residents and visitors to make walking and bicycling viable means of travel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Share the Road campaign and safety information, including signage • Coordinate with CT DMV on educational material related to bicycle and pedestrian awareness • Establish on-line, interactive resource for most current Bike Map and bicycle and pedestrian related amenities, programs, etc

<p>7.2</p>	<p>Collaborate with the CT DEP and Connecticut Department of Public Health on developing bikeway, trail, and walkway projects and programs to enhance public health and encourage all to walk or bicycle more.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include representatives of other various state agencies on the Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee • Develop statewide route network plan
<p>7.3</p>	<p>Continue Safe Routes to School programs that encourage more students to walk or bicycle school and seek opportunities to incorporate identified Safe Routes infrastructure needs into larger transportation projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include other CTDOT staff on the Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee • Develop statewide route network plan • Establish a funding target for bicycle and pedestrian improvements