

BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

Fall 2014 Application

Simsbury, CT





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Application Tips

- The application will be referring to your type of jurisdiction as "community" throughout the application due to the great variety of types of jurisdictions applying, which does not include bicycle amenities, services and other resources outside your boundaries.
- The word limits for open ended questions are just guidelines as the system is actually using a character limit. Ensure that your entered text does not get cut off, even if you stay within the word limit.
- Ensure to log out using the Log Out button. Closing the browser will not log you out completely and will trigger a warning that another user is logged in next time you sign in. If this occurs, and you are certain that no other user is logged in at the same time, you can just disregard the warning and it will disappear within 24 hours.
- At the end of the application, you can upload any documents that you would like to provide in support of your application, including at least five high resolution photos (1-2MB). You can submit up to 5 files at the time and there is no limit on how many files can be submitted. Please note that the files will upload immediately to a separate server and will not appear as an attachment.

Name of Community

Name of Community
Simsbury Connecticut
County/Borough/Parish
Hartford County

State
Connecticut

Has the community applied to the Bicycle Friendly Community program before?
Yes

If yes, what was the result of the community's last application?
Bronze

If designated, what year was your community first awarded a Bronze or higher award?
2010

Mayor or top elected official (include title)
Mary Glassman, First Selectman

Phone
860-658-3230

Email
mglassman@simsbury-ct.gov

Address
933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury, CT 06070

Website
<http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/>

BFC Contact Profile

Note: This person will receive any future BFC related communication and will be listed as the contact person for the community on the award web profile, if designated.

Name of BFC contact
Mary Glassman

Title
First Selectman

Department
First Selectman's Office

Employer
Town of Simsbury

Address
933 Hopmeadow Street

City
Simsbury

State
Ct

Zip
06070

Phone
860-658-3230

Email
mglassman@simsbury-ct.gov

Is the BFC contact also the Bicycle Program Manager?
No

If no, does your community have a Bicycle Program Manager?
Yes

If different from above, what is the Bicycle Program Manager's contact information (email and phone)?
Tom Roy, Director of Public Works, troy@simsbury-ct.gov, 860-658-3222

Applicant name and email, if different from BFC contact or Bicycle Program Manager contact
Diana Moody, Simsbury Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee; diana_moody@mac.com

Community Profile

1. Type of Jurisdiction
Town/City/Municipality

2. For purposes of comparison, would you describe your community as largely
suburban

3. ClimateAverage daytime temperature (in °F)

January
25.7 F

April
48.9 F

July



73.7 F

October

51.9 F

Average precipitation (in inches)

January

2.84"

April

3.86"

July

3.67"

October

3.94"

4. Size of community (in sq. mi.)

Total area

34.3 sq. mi

Water area

0.4 sq. mi.

Land area

33.9 sq. mi.

5. Total Population

23,498

5a. College/University student population (during semester)

N/A

6. Population Density (Person per sq. mi. of land area)

685

7. Median Household Income

\$116,554

8. Age distribution (in percent)

Under 5

5.4%

Age 5-17

22.5%

Age 18-64

58.9%

Age 65+

13.2%

Totals (should equal 100)

100%

9. Race (in percent)

White

92.8%

Black or African American

1.0%

American Indian and Alaska Native

0%

Asian

4.1%

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

0%

Some other race

0%

Two or more races

2.1%

Totals (should equal 100)

100%

Hispanic or Latino (of any race)

2.4%

10. How many government employees (including the Bicycle Program Manager), expressed in full-time equivalents, work on bicycle issues in your community?

Town has 135 employees and 6 FTE dedicated to bicycling initiatives.

11. What percentage of the community's Bicycle Program Manager's time is spent on bicycling issues?

11-25%

12. Do you have an officially recognized Bicycle Advisory Committee?

Yes

12a. How often does it meet?

Monthly or more frequently

12b. How many members serve on the committee?

15

12c. Which of the following groups are represented or regularly attend the Bicycle Advisory Committee? Check all that apply.

User Group, Law Enforcement, Chamber of Commerce, Public Health, Transportation Department, Parks Department, Recreation Department, Other

If other, describe (50 word limit)

Chair of the Simsbury Schools PE Dept., Safe Routes to School, Local and region Advocacy Grps.

12d. Name and email of Bicycle Advisory Committee Chair

Pattie Smith Jacobus, pattiesmithjacobus@gmail.com

13. List all bicycle advocacy groups in your community

Simsbury Free Bike (SFB): Regional Bike Share and Advocacy Group Children and Adult Mobility Project, Inc. (CAMP): CT Adaptive Cycling Headquarter Simsbury East Coast Greenway (ECG): Board of Trustee Farmington Valley Trails Council (FVTC): Multiple board members are from Simsbury Main Street Partnership: Marketing Group for Simsbury Town Center Businesses Valley Cycling: Local Cycling Club Connecticut Cycling Advancement Program (CCAP): Youth cycling program Simsbury Tourism Committee Simsbury Chamber of Commerce (COC)

13a. List the name and email of the primary contact for each bicycle advocacy group. If a primary contact is the applicant or BFC contact, list an alternative contact.

Simsbury Free Bike: Larry Linonis, linonis1@aol.com Children and Adult Mobility Project: Ken Messier, titrikes@aol.com East Coast Greenway: Steve Mitchell, stevenmitchell@gmail.com Main Street Partnership: Sarah Nielsen, simmainst@sbcglobal.net Farmington Valley FVTC: Bruce Donald, rbd1414@hotmail.com Valley Cycling: Paul Mikkelsen, mikbenefit@comcast.net CCAP - Robert Carmen - rwcarmen@gmail.com Simsbury Tourism Committee: Steve Mitchell,



stevenmitchell@gmail.com Chamber of Commerce: Ron Locandro, ron.locandro@mrhandyman.com

13b. Do you contract with any advocacy groups for services or programs? Check all that apply.

Volunteer

13c. List all advocacy groups that are working with you on this application.

Simsbury Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (SBPAC) Simsbury Silver Steering Committee Simsbury Free Bike (SFB) East Coast Greenway (ECG) Connecticut Cycling Advancement Program (CCAP) Safe Routes to School (SRTS) East Coast Greenway (ECG)

14. What are the primary reasons your community has invested in bicycling? Check all that apply.

Improved quality of life, Improving public health, Community connectivity, Transportation options, Reduce car-parking demands, Climate change/environmental stewardship concerns, Decrease traffic congestion, Increase tourism, Increase property values, Cooperation with adjacent communities, Public demand, Economic development, Support Smart Growth



or other growth management goals, Traffic and bicycle/pedestrian safety, Meet local or state requirements

15. What was your community's most significant achievement for bicycling in the past 12 months? (500 word limit)

Simsbury was recently ranked as the state's number 1 Bike Friendly Community by Bike Walk Connecticut in their first Complete Streets Initiative (see link below). The ranking was determined by results from an online public opinion survey, open to anyone living or working in the state, as well as scores for municipal leadership, policy, and engagement in bike initiatives such as on adoption of a complete streets policy, the establishment of a bicycle advisory committee, the adoption of a written bike plan, and public outreach efforts. This ranking is significant because it demonstrates that Simsbury's efforts to be a leading BFC are making a difference; that bicyclists do feel that Simsbury is a safe, comfortable place to ride. Key achievements in the past year that contributed to this ranking include: • Reorganization of our Simsbury Pedestrian Advisory Committee (SBPAC) to include a broader range of bike advocates, municipal employees and leaders, and community partners. This allowed for expansion of priority programs in Education, Encouragement, and Enforcement; heightened focus on important infrastructure projects; and expanded our ability to collaborate with community partners (e.g., business, tourism, health, advocacy groups) SBPAC has played an important role in creating a comprehensive bicycle culture; it's efforts are behind all aspects of a bicyclist's experience when riding in Simsbury. • Critical planning and evaluation tools were developed to benchmark current assets, attitudes, and ride share; identify goals for future projects and programs; monitor progress in achieving these goals; and guide development of municipal policy. They will provide Simsbury with a roadmap to further develop bicycling infrastructure and programs specific to the community's interest and needs. The tools, listed below, are explained in detail in Evaluation and Planning, Questions 72-86. • Simsbury Bicycle Advocates' Plan • Simsbury Bicycle Account • Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Survey • Critical communication tools were developed to ensure bicyclists access the information they for need safe and enjoyable biking in Simsbury. These include: • Simsbury Bike Network Map <https://mapsengine.google.com/map/edit?hl=en&authuser=0&mid=z6pR47Dy3ISU.kGRkPdQLS7ag> • Website: www.simsbury.bike (includes events, maps, suggested rides, educational resources, clubs, and more) Complete Streets Initiative results: • <http://www.bikewalkct.org/news/how-bike-and-walk-friendly-is-your-town> • http://www.bikewalkct.org/uploads/1/1/8/5/11852691/town_by_town_scorecard_2014_-_scorecard_final.pdf

16. If you have applied to the BFC program before, describe any improvements that have occurred for cycling in your community since your last application. (500 word limit)

BICYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE/CONNECTIVITY IMPROVEMENTS: MAPPING: • Development of an online, interactive Simsbury Bike Network Map identifying bike lanes, multi-use trails, location of mountain biking venues, and amenities. LINK: <https://mapsengine.google.com/map/edit?hl=en&authuser=0&mid=z6pR47Dy3ISU.kGRkPdQLS7ag>; • Initiated GPS mapping of our mountain biking trails as phase 1 of Simsbury's Mountain Biking Network map project EXPANSION OF BICYCLE NETWORK TO IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY • Completed root remediation, stone dust resurfacing of .5 mile section of Town Forest Road to West Mountain Road of the Farmington River Trail, an important regional loop trail and intra-town east-west connector. • Completed 1-mile paved multi-use Owens Brook trail from Iron Horse Boulevard to Hearstone Dr with trail completion (.2 mi) to Firetown Rd. expected in Fall 2014. Serves as intra-town, east/west connector, connector to the Middle School. and segment of future connection to Simsbury Farms Rec. facility, open space, and sharrow route. It has the potential to connect major regional hiking/mountain biking trails, a long range goal of the Connecticut Park and Forest Association. • Two miles of dedicated bike lanes installed on Iron Horse Blvd provide an on-road alternative to the greenway for cyclists traveling at higher speeds. • Simsbury marked and signed a 14.8 mile sharrowed loop through scenic West Simsbury • Funding was secured for a design study of the proposed East Coast Greenway from the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail to Tariffville. This is a major segment of the Simsbury to Hartford link and has been identified by the Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) as a priority in its 2008 "Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan" and as an important segment of the East Coast Greenway by the East Coast Greenway Alliance. • Secured funding for development of 5K off-road trail in the center of town to be used for cycling and running events. Currently in design phase. • Center line markings applied to over 7 miles of greenway • Trail resurfacing and widening to improve ride-ability/safety on Iron Horse Blvd. in Simsbury town center. • Trail remediation to remove/prevent, root intrusion along a 1.5 mile section of greenway (Route 315/ Wolcott Road). This is an on-going maintenance program. • The Town took a significant step in supporting for the trail system by adding a line item in the 2014-2015 budget for maintenance in the amount of \$10,000 and \$212,000 in Capital improvements for trail connector maintenance. It will also complete the purchase of 423 acres of the Ethel Walker School open space acquisition that will accommodate horseback riding, walking and mountain biking. NEW INITIATIVES IN ADVOCACY PARTNERSHIPS: • Bicycle Presentation to Economic Development Commission (See PDF and hardcopy attachment) • Partnering with Chamber of Commerce and Simsbury Main Street Partnership. • Tourism – Promoting Simsbury on a local and state level • Mentoring to 4 local communities applying for Bicycle Friendly Community recognition NEW INITIATIVES IN EDUCATION ENFORCEMENT ENCOURAGEMENT AND EVALUATION & PLANNING: As outlined in each section

17. What specific improvements do you have planned for bicycling in the next 12 months? (250 word limit)

INFRASTRUCTURE/CONNECTIVITY: • Work with DOT and neighboring towns to improve safety at multi-use trail intersections with arterials, advocating for lowering speed limits, adding crossing signals, improving transitions and visible enforcement efforts by all police departments • Continue our joint trail engineering study with the Town of Bloomfield and the Connecticut DOT to produce a route design for a 1.02 mile Tariffville trail linking the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail to Bloomfield. This segment will connect Tariffville to Simsbury Town Center, and will become part of the designated East Coast Greenway route and commuter route to Hartford. PLAN LINK: http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/simsburyct/files/file/file/concept_plans.pdf • Continue Farmington River Trail Improvements in collaboration with DOT and DEEP: Complete Stratton Brook Park surface improvements to address erosion and flooding. Add 5 wayfaring signs along the route by year end. Work with DOT to schedule to repaving of Rte 309/West St. so that improvements to multiuse path from Town Center to Simsbury High School/ Stratton Brook SP can proceed. Once completed, 28 mile Farmington River Trail become an important bike/walk artery to town and connect neighborhoods, schools, recreation, and business districts. • Completion of safety/operational improvements to the separate and on-road trail systems • Installation of wayfaring signage at Farmington River Trail, Draft Signage Plan (under final revisions) • Integrate Simsbury Bike Network map with Town's GIS mapping; Complete/integrate GPS mapping of mountain biking trails, continue reviewing preferred on-street routes to expand network • Complete design of 5K bike/ped cinder track in town center EDUCATION: • Expand Public Schools' Bike Safety Education program to public middle school, private schools ENCOURAGEMENT • Expand ride offerings and classes for beginners, women, families and seniors • Work with Adventure Cycling to be included in their network • Expand partnerships with Businesses and Tourism at local, regional, and state level

Engineering

18. Does your community currently have any of the following policies in place? Check all that apply.

Local Complete Streets policy



18a. When was it adopted?

It was adopted in 2011

18b. Provide a link or attach a copy of this legislation or policy

http://www.crcog.org/transportation/current_stud/Route10.html; http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/simsburyct/files/file/file/simsburycenter-adopted-april15_1.pdf

18c. What tools are in place to ensure implementation? Check all that apply.

Implementation guidance, Design manual, Training, Oversight by Bicycle Program Manager, Implementation checklist

19. Does your community currently have any of the following additional policies in place? Check all that apply.

Design manual that ensures the safe and appropriate accommodation of bicyclists in every new road project, Streetscape design guidelines



Mixed-use

zoning, Form-based/design-based codes



Policy to preserve abandoned rail corridors for multi-use trails, Other

If other, describe (100 word limit)

Our policies have a long history to acquire and preserve open space throughout the Town to use for active recreation. This includes bicycling and mountain biking which is consistent with Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) guidelines.

20. How do you ensure your engineers and planners accommodate bicyclists according to AASHTO, MUTCD and NACTO standards? (Check all that apply.)

Send staff to bicycle-specific conferences/training, Require project consultants to have bike/ped qualifications, Adopted local design manual

21. Which of the following significant physical barriers to cycling exist in your community? Check all that apply.

Large body of water (e.g. river), Other

If other, describe (100 word limit)



There are hills with 8-10% grades on state roads both east and west of the town center that are major commuter routes.

22. How do you ensure that there are end-of-trip facilities for bicyclists? Check all that apply.

Bike parking ordinance for all new developments specifying amount and location ,Ordinance that allows bike parking to substitute for car parking

23. Do your standards for bike parking conform with APBP guidelines?

No standards

24. What is the total number of public and private bike parking spaces in your community?

There are 643

24a. What percentage of bike racks conform with APBP guidelines?

11-25%

24b. Of the total bike parking available, please specify the percentage of bike parking spaces that are:

Bike lockers

None

Parking spaces in bike depots (i.e. Bikestation)

None

Parking spaces in bike corrals (on-street bike parking)

None

25. Approximately what percentage of the following locations has bike racks or storage units? Answer all that apply.

Public and private schools

More than 90%

Higher Education Institutions

N/A

Libraries

76-90%

Transit stations and major bus stops

76-90%

Parks & recreation centers

51-75%

Other government owned buildings and facilities

51-75%

Event venues (e.g. convention center, movie complex)

Less than 10%

Hotels & restaurants

10-25%

Office buildings

10-25%

Retail stores

10-25%

Multi-family housing

Less than 10%

Public housing

N/A

26. Does your community have transit service (bus, light rail, heavy rail)?

Yes

26a. What percentage of buses are equipped with bike racks?

All

26b. Are bikes allowed inside transit vehicles?

No

27. What is the centerline mileage of the existing off-road bicycle network within your community?

77.7

27a. How many miles of the following off-road bicycle accommodations do you have? Answer all that apply (in centerline miles)

Paved shared use paths (?10feet)

10.4

Natural surface shared use paths (?10feet)

20

Singletrack

47.3

27b. What percentage of all natural surface trails and singletrack are open to bicyclists?

76-99%

27c. What are the exceptions? (100 word limit)

There are three exception which include two private non-profit organizations. 1. McLean Game Refuge: 3,200 acres of a private preserve 2. Simsbury Land Trust Properties: Protects important parcels of open space 3. Metacomet Trail: A 62.7 mile of trails that traverse central Connecticut.

28. What is the centerline mileage of your road network (including state owned and private roads)?

191 miles

28a. What is the street network density of your road network? (centerline miles of road per sq. mi. of land area)

5.1 - 10.0

28b. What percentage of roads has posted or design speeds of 25mph and lower?

76-90%

28c. What percentage of roads has posted or design speeds of 35mph and higher?

1-10%

28d. What percentage of the existing on-street bicycle network meets or exceeds current AASHTO, MUTCD and NACTO standards?

More than 90%

28e. List your existing on-road bicycle accommodations that meet or exceed AASHTO, MUTCD and NACTO standards. Answer all that apply (in centerline miles)

Conventional bike lanes (ridable surface ?4feet)

21.4

Shared lane markings

25.7

Contra-flow bike lanes

Protected or buffered bike lanes (one-way)

2.2

Protected or buffered bike lanes (two-way)

Raised cycle tracks



Left-side bike lanes

Bike boulevards or Neighborhood Greenways

3.8

29. What other ways have you improved conditions for bicyclists? Check all that apply.

Road diets



,Area wide traffic calming



,Speed limits 20 mph or less on residential streets,Bike cut-throughs,Signed bike routes,Off-street way-finding signage with distance and/or time information,On-street way-finding signage with distance and/or time information

30. What percentage of arterial streets has dedicated space for cyclists (e.g. bike lanes, paved shoulders ?4feet, cycle tracks, etc)?

26-50%

31. Which of the following broader transportation policies and programs are in place in your community? Check all that apply.

Maximum car parking standards



,Prioritization of active mobility in planning and design processes

32. What maintenance policies or programs ensure the on-street bicycle network (including shoulders) remains usable and safe? Select all that apply.

32a. Street sweeping

Same time as other travel lanes

32b. Snow clearance

Same time as other travel lanes

32c. Pothole maintenance

Within 24 hours of complaint

32d. Describe any other maintenance policies or programs for the on-street bicycle network (including shoulders). (100 word limit)

Simsbury has several maintenance programs to maintain the safety of roadway shoulders for bikes, pedestrians and cars. We conduct routine street sweeping operations to remove sand, debris and organic matter that develop in the shoulder areas. We routinely have our highway department crews patrol the streets to remove leaves and other litter that collect in and around catch basins in the roadway shoulders. We have a roadway striping program that includes white lane markings to help narrow the travel lane and increase the width of the shoulders in areas of high traffic or limited roadway sightlines (near hills or curves).

33. What maintenance policies or programs ensure the off-street bicycle network remains usable and safe? Select all that apply.

33a. Path sweeping

Quarterly

33b. Vegetation maintenance

Monthly

33c. Snow clearance

Within 48 hours of storm

33d. Surface repair

Within 24 hours of complaint

33e. Describe any other maintenance policies or programs for the off-street bicycle network, if applicable. (100 word limit)

Simsbury's off-street bicycle network of trails is heavily used and our maintenance practices focus on maintaining the safety and enjoyability of our trails. We work to keep vegetation cut back to allow for good sight lines around curved sections of trails, we spray herbicide to prevent the growth of poison ivy and other harmful plants. We work with volunteers to maintain and replace fencing along steep side slopes. Our staff works to provide drainage improvement and prevent and clear away any sand or dirt washed across the trail. When conditions warrant, the pavement is replaced as part of our Towns pavement management program.

34. Is there a mechanism in place for cyclists to identify problem intersections or areas to traffic engineers and planners? Check all that apply.

Online reporting,Monthly meeting

35. How do you accommodate cyclists at intersections in your community? Check all that apply.

Most signals are timed,Colored bike lanes in conflict areas,Path crossing with high visibility markings or signs



, Other

If other, describe (100 word limit)

Simsbury was a leader in implementing a high visibility cross walk at one of the busiest crossings, where our bike path crosses a major state roadway. At this crossing, Simsbury Town staff worked with the Connecticut Department of Transportation to install one of the first high visibility cross walks in the state. This cross walk utilizes multiple roadway signs with flashing yellow lights and LED lights installed in the pavement (lights are buried in the travel lanes of the roadway) and prohibits motorists from turning right on red lights. This system has proven to be extremely effective in notifying drivers of pedestrians to watch for cyclists.

36. Describe any other amenities or infrastructure improvements that your community provides or requires that create a comfortable and attractive bicycling environment. (500 word limit)

Land preservation is the most enduring, and perhaps the most significant practice the community has embraced to create an attractive and comfortable environment for bicycling. A full 32 % of Simsbury's area, or 7,025 acres, have been set aside for future generations to enjoy. Where development has occurred, land use regulations including human scale, mixed-use, and form-based zoning have helped to create a community that is attractive and comfortable for residents and visitors alike. Guiding principles in the Simsbury 2007 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/simsburyct/files/file/file/adopted_pocd.pdf include promoting community wellness and physical activity by providing pedestrian and bicycle movement on safe and convenient sidewalks, multi-use paths and roadways. To that end and consistent with regional and state transportation goals, Simsbury has worked to create a thriving, walkable/bikeable Town Center and a bike route network to get people there from out of town or across-town neighborhoods. Cyclists using the greenway along Iron Horse Blvd through Town Center will find both a bike path and two dedicated bike lanes parallel the commercial district separating higher speed cyclists from slower bike/ped/stroller traffic. Just two blocks from Simsbury's main artery (Rte 10/202 and Hopmeadow St) was redesigned as a Complete Street. This makes for easy access to shopping, restaurants, and municipal buildings, amenities including a performing arts center, a play scape playground for children, athletic fields, a water fountain, portable toilets and free parking. A bicycle repair station is scheduled for installation in August 2014. The network itself offers a variety of trail types (on-street, paved greenway, and single track) which can accommodate a range of users, children to seniors, beginners to experts. The network provides safe cycling route options connecting and an array of destinations for work or pleasure including Town Center, Simsbury's 5 villages, recreational areas (mountain biking, swimming, tennis, golf, soccer fields and playgrounds), schools, the public library, town offices, restaurants, shops, houses of worship, Simsbury Bike Sculpture, and bike share locations. Trail-head and wayfaring signage and sharrows help to keep cyclists en route. Picnic tables, benches, restrooms/portable toilets are found along bike routes throughout town. Other engineering activities that help to create a comfortable and attractive bicycling environment include: • GoogleMap of Simsbury Bike Network, soon to be integrated with Simsbury GIS program and Mountain Biking Network., to assist with navigation (SEE Question #16) LINK: <https://mapsengine.google.com/map/edit?hl=en&authuser=0&mid=z6pR47Dy3ISU.kGRkPdQLS7ag>; • Completion of the resurfacing of the Mountain View/Town Forest segment of the Farmington River Trail. • Reengineering the Rte 10/202 corridor - Phase one, Downtown, completed 2012; Phase two, Weatogue Village, engineering and public hearings complete and awaiting funding • Additional sharrowed routes - Feasibility study underway • Installation of new bike racks. • Long term trail maintenance including mowing, fence repairs, removal of invasive species and tree root removal.

Education

37. What percentage of your public and private schools offer bicycle education, e.g. through a Safe Routes to School or similar program?

Elementary

More than 90%

Middle School

None

High School

76-90%

38. Outside of schools, how are children taught safe cycling skills? Check all that apply.

Youth bike clubs,Bike clinics or rodeos



,Youth recreation programs,Helmet fit seminars,Trail riding classes,Other

If other, describe (250 word limit)

Outside of Simsbury Public Schools' Bike Safety Education Program in PE class for 4th-6th graders and Safe Routes to School, youth are taught safe cycling skills



through the following: TRAFFIC SAFETY 101 (ages 15 and up) and Mountain Biking for Teens (ages 12 -17) are taught through Parks and Rec. Three active Boy Scout Troops and four Cub Scout Packs hold annual Bike Safety Rodeos and regularly offer Bike Safety Merit Badges. Simsbury Public Library offers bike safety and maintenance seminars for teens/teens. Simsbury Free Bike has weekly open shop nights where youth and adults can learn how to keep their bikes in safe working order. Simsbury Police Dept. hosts bike safety rodeos and presentations to day camps and youth groups. The SPBAC distributes bike safety literature geared for youth and families at town festivals and cycling events and the website lists many resources for parents on bike safety for youth.

39. Do you have a ticket diversion program? Check all that apply.

No

40. What have you done in the last 18 months to educate motorists and bicyclists on sharing the road safely? Check all that apply.

Public service announcements, Share the Road educational videos on community website/TV channel, Information in new resident packet, Flyer/handout, Bicycle ambassador program, Newspaper column/blog on bicycling, Dedicated bike page on community website, Billboards, Share the Road Signs, Share the Road information in driver's education, Other

If other, describe (250 word limit)

SHARE THE ROAD has become a key town-wide campaign. The Town offers Bike Safety Education Classes through Parks and Recreation and seminars through Simsbury Public Library which cover Share the Road for cyclists and motorists. The SPAC's website www.simsbury.bike has links to many relevant Share-the-Road resources including LOAB, CT Dept. of Transportation, and FHWA. SPAC also follows several active Facebook pages in town (2000+ followers each) and comment on relevant threads, frequently providing information about sharing the road and bike safety, correcting misinformation, and directing followers to other resources and classes. New stickers were created this year that say "Simsbury Shares the Road" for residents to apply to motor vehicles, back packs, windows, etc. Bicycle jerseys were designed all local bicycle advocates, Town officials and SPAC to remind motorists and cyclists to Share the Road. The Simsbury Police Department (SPD) created two documents, a BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN STATE LAW GUIDE 2014 and a BIKE SAFETY SHARE THE ROAD PRESENTATION, which are available to residents online at: <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/police-emergency/pages/bicycle-and-pedestrian-safety>. (SEE ENCOURAGEMENT PDF & HARDCOPY ATTACHMENTS)

41. How many times per year are the following adult bicycling education classes held within your community? Answer all that apply.

Traffic Skills 101 classes or equivalent (full-day training course, including classroom and on-bike instruction)

1

Cycling Skills classes (three to four hour classroom training courses)

1

Commuter classes (one to two hour classes)

Bicycle maintenance classes or workshops

40+ (2 through Public Library, a few through local shop, weekly through Simsbury Free Bike)

42. Do you offer regular Smart Cycling courses for your community engineers and planners that include on-bike instruction and in-traffic cycling?

No

43. Has your community hosted a League Cycling Instructor seminar in the past two years?

Yes

43a. How many League Cycling Instructors are there in your community?

There are 2. Two Simsbury residents will attend the 2015 class, date TBD

43b. List League Cycling Instructors that have taught at least one class during the past 12 months. (250 word limit)

Our LCIs, Steven Mitchell and Jeffrey Glaude, were certified in April 2014, so they do not have extensive teaching experience. However, Steve Mitchell has given instruction at the following rides: East Coast Greenway (ECG) ride in April, 2014 in Boston; the 28 on the 28th ride sponsored by ECG and Farmington Valley Trails Council (FVTC) in June, 2014; and plans to provide instruction at the ECG ride from New Haven to MA on September 14, 2014.9/ Jeff Glaude, taught a bicycle course at the West Hartford Police Department in June 2014, and gave a safety presentation at the Valley Cycling Club's (VCC) annual meeting at the Simsbury Library in May 2014.

44. Which of the following groups of professional drivers have training that includes information on sharing the road with cyclists? Check all that apply.

City staff, Transit operators, School bus operators, Other

If other, describe (100 word limit)

Drivers Education Instructors

45. Describe any efforts your community has made to ensure your education programs reach traditionally underserved populations, particularly seniors, women, youth and adult minorities and non-English speakers, and persons with disabilities of all ages. (250 word limit)

BACKGROUND: Race 94% White; 99% English-speaking; Median age 42, 28% youth, 16% 65+; Med. Household income \$104,000; Student Free/Reduced-Price Meals 8% • CHILDREN AND ADULT MOBILITY PROJECT (CAMP) aka CT ADAPTIVE CYCLING provides adaptive cycling equipment and training to youth and adults with disabilities. HOST LOCAL RIDES: Assist with Gaylord Hospital Rides. Promote adaptive cycling through local/state/national events and exhibitions. • SIMSBURY FREE BIKE (SFB) provides free bike maintenance training and perks like free tubes, help with repairs, and the occasional free bike in exchange for volunteer time. Volunteers include teens to seniors, men and women, skilled and unskilled, and individuals with financial difficulties. • MCLEAN HOME: Outreach to Simsbury seniors, a continuing-care retirement community, and posting of bike events/classes at Senior Center and Simsbury Community TV (SCTV). • ABC HOUSE: A residential program in Simsbury serving minority youth, typically from underprivileged urban homes, pursuing a high school education in Simsbury, receives refurbished bikes and bike safety information from Simsbury Free Bike. • YOUTH BIKE SAFETY EDUCATION: Simsbury's grades 4-6 PE curriculum and Safe Routes to School. Includes students from urban areas attending Simsbury Schools through Open Choice (3% student population). Other youth programs noted in Question 38. • PROMOTION OF EVENTS: 2014 Beginner's Ride and educational classes. PSAs on social media that target local women's groups including Simsbury Moms Unite (2500 members) and Shop Simsbury (2800 members), cycling groups including SFB (621 Likes, 61% women), local shops/teams. Also, bicycle advocacy groups Bike Walk CT and FVTC helps the Town extend their reach beyond Simsbury's borders and demographics.

46. Describe any other education efforts in your community that promote safe cycling. (500 word limit)

• SIMSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Bike Safety PE Education classes were rolled out to 5 Elementary Schools for 4th-6th graders that included 200 minutes of instruction lecture, on-bike drills and rides. A total of 950 students completed the classes. Program Evolution: 2012 two Simsbury PE teachers attended a Train-the-Trainer Bike Safety Workshop sponsored by Bike Walk Connecticut and develop new curriculum. 2013 pilot program at two elementary schools provided a rental fleet of 24 bicycles. 2013 additional PE teachers trained. 2014 program fully rolled out to 5 elementary schools. 2014 district builds fleet of twenty-eight 16-24" bikes and trailer to allow for program growth • SIMSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS: Hosted a Train-the-Trainer Bike Safety Course in October, 2013. Four Simsbury teachers and 12 teachers from across the state attended this 6 hour course. • SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL: In 2014, 275 students cycled to school a growing number of participating schools has grown from 3 to 5; excellent participation by students in Bike/Walk to School Days (20-63% in districts that are 90% bused) accompanied by family, staff, town officials, SPAC and media. • SIMSBURY HIGH SCHOOL: Summer PE educational training classes 2012-2014 with average enrollment of 80 students. • SIMSBURY HIGH SCHOOL CYCLING CLUB: CCAP instructor teaches beginners to advanced on mountain and road cycling skills. • LCI COURSE: 12 students complete a course held in April 2014, sponsored by SPBAC • TRAFFIC SAFETY 101: 5 SPBAC members complete the course in 2013. • SIMSBURY PARKS & RECREATION CLASSES/CAMPS: Traffic Safety 101 (9/14/2014), Mountain Biking 101 for Teens (Sept. 6-7 2014), Awesome Adventure Camp (ages 12-15) – 1 day mountain biking instruction (2013, 2014), Helmet Safety presentations by Simsbury Police Dept. for day campers (ages 6-11) • SIMSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY SEMINARS: Adult Teen Bike Safety Skills May 2012; Bike Maintenance /Repair for Kids April 2014; Adults May 2013 and 2014 • SIMSBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT: Annual bike rodeos. Positive tickets campaign to reward youth demonstrating safe cycling (2014). LED signs to alert drivers on Bike to School days, feature safety messages including 3 ft. law, share the road (2012-2014). Website resources including Bicycle and Pedestrian State Law Guide 2014 and Bike Safety Share the Road Presentation. NOTE: see attachments and handouts • BOY SCOUTS/CUB SCOUTS: 4 active Cub Scout packs each hold annual bike safety rodeos. 3 active Boy Scout Troops offer Biking Merit Badges, typically biannually. • FARMINGTON TRAILS COUNCIL: Collaboration on trail head signage, "Rules of the Road" leaflets, folding trail maps with safety instructions. • SIMSBURY ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Website www.simsbury.bike has links to many educational resources (including videos) from LOAB, DOT, FHWA, Safe Routes to School and other advocacy groups. • SOCIAL MEDIA: Simsbury Free Bike Facebook www.facebook.com/Simsburyfreebike promotion of events, classes, and PSAs; monitor/contribute to threads on community pages related to cycling. • SIMSBURY COMMUNITY TV: 20-30 minute programs are aired on three different series featuring bicycle safety/education, trail etiquette, Share the Road and PSA's. LINK: <http://simsburytv.org/v/38jsOiolHqK>

Encouragement

47. How do you promote National Bike Month/your own dedicated Bike Month? Check all that apply.

Official Proclamation, Community Rides, Mayor-led/Council-led Ride, Public Service Announcements, Videos promoting bicycling on community website/TV channel, Publish a guide to Bike Month Events, Bike Commuter energizer stations/breakfasts, Mentoring program for new riders, Bike to School Day, Public education



campaign relating to cycling (e.g. with a focus on public health or environmental benefits), Trail construction or maintenance day, Other

If other, describe (250 word limit)

The Simsbury Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (SBPAC) plans and promotes our calendar of events on social media, distributed flyers, on our website and encourages business to participate and sponsor the events. www.simsbury.bike NBM specific promotional activities are as follows: 1. Simsbury's Board of Selectman (BOS) actively supports National Bike Month • SBPAC presents the BOS with an official Bike Month "proclamation" accompanied with the Bike Month calendar of events. • First Selectman's press release. • May 1 Kickoff ride - First Selectman/BOS accompany town residents; and • Beginners Ride - hosted by BOS member Lisa Heavner. Encourages beginners and people who had not been on a bike for many years get back in the saddle. Valley Press prints Lisa's account of the event in our "Shifting Gears" column. Now designated as an annual ride. (SEE ENCOURAGEMENT PDF FILE & HARDCOPY ATTACHMENTS) 2. Media Coverage Regional and Local were instrumental in promoting our events. • State: Hartford Courant • Regional: Valley Press, Valley Life • Local: Simsbury Patch, Inside Simsbury, Simsbury Community TV: (including PSA's) (SEE ATTACHED HARDCOPIES) 3. Historical Society Exhibit. • Pedal Power Exhibit showcasing the history of the bicycle. (SEE ATTACHED HARDCOPY ARTICLE) 4. Various Bicycle Clubs, Bicycle Organizations and Bicycle Shops promoted our events on their websites, social media and in store flyers. Simsbury Free Bike (SFB): Promoted all events on FB, chaperoned Beginners Ride where pre-ride lessons were given to the riders. 5. National Bike to School Day • 3 different elementary schools participated on 3 different days with 20-60% participation with hundreds of children, parents and teachers on bikes. (SEE EDUCATION PDF FILE & HARDCOPY ATTACHMENTS)

47a. What percentage of the population participate in Bike Month events?

31-50%

47b. Do you actively promote Bike to Work Day or other bicycle commuting incentive programs?

Yes

If yes, describe (500 word limit)

BTW Day is promoted in the similar fashion as NBM • Event announcements are distributed via social media, flyers within stores, and the websites of the Town, local bike shops and the Simsbury Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (SBPAC) • Various articles were published by local newspapers and The Hartford Courant • Local businesses sponsored key BTW Day events • Cycling clubs involve their membership • Simsbury Board of Selectman members participate • Chamber of Commerce sends out emails blasts and the Vice Presidents promotes on his personal FB page Bike Walk Connecticut (a statewide non-profit organization to make CT bike and pedestrian friendly • BTW Day events and locations are posted to their website BTW Day Booths are erected and populated for the morning gathering and sendoff • Hosted by SBPAC, BOS, the SPD and Farmington Valley Health District. • Commuters are greeted between 6:30AM to 9AM for refreshments and a chance to win gift cards provided by local businesses. • Free give away items are provided, including safety materials, and participants pose for BTW event pictures • Invited bicycle advocates from Connecticut's newest BFC (W Hartford and Farmington) BTW Day Happy Hour • End of day gathering for all cycling enthusiasts. Attendance was about 100 people. • Attended also by Town and State officials. • Included a small display of a "pedal power" exhibit and SFB art bikes • Complimentary appetizers were provided as were prizes from event sponsors (SEE ENCOURAGEMENT PDF FILE & HARDCOPIES ATTACHMENTS)

47c. Approximately what percentage of the community workforce do you reach on Bike to Work Day?

1-25%

48. How do you promote bicycling outside of your official Bike Month? Check all that apply.

Community and charity rides, Mayor-led/Council-led Rides, Videos on bicycling on community website/TV channel, Public Service Announcements, Trail construction or maintenance day, Triathlons and bicycle races, Publish a guide to community bicycle events, Mentoring program for new riders, Bike to School Day, Bicycle-themed festivals/parades/shows, Public education campaign relating to cycling (e.g. with a focus on public health or environmental benefits)

49. List the signature cycling events that occur in your community. (250 word limit)

ANNUAL TRAIL CLEANUP: Simsbury conducts 5th annual the clean-up that attracts over 100 volunteers who clean 32 continuous miles of the Farmington Valley Greenway. A thank-you BBQ is held for all the volunteers. LINK: <https://www.facebook.com/FVTrailsCouncil?sk=wall> TRAILS IN MOTION: National Trails Day event that attracts 100's of riders for a 10, 30, 50 and 62-mile ride. FAMILY RIDE: 30-mile ride that promotes public awareness of the rails-to-trails RIDE 28 MILES ON THE 28th 2014: A casual ride in June to showcase trails that connect the 5 Farmington Valley towns. Sponsored by FVTC and ECG. CABOT CHEESE BIKE TOUR 2012: Reception was held in Simsbury while cycling along the Eastern Seaboard to strengthen communities throughout the East Coast. COMMISSIONER ESTY RIDE 2013: A 56 mile ride to showcase the trails and urge the closing of the remaining gaps between the towns of Cheshire and Plainville. LINK: <http://www.ct.gov/Deep/cwp/view.asp?A=4380&Q=527310> "WEEK A YEAR" TOUR 2103: Executives kick off ride to Philadelphia from Simsbury, meeting and riding with Simsbury town officials and bicycle advocates. EMS NATIONAL MEMORIAL BIKE RIDE 2013: 100 riders stop for lunch at SFB on their way home from Maine to Pennsylvania to honor EMS workers killed & injured while on duty. LINK: <https://www.facebook.com/Simsburyfreebike/posts/10201148778392498> SIMSBURY CULTURE PARKS & RECREATION TRIATHLON 2014 First annual TRY designed as an ideal way to experience the diversity of Simsbury's recreation assets with friends and families. LINK: <http://www.trysimsbury.com> CHILDREN AND ADULT MOBILITY PROJECT (CAMP) 2011 Veterans ride in collaboration with Hospital for Special Care LINK: <http://campmobilityproject.org/> GAYLORD ADAPTIVE SPORTS CYCLING TOUR 2013: Fundraiser for Gaylord's adaptive sports program – coordinates event with CAMP LINK: <http://www.gaylord.org/general-information/donor-support/special-events/bike-tour.aspx> (SEE ENCOURAGEMENT PDF FILE & HARDCOPY ATTACHMENTS)

49a. How does the municipality sponsor or actively support these events?

Organize the event, Fund event, Contribute in-kind funding (i.e. police presence, closing roads, etc), Assist in promoting the event

50. Does your local tourism board or chamber of commerce promote bicycling in your area?

Yes

If yes, describe (250 word limit)

Simsbury became a Bicycle Friendly Community in 2010. Since then the Town has experienced an influx of cycling tourist from across the state and nationally. The Chamber of Commerce (COC) and Tourism Committee have helped our community integrate bicycling into our landscape. Steve Mitchell, Vice President of Mitchell Auto Group, has been a particularly effective leader in this regard. Steve is a member of the COC, a Board Member on the Tourism Committee, a Director of the Simsbury Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee and a member of the Board of Trustee, East coast Greenway (ECG). Key activities Steve has organized on behalf of one or more of these organizations include: • Lobbying / goodwill efforts and sponsored rides with State Senators and Congressman, and the mayors and commissioners of various nearby Connecticut towns. • A cocktail hour with COC members to highlight National Bike Month (NBM) • Email blasts to COC members promoting NBM, Bike to Work Day and the Bike Month event calendar • Sponsorship of the first LCI course to be held at an automobile dealership. Mitchell Auto Group and Simsbury Inn partner to support cycling and tourism and they, along with other COC members, are host locations for Simsbury Free Bike. The Tourism Board has a kiosk in the center of town provided maps with detailed information about our bicycle trails. Mitchell Auto group also has an information tent at their dealership dedicated to cycling. LINK: <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/tourism-committee>

51. Are there cycling clubs in your community? Check all that apply.

Recreational bike clubs, Mountain bike clubs, Friends of the Trail groups, Racing clubs or teams

51a. List the names of the clubs. (500 word limit)

Yankee Pedalers: <http://www.yankeepealers.com> Week Day Riders: <http://ridewithgps.com/groups/Thursday-Friday-Riders> Royal Screw: <https://sites.google.com/site/royalscrewveloclub/> Healthy Gears: <http://www.healthygears.com> Valley Cycling: <http://www.valleycycling.org> Eastern Bloc: <http://www.easternbloc.net> Cyclonauts: <http://www.cyclonautmultisport.com> Appalachian Mountain club: <http://www.ct-amc.org/CT/index.shtm>

52. How many for-profit specialty bicycle retailers (shops dedicated primarily to selling bikes and bike-related equipment) are there in your community?

Simsbury has one retail bicycle shop.

52a. List their names. (250 word limit)

The Bicycle Cellar (TBC) www.thebicyclecellarct.com TBC is a 5 star, full service bicycle shop that proudly offers "Bicycles for Every Cyclist". This hometown bike shop has been serving the needs of cyclist in the valley for over 40 years. They are located in the heart of Simsbury adjacent to the bicycle trails, and that allows high frequency, interactive contact with town cyclists. TBC is also an active supporter of the organized bicycling activities held within the town and are, in that way, a valuable asset of our Bicycle Friendly Community. The community support offered by TBC include the following: • Offering weekly family rides • Donating safety equipment for Bike to School Day, i.e., helmets, lights and bells • Donating their time and materials to restore bicycles for the Historical Society's "Pedal Power" display for Bike Month. This display included a 1890 Pope High Wheeler. • Manning the morning meeting location for Bike To Work Day • Helping to chaperone the town's Beginners Ride The support The Bicycle Cellar provides Simsbury Free Bike deserves separate mention. They were instrumental in getting the inaugural bicycle for Simsbury Free Bike, and they offer discounts on parts/equipment needed by this beloved bike share program.

53. Which of these bicycling amenities do you have in your community? Check all that apply.

BMX track ☒ , Cyclocross course ☒ , Mountain bike park ☒

53a. Is there a skate park in your community?

Yes



If yes, do bikes have access to the skate park?

Always

54. Are there opportunities to rent bicycles in your community?

Yes

55. Does your community currently have a bike sharing program that is open to the general public?

Yes

55a. If yes, please provide details about the system below.

How many bikes are in the system?

55

How many stations are in the system?

14

How many trips are being made annually?

1600 projected users for 2014

56. Do you have any current League of American Bicyclists designated Bicycle Friendly Businesses in your community?

No

57. Do you have any current League of American Bicyclists designated Bicycle Friendly Universities in your community?

No institutions of higher education

58. Does your community have a bike co-op or non-profit community bike shop?

Yes

If yes, describe its services (250 word limit)

Simsbury Free Bike (SFB) is a nonprofit bicycle-sharing program sponsored by the Children & Adult Mobility Project (CAMP) that makes bikes available, at no cost, to residents and visitors who are over the age of 18. SFB was formed in 2011. By the end of its third season SFB had placed 50 bikes in 10 locations and had served over 1,200 riders during the six peak riding months. The 2014 results are showing a 37% increase YTD. All of SFB's bicycles are donated as used equipment. Two part-time mechanics and numerous volunteers including men, women and teenagers work in a facility adjacent to the bicycle trail to refurbish used bicycles and ready them for service. Beyond the bike share program, SFB's activities include the following: • Supporting special needs riders: SFB shares resources with the Children & Adult Mobility Project. • Bicycle education: This program instructs 4th grade student how to safely ride a bicycle. SFB has provided 30 bikes to this program at no cost to the Town's schools and provides ongoing maintenance. Bikes are also provided to low-income individuals. • Maintenance training: "Shop Night" is conducted on Monday's. One teen recently landed a job at a local bike shop based upon the skills learned here. • Advocacy: SFB serves as the advocacy group for the Town and bicycle friendly initiatives throughout the Farmington River Valley. SFB has a very popular social network on Facebook that has experienced impressive growth. • Recycled Bicycle Art: Simsbury High School National Honors Art Society created "rolling art". SFB collaborated with students to painted 4 refurbished bikes to add to the SFB fleet. FB LINK: <https://www.facebook.com/Simsburyfreebike> ART BIKE ARTICLE LINK: http://articles.courant.com/2014-06-20/community/hc-fx-school-spotlight-0619-20140613_1_simsbury-free-bike-larry-lionis-bike-program

58a. If yes, does the co-op/non-profit community bike shop receive support from the local government?

Free bicycle safety accessories for distribution, e.g. helmets or lights, Provision of abandoned or impounded bicycles for resale, Free PSA or advertizing space

59. Does your community have youth recreation and/or intervention programs centered on bicycling? Check all that apply.

None

60. What mapping and route finding information is available for your community, which has been updated in the last 18 months? Check all that apply.

Online route finding service, Smart phone app, Printed mountain bike trails map, Printed greenways and trails map

61. Describe any other programs or policies your community has to encourage cycling. (500 word limit)

In July 2014, as part of a new "Complete Streets" initiative, Bike Walk Connecticut released a first-of-its-kind ranking of how Bike- and Walk-Friendly are the state's cities and towns. Simsbury was ranked #1. (ADD LINK) The initiatives discussed throughout this application have contributed to this outstanding result. The importance of furthering bike friendly characteristics is indeed captured within the Town's Economic Implementation & Marketing Action Study. The development opportunities identified therein include "capitalizing on Simsbury's recreational assets (the rail trail and Farmington river) to create a sports complex, and/or retail stores that cater to fishing, hiking, and biking." These efforts are recognized as being important for the continuing economic development and long-term viability of Simsbury. One key locus of community programs and policies is the Simsbury element of the Farmington Valley Heritage Trail (FVHT) and East Coast Greenway (ECG). The FVHT is a portion of the ECG. This central Connecticut corridor spanning 56 miles and joins other trails in Western Massachusetts giving it an interstate connection. More than 154,000 people used the section of trail near Simsbury in 2008. A recent 9 month Counter Study showed Regional usage of the trail has increased to 250,000. MAP LINKS: <http://www.fvgreenway.org/pages/our-trails.asp#FCHT> <http://www.fvgreenway.org/map/Map.List.asp> The Town, the SPBAC, citizen volunteers and the FVTC work cooperatively to maintain and enhance this key resource. Volunteers, which include many Simsbury residents, have played a crucial role not only in creating and promoting the trail, but maintaining it. Two other local programs that encourage cycling are the Children & Adult Mobility Project (C.A.M.P) and Simsbury Free Bike (SFB). CAMP is part of the Connecticut Adaptive Cycling program that provides adaptive cycles from Tri-Trikes for physically challenged athletes, adults and children. This program offers recreational rides on the ECG and the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail. Cyclist meets weekly at SFB for local rides. SFB, now in its fourth season, is the only multi-town bike share program in the state. The program is not only popular among locals it's a favorite among tourists. LINK: <http://campmobilityproject.org> In another undertaking that builds on the success in attracting cycling tourism, the SPBAC is working to get our greenways route incorporated into the Adventure Cycling map network. Of course, some of the Town of Simsbury's efforts to encourage cycling are also noteworthy here. The Public Works Department has installed dedicated bike lanes and Sharrows on a major artery in town to improve safety for motorist, cyclists and pedestrian. Two infrastructure projects are in the works that will dramatically improve bike routes into and out of Simsbury. The first will be completed at the end of August 2014. The second has now been budgeted. Simsbury Schools have conducted bicycle safety programs that have increased ridership to schools. Parks & Recreation has added teen mountain biking programming.

Enforcement

62. How does your police department interact with the local cycling community? Check all that apply.

A police officer is an active member of the Bicycle Advisory Committee, Identified law-enforcement point person to interact with cyclists, Other


If other, describe (100 word limit)

Officer Tracy Dunne is a member of the Simsbury Bicycle Advisory Committee and is the designated liaison with the bicycle community. The Town has 9 patrol officers trained for bike patrol with one officer patrolling the Greenway by bike during the daylight hours. In 2013 Tracy received the American Red Cross Hero Award for saving a life while off duty.

63. What kind of training is offered to police officers regarding traffic law as it applies to bicyclists? Check all that apply.

Basic academy training, International Police Mountain Bike Association training, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Law Enforcement Training

64. What enforcement programs that target improving cyclist safety are in place? Check all that apply.

Helmet giveaways, Light giveaways, Positive enforcement ticketing , Share the road campaigns, Other

If other, describe (100 word limit)

The Simsbury Police Department (SPD) provided training to all Department personnel, used the Department variable message signs throughout the town to promote safety, and participated in each bike/walk to school event. There were 11 different areas around town where the SPD focused on enforcement and compliance checks where bicyclists and motor vehicles often intersect. At least 33 separate checks were documented during the month of May. "Positive ticketing" vouchers were handed out to youths who are exhibiting safe bicycling behavior (e.g. wearing helmets, riding on the proper side of the street, etc.). (See hardcopy attachment from Captain of SPD) The following new safety materials were added to their website: LINK: <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/police-emergency/pages/bicycle-and-pedestrian-safety> • Updated Bicycle and Pedestrian State Law Guide • A Link to NHTSA • Bicycle Safety Activity Kit • Federal Highway Administration • In 2014 provided bicycle safety talks to children at summer camps • Bicycle & Motorist Safety Presentation by PFC Tracy Dunne in 2012 LINK: http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/simsburycr/files/file/bike_safety-share_the_road.pdf They also updated safety information to their FB page at: www.facebook.com/PoliceApp

65. What percentage of patrol officers are on bikes?

1- 10%

66. Are any other public safety (e.g. EMS) employees on bikes?

Yes

If yes, describe (50 word limit)

Public Safety officials are present during the summer concert series held at the Simsbury Meadows Perform Art Center located in the heart of downtown Simsbury, as



well as any other large events that take place in town such as road races and the Triathlon.

67. Do police officers report cyclist crash data or potential hazards to traffic engineers and planners to identify sites in need of safety improvements for cyclists?

Yes

68. Which of the following safety services and amenities are available in your community?

Trail watch programs/ Trail patrols, Street lighting on most arterials, Stolen or impounded bikes recovery system or assistance, Non-mandatory bike registration

69. Are there any local or state ordinances that protect cyclists? Check all that apply.

Specific penalties for failing to yield to a cyclist when turning, Ban on cell phone use while driving, Ban on texting while driving, Vulnerable road user law, Safe passing distance law, It is illegal to harass a cyclist

70. Do your local ordinances place any restrictions on cyclists? Check all that apply.

Local law requires cyclists to use side paths regardless of their usability, Local law requires that cyclists are required to ride as far to the right of the road as practicable without exceptions

71. Describe any other enforcement programs or policies relating to cycling. (500 word limit)

Other enforcement programs relating to cycling include the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS). There are statutes regarding restrictions for bicyclists/pedestrians (CGS sections 14-232, 14-286, 14-286a,b,c,d, & f; 14-287, 14-288, 14-289, 14-299) and those that protect cyclists in regards to motor vehicles. Those include Right of Way (CGS sections 14-245BRW, 14-246aBRW, 14-247aBRW, Turns (CGS sections 14-242(e) BRW, 14-242(f) and Failure to Exercise Due Care (CGS section 14-300d). There is no specific statute for "dooring." There are not any designated bicycle lanes like the ones in other states, therefore there are no statutes/ordinances related to such. The SPD has applied for a "Highway Safety Grant" for speed enforcement on High Risk rural roads. This grant is designed for specialized speed enforcement and may include roads occupied by bicyclists.

Evaluation and Planning

72. Does your community have a comprehensive bicycle master plan or similar section in another document?

Yes

72a. If yes, please provide details about the plan below.

Provide a link to the plan or describe. (250 word limit)

The Town of Simsbury Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD was created in 2007 with the objective of maximizing the interaction of our residents and the habitat with focus on extracting ourselves from our automobiles to achieve this interaction. This plan is due for updating in 2017. LINK:

http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/simsburyct/files/file/file/adopted_pocd.pdf The goals documented in the 2007 plan (see link below) include: 1. Renewed emphasis on alternate modes of transportation that benefit quality of life 2. Park and walk opportunities in our 5 village centers - North Simsbury, West Simsbury, Town Center Simsbury, Weatogue and Tariffville. 3. Expansion of Simsbury's sidewalk/shared use paths network to connect neighborhoods, schools, parks, bike trails, recreation centers, senior housing, the library and village centers. The document includes a Non Vehicular Transportation route development plan. MAP LINK:

http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/simsburyct/files/file/file/pedestrian_resources.pdf The Simsbury Bike Advocates Plan combines community needs and suggestions from the 2012 LOAB Simsbury CT Feedback Report. The plan identifies opportunities to improve safety, increase transportation network connectivity and encourage more bike commuting. Organized by the 5 E's, the plan is designed for use by the SBPAC when working with town officials, businesses and the school system to help prioritize projects and solicit funding. The plan is also the foundation for advocacy direction and as a resource for the Town when Simsbury updates the Simsbury Plan of Conservation and Development in 2017.

When was it passed or most recently updated?

POCD 2007, Bike Advocacy Plan 2014

Is there a dedicated funding source for implementation?

What percentage of the current plan has been implemented?

65% of the Simsbury Bicycle Advocacy Plan has been implemented; 100% of our 2014 Objectives have been achieved.

Are you meeting annual target goals for implementation?

Yes

73. Do you have a trails master plan that addresses mountain bike access?

Yes

If yes, provide the link to the plan or describe. (250 word limit)

We are expanding efforts with the mountain biking community and formalizing a mountain biking plan that will integrate with the Simsbury Bike Advocates Plan. We have connected with NIMBA through a local Mountain Bike coach and assembled an experienced mountain bike working group. Simsbury has acres of prime mountain biking terrain thanks to Simsbury's long history of land conservation and preservation, work that continues today. Over the past 8 years, we have preserved 423 acres designated as the Ethel Walker Woods (EWW). In 2013 and 2014, the last two phases were approved by Simsbury voters to purchase the land which would guarantee public access to the property's extensive trail system. This land provides numerous educational and recreational opportunities, such as birdwatching, hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and, of course, mountain biking. Ethel Walker Woods expands Simsbury's Mountain Biking terrain by hundreds of acres and connects 3 large adjacent properties with mountain biking access including the River Trail Loop, Stratton Brook Forest and Tulmeadow Farm. Work is underway to sign and GPS map those acquired acres for bikers and hikers. Team members include representatives from Simsbury Land Trust, Parks and Recreation, advocates and Public Works. EWW Map: http://www.keepthewoods.org/images/EWS_Map_of_the_woods.JPG

74. Is there formal cooperation between the mountain biking community and the community recreation and planning staff?

Yes

If yes, describe (100 word limit)

The Mountain Biking Advocacy Plan will address rider education, mapping, design of trail signage, Land Trust liaison work to insure thoughtful use of the land and identification and promotion of defined access points. Simsbury's Parks/Recreation sits on the committee to provide a link to the town for funding, feasibility, to underwrite events and to schedule and promote classes. Simsbury's newest project is engineering a 5k cinder track in town center, through the woods and along the Farmington River. The plan is to promote mountain biking for children through a collaboration between Public Works, Economic Development and Parks/Recreation.

75. Does your community have an on-going bicycle counting and/or survey program that allows for long-term trend analysis of cycling trips (e.g. participation in the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project)?

Yes

If yes, please describe the most recent results. (250 word limit)

SIMSBURY CONDUCTED 3 SURVEYS IN 2014: BIKE TRAIL SPEED SURVEY: A self-report survey solicited feedback on - trail safety, maintenance of the trail and type of trail usage. Results: Respondents: 111. RESULTS: See PDF/Hardcopy of Simsbury Bicycle Account for details BICYCLE FRIENDLY TOWN OF SIMSBURY BENCHMARK SURVEY: Survey Monkey was used as our data gathering tool to solicit qualitative data from pedestrians, cyclists and motorists on a variety of topics (5E's) Designed as Simsbury's benchmark survey, it assessed current opinions and areas for improvement from a variety of user perspectives. Respondents: 600+ RESULTS: See Simsbury Bicycle Account for findings. BIKE TRAIL QUANTITATIVE USAGE STUDY: Connecticut Council Region of Governments (CCROG), until 2011, conducted annual trail audits at 3 Simsbury locations. The survey counted weekday and weekend cyclist and pedestrian activity. CCROG 2011 results represent our baseline usage. Simsbury now conducts trail usage data collection. In 2014, Simsbury completed a study at 2 of those locations. Age, gender, bike/ped, helmet or no helmet. RESULTS: SEE SIMSBURY BICYCLE ACCOUNT AUTOMATED ELECTRONIC TRAIL COUNTERS: The FVTC purchased and installed 3 electronic trail counters in 2013. Simsbury bicycle advocates were involved in the selection, purchase and installation of the counters placed in Suffield (north), Canton (central) and Farmington (south). 2013 usage results, released in April 2014, represent benchmark usage for segments of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail. Results reflect estimated Simsbury trail usage since counters were placed north and south of Simsbury. Results: See Simsbury Bicycle Account for trail usage stats.

75a. If yes, do the counts capture the gender of cyclists?

Yes

If yes, please describe the most recent results (250 word limit)

Simsbury captures the gender of cyclists through surveys and through the SFB waiver system. The 2011 CRCOG survey captured gender of cyclists in Simsbury, all three of the 2014 Simsbury cycling surveys captured gender including the Speed Survey (self-report), the Qualitative Bike Survey through Survey Monkey and the 2014 Usage Study that duplicates the CRCOG 2011 study. SFB captures the gender of bike users from the waivers. RESULTS: M/F=45%/55%. We also capture the difference in women and men wearing helmets and the mix of residents and visitors.

76. Does your community routinely conduct pre/post evaluations of bicycle-related road projects?

Yes



If yes, please describe the results. (250 word limit)

We conduct informal reviews and evaluations. Problem areas such as the Rte 315/10 intersection experienced numerous accidents. After working with the State DOT, the problem was resolved by installing a crossing signal and removing brush. There are many such projects that have been resolved without the need for formal evaluations. Access to a neighborhood that required homeowners to cross the trail was identified as a safety concern. The addition of chicanes solved the problem. No incidents have been reported and residents of the neighborhood feel the chicanes slow bike traffic sufficiently.

77. Does your community establish target goals for bicycle use, e.g. a certain level of bicycle mode share?

Yes

If yes, please describe (250 word limit)

Simsbury captures statistics whenever possible. Our Bicycle Account documents these statistics. (SEE PDF FILE AND HARDCOPY ATTACHMENTS) BIKE SAFETY CLASSES: We track students that received Bike Safety Training (SEE QUESTION #46 UNDER EDUCATION) BIKE/WALK TO SCHOOL: Our Safe Routes to School Program is now 5 years old. The participation trend continues to outperform targets. Participation from parents, town officials, police, advocates and media continues to grow. See Simsbury's Bicycle Account for growth story. SOCIAL MEDIA REACH: We are rapidly approaching 650 likes on our Simsbury Free Bike FBpage. The regional bike share has grown into a regional advocacy group that is the voice of Simsbury and Farmington Valley bike initiatives. BIKE MONTH: We document/evaluate bike month activities to determine how to include more businesses/people each May. BIKE TO WORK DAY: 2014 was Simsbury's third year celebrating Bike Month and the second year we celebrated Bike to Work Day. In 2014, we hosted both an AM and a PM event that more than tripled the number of participants over 2013. (See Question #47b) INVOLVEMENT OF TOWN OFFICIALS: We accomplished our 2014 goal - 3 newly elected selectman joined us on bikes for the First Selectman's Ride! (SEE ENCOURAGEMENT PDF FILE & HARDCOPY ATTACHMENTS) Bike Commuters: Captured in our survey. Simsbury Free Bike - Regional Bike Share: We are beginning our 4th season and have increased usage from 150 riders in 2011 and project 1600 in 2014. We are the only multi-town bike share and the largest bike share in Connecticut. Funding is the only thing holding us back.

78. What is the most current journey-to-work data for your community? Tip: Search for topic B08301 (Means of Transportation to Work) for your community on the American FactFinder website (Advanced Search). Choose the most recent data set available for your community. Divide the total number of bicycle/pedestrian/transit commuters by the total number of commuters and multiply the result by 100.

Bicycling (in %)

No date available.

Percentage of bicycle commuters who are women (See topic B08006. Choose the most recent data set available for your community. Divide the total number of women bicycle commuters by the total number of bicycle commuters and multiply the result by 100.)

Walking (in %)

Transit (in %)

79. What is the average commuting distance to work for residents of your community? Tip: This data is not available nationally and needs to be collected locally (or estimated).

5-10 miles

80. What percent of children commute to school by bicycle? Tip: This data is not available nationally and needs to be collected locally.

Elementary

2%; Only 8% live in walk/bike zone

Middle School

1%; Only 8% live in walk/bike zone

High School

<1%; Only 1% live in walk/bike zone

81. How many cyclists have been involved in a crash in your community in the past five years involving a motor vehicle?

2009, 5; 2010, 3; 2011, 6; 2012, 5; 2013, 1. Total of 20

81a. How many cyclist fatalities have occurred in your community in the past five years involving a motor vehicle?

There have been zero cyclist fatalities in the last 6 years.

81b. Do you have a specific plan or program to reduce these numbers?

Yes

If yes, describe (250 word limit)

SIMSBURY POLICE: Records/analyzes crash data that involve bicycles. Data is recorded, compiled and analyzed annually. Crash location, weather, contributing factors, vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian violations are documented and compiled to identify the need for enforcement, education or engineering changes. Enforcement and education needs can be provided through directed and random patrols, use of variable message signs, speed signs and decoy enforcement. The Chief of Police works with engineering and public works, DOT to address engineering, traffic control, roadway markings or hazards to motorists, bicyclists or pedestrians. A positive ticketing program was employed in 2014-great response from residents. SIMSBURY TV (SCTV): Advocates produced PSA's to promote safety and educate viewers on the rights and responsibilities of motorists/bicyclists. Safety messages include: 3' law, Share The Road, and the Dangers of Texting and Driving. FARMINGTON VALLEY TRAILS COUNCIL: A Trail Ambassador program began in 2013. They researched, recruited and trained ambassador candidates and collaborated with town police departments to determine appropriate roles for the ambassadors. Ambassadors are easily identified and tasked with providing assistance, directions and safety suggestions to trail users. VALLEY CYCLING: The club hosts an annual meeting at the Simsbury Library each May. Their program includes a pre-season refresher on bike safety and a presentation by a Police Chief/Cyclist. SAFETY SWAG: Bells and blinkies are popular give-aways and are distributed by our ambassadors and advocates at bike rodeos, Septemberfest and other local events. SOCIAL MEDIA: SFB regularly posts bike etiquette/ safety tips/laws.

82. Do you measure the Bicycle Level of Service of roads and/or intersections?

No

83. Do you have community-wide trip reduction policies or programs?

No

83a. Does the program use individualized marketing to identify and support current and potential bike commuters in your community?

Yes

If yes, describe the program and the results. (250 word limit)

Our individualized marketing is extracted from SFB and Connecticut Adaptive Cycling (CAC) FB pages, Eventbrite and the bike share waivers to identify important user information. SFB has over 650 "likes" on FB. This connects us to many local and national bike advocacy groups. We've gathered a great interactive following. The contacts are a source of volunteers, project managers, liaisons with other towns, including opinion leaders that assist with many local bike/ped issues - East Coast Greenway, Bike Walk CT, FVTC, Gaylord Hospital, Hospital for Special Care and many more. • Simsbury advocates participated in the LOAB webinar on building equity. • CAC has its own page to showcase adaptive events. They link to local hospitals that work with special athletes and to schedule and promote events that build a community for athletes and their families. We link CAC and SFB so everyone can ride together. We often share volunteers. Our motto is "Everybody Rides" • We use Eventbrite to manage bike events and have created a database of individuals interested in all kinds of bike events including Bike to Work. • SFB waivers allow us to track - gender, distance travelled, age, residency, quality of the product delivered (did they have fun/did the bike work), and to collect donation/contact information. Bicycle commuting is a big part of our message on FB, in classes and with students. We are seeing an increase in short trips and as Simsbury's network connections improve and people feel safe, this will increase.?

84. Have you done an economic impact study on bicycling in your community?

Yes

If yes, describe the results. (250 word limit)

Simsbury has reviewed the economic benefits that bicycling can provide. The Town of Simsbury hired Fairweather Consulting to conduct an Economic Implementation and Marketing Action Study. Part 1 of the study was delivered to the Board of Selectmen on October of 2013. The results of the study included the recommendation that Simsbury be positioned as a destination for recreation, including cycling because of our trails, our historic landmarks and bicycle friendly designation. Additionally, Simsbury advocates have made two presentations to the Economic Development Commission. The first (October 2013) was an overview of what it means to be a Bicycle Friendly Community. The second (April 2014) showcased the impact that bicycles can have on the local economy, including the ability to attract a youthful, talented workforce, increase commerce, stabilize home values and expand tourism. Data provided therein identified the economic contribution of bicycling nationally, within several states and regional tourist destinations, and provided anecdotal evidence of the benefits realized by several business districts; all having clear implications for Simsbury.



Usage data tabulated from the Simsbury Free Bike waiver forms confirmed that visitors from other towns, States and countries make up 62% of all their ridership. That attraction supports the message of economic potential being presented to local businesses, the Simsbury Economic Development Commission and Chamber members. (See PDF & HARDCOPY PRESENTATION OF "SIMSBURY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CYCLING POTENTIAL") An example actions resulting from the Fairweather Study, Simsbury held its first triathlon to showcase Simsbury's recreational assets – The Try Simsbury Triathlon was a great success and lauded by local businesses. LINKS: <https://www.facebook.com/trysimsbury> and www.trysimsbury.com/

85. Do you have a mechanism to ensure bicycle facilities, programs and encouragement efforts are implemented in traditionally underserved neighborhoods?
Yes

If yes, describe (250 word limit)

Simsbury Free Bike's fleet is designed for a diverse population. Half are step through frames for women and two trikes with baskets are stationed at the supermarket to serve seniors. (See Question # 58) We provide cyclists without resources a new tube, wheel truing, new brakes or a bike in exchange for work in the shop. Donated bikes not suitable for our fleet are re-donated. Bikes get people back on the road, no strings attached at Simsbury Free Bike. Two SFB were donated to the ABC House in Simsbury for use by residents. ABC House, a residential program for 9 inner-city young men, selected for their academic abilities, strength of character, and motivation, they live in Simsbury during the academic year and return to their homes for vacations and summers. Access to bicycles assists with transportation and integration into the community. Simsbury's Village of Tariffville is separated from Town Center, from the bike trail and other Simsbury assets (library, shopping, ball fields, town hall) by a long, steep hill and shoulder-less road. Engineering work for a connecting trail is complete, two routes have been proposed and funding approved to finalize the development. This will be a scenic, riverfront route to Tariffville that mitigates the hill and creates a safe route for walkers, seniors, children and cyclists, while creating a commuter route to Bloomfield and Hartford and will be designated as an official East Coast Greenway route.

86. Describe any other programs or policies that your community uses to evaluate and/or plan bicycling conditions, programs, and facilities. (500 word limit)

BIKE TRAIL AUDIT: Each April, advocates conduct an audit of the 7.2 miles of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail that runs through Simsbury. They check fencing needs, condition of the pavement, winter debris, fallen trees, root damage and drainage/sand issues and report back to town officials with pictures and recommendations. Longer term recommendations are prioritized in the advocacy plan. The town has recognized the need for a capital plan/dedicated maintenance budget, reflected for the first time in the 2015 budget. BIKE SIGNAGE PLAN: A signage plan has been drafted, is currently being reviewed by the FVTC, Public Works, the First Selectman, SBPAC, and Parks & Recreation. The first phase, Trailhead Signage, is complete, plans for Wayfinding Signage, Mountain Biking Signage, and Trailside Municipality/Commercial Signage is under review. The goal is to minimize signage but maximize user experience when navigating and enjoying our Simsbury bike trail and routes. Our trail map, produced by the Farmington Valley Trails Council will guide our way finding signage on greenways. (SEE ATTACHED HARDCOPY OF SIGNAGE PLAN) BICYCLE ACCOUNT: Simsbury prepared its first, benchmark Bicycle Account in 2014. It combines both quantitative data (number of bike racks, bike lanes, miles of sharrows routes, Mountain Bike miles, LCI's, etc) and qualitative data (attitudes and opinions).

Final Overview

87. What are the three primary reasons your community deserves to be designated a Bicycle Friendly Community?

Reason One (250 word limit)

FOCUS ON EDUCATION: The Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee has made bicycle education its highest priority. Efforts in this regard include bicycling skills training in schools and community-based programs offered through Parks and Recreation, Simsbury Library and the community bike shop. The flagship undertaking is our town-wide, bike safety course for grades 4 through 6. Simsbury's Physical Education Department, in collaboration with SFB volunteers, has created a model program. The schools' teachers obtained approvals and funding for training and curriculum additions. SFB volunteers helped with fleet acquisition and maintenance. Also, the PE Department has approval for a trailer to transport the bike fleet between schools, allowing for greater program flexibility and expanded learning time. Simsbury's Safe Routes to School program operates at three elementary schools. The program provides safety materials, chaperoned rides, and encouragement to children and their families, inspiring hundreds of children to bike to school, many for the first time. The Town's Train-the-Trainer safety seminar for PE teachers was met with enthusiasm. (See Question #46). It's designed to inspire other towns to adopt similar programs. Simsbury has also begun offering LCI training to increase the pool of qualified cycling instructors for our expanding Parks and Recreation offerings. The Education section details other programs for children and adult riders, including maintenance classes and beginners' rides. Finally, Simsbury has programs, including media campaigns, to educate motorists and cyclists to share the road.

Reason Two (250 word limit)

LEADERSHIP IN THE REGION: Simsbury is demonstrating region-wide leadership in cultivating a bike friendly culture. Our bike share program now spans the six towns located along the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail/Farmington River Trail, and we routinely meet with other town's advocates/officials to discuss needs, strategies and progress. We continue to mentor four other towns in the Valley. Two of these towns were recently recognized as a Bronze BFC. Simsbury's First Selectman Mary Glassman, as Chair of the Capital Region Council of Governments (CROG), has been instrumental in working with the 30 town members of CROG to expand the Simsbury Free Bike model across the region. Simsbury advocates organized a trans-Connecticut ride that showcased the extensive trail system to Commissioner Dan Esty of the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection who participated in the 56-mile ride. Other leadership initiatives included hosting an LCI Training Course in Simsbury, organizing rides with the CT Office of Tourism and initiating equipment sharing with eight other towns in support of trail maintenance. Shifting Gears, a newspaper column in the Valley Press, is designed to educate readers in all our surrounding towns on trail etiquette, bike commuting, rides and events, bike legislation and more. We also use new media to connect with local and national cyclists and advocacy groups. The results just posted by Bike Walk CT naming Simsbury, Connecticut the Number One town in their Complete Streets survey indicates we are recognized for our network and mentoring strengths. Our bike share, newspaper column, training programs, mentoring, trail cleanup and advocacy meetings are examples of how Simsbury shares what we have learned with like-minded towns.

Reason Three (250 word limit)

PROGRESS ON SIMSBURY'S CONNECTIVITY: Simsbury has long had a connectivity vision. Execution of that vision has been advanced in the last 3 years by the Town employees working with bike advocates based on new Bike Friendly initiatives from the LOAB, the State of CT, the FVTC and other like-minded groups. The Town of Simsbury is comprised of five parts, the town center, and four villages: Weatogue, West Simsbury, Tariffville, and North Simsbury. At present, all the villages except Tariffville are linked to the Town Center by bicycle trails or routes. Tariffville will connect to the town center following the completion of the Tariffville Connector Project, which is currently in the design phase. (See question #87, Aspect Two) Two interstate bicycle trails, the Farmington Valley Heritage Trail, and the East Coast Greenway pass through the town's borders. These paved surfaced paths that run north and south join Weatogue and North Simsbury to the Town center. An intrastate trail, the Farmington River Trail provides access to the center for many West Simsbury residents. Circumnavigating the countryside and crossing the aforementioned trails twice is a 14.6- mile sharrows route that passes by many of the town's parks, recreational areas, and open spaces. Many of the outlying neighborhoods to the west and north find this on road route a safe way to reach Simsbury proper. Branching out from these on and off road routes is an uncountable number of pathways, walkways, and neighborhood trails, both private and public. These have developed over the years into a patchwork grid that connects residents to shopping, recreational facilities, restaurants and schools. Our system of bike trails in conjunction with our on-road network allows bicyclists to be connected to the entire region of central Connecticut.

88. What are the three aspects of your community most in need of improvement in order to accommodate bicyclists?

Aspect One (100 word limit)

Safety at Bike Crossings on State Roads: Simsbury is working with neighboring towns and the CT State DOT to improve safety at bike trail intersections adjacent to Simsbury section of the FCHT. The Farmington Canal Heritage Trail (FCHT), an 84 mile shared use path from New Haven CT to Westfield Massachusetts, extends through Simsbury for 7.2 miles. Cyclists that use the trail cross several heavily trafficked roads in Granby and Simsbury. We are working with the CT DOT and towns adjacent to Simsbury, where our bike trail intersect, advocating for lowering speed limits, adding crossing signals, improving transitions and visible enforcement efforts by all police departments.

Aspect Two (100 word limit)

Complete a multi-modal commuter route that will allow better connectivity to urban centers. The Town of Simsbury has initiated an engineering study and designed a route that begins at our existing trail (RT 315/10), connects to Tariffville and continues on to Hartford through Bloomfield. This connection from the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, when complete, will become the designated East Coast Greenway route and a cycle-safe commuter route to urban centers and the Town of Simsbury. The 2015 Town of Simsbury Budget includes funding for this project. Plan Link: http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/simsburyct/files/file/file/concept_plans.pdf Budget Link: <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/finance/pages/2014-2015-budget-information>

Aspect Three (100 word limit)

An expanded effort is needed to solicit the support of Simsbury's businesses in actively encouraging a strong cycling culture. To that end, an economic development presentation is being rolled out that expands awareness among businesses of Simsbury's cycling assets and Bike Friendly goals, and to encourage each to become a Bike Friendly business. Some of the areas they can help improve include support for community cycling events, facilities to support cycling shoppers and employees, advocacy for the infrastructure that improves bike safety and links neighborhoods to Main Street; fostering a "ride to work" culture; and visitor outreach advertising. ((See PDF of presentation of "Simsbury Economic Development Cycling Potential")

89. Has completing this application made you more aware of what your community needs to do to be bicycle friendly?

Yes



If yes, describe (250 word limit)

Yes, this application process has helped us identify both our weaknesses and our strengths. The Town and SPBAC has learned a great deal about what we need to do and inspires us to further investigate how other communities across the country have built their programs. More importantly, we will continue to use this application as a teaching tool that will help us encourage segments of our population understand what it means to be a BFC. This includes members of the Economic Development Commission, Simsbury's Board of Selectmen, Chamber of Commerce and local businesses, seniors, children, tourists and underserved communities. The application has build bridges between advocates, town officials and town planners/engineers. Our benchmark survey, a planning and evaluation tool, has helped us identify needs going forward.

90. Are you planning any new projects based on your completion of the Bicycle Friendly Community application?

Yes

If yes, describe (250 word limit)

Yes, the projects planned by advocacy organizations and Town departments are as follows: TOWN OF SIMSBURY FIRST SELECTMAN, Mary Glassman: "The Town of Simsbury is proud to be a BFC and continuously strives to improve our trail network and to be a leader in the region and the state. Our goal for 2014 is to increase funding in the Town budget for long term maintenance and to share our expertise with other Towns in the Capital Region." DIRECTOR, PARKS/RECREATION, Gerry Toner: "Our new project to resurface a path will connect West Simsbury to Town Center moving bikers off the road and linking 3 neighborhoods to schools/ town." DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, Tom Roy: "Public Works supports bike/ped infrastructure programs that improve safety and access. Three new trail projects are planned including a walking/ mountain biking track along the river. We continue to develop on-street resources that promote safe biking and walking like dedicated bike lanes, sharrows routes and safe transition areas." Tom Roy DIRECTOR SIMSBURY FREE BIKE, Larry Linonis: "Our biggest project is maintaining a safe fleet of heavily used bikes and addressing the demand for more share locations. Recruiting young people and teaching them repair skills, is our biggest project." DEPARTMENT CHAIR, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, Amy Muska: "As we move forward with bike safety education at the elementary level, our drive is to acquire our own fleet of bikes to support and expand the instruction, additional grades and phase 2 of instruction. At the middle school level, developing a bike riding club will be explored and developed next school year 2014-2015." SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL COORDINATOR, Debbie Thibodeau: "My goal is to expand the program by working with schools to educate them on what SRTS has to offer, help them identify their own needs/interests, match them with appropriate town sources and provide mentoring to new SRTS champions." CHAIR SIMSBURY BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE, Pattie Jacobus: "The application helps to identify gaps to help the committee set target objectives. One example... we have recruited some extraordinary mountain bike talent and are creating a plan to sign trails, GPS map and promote our trails and teach classes."

Submit any documents that you would like to provide in support of your application, including at least five high resolution photos (1-2MB) here. You can submit up to 5 files at the time and there is no limit on how many files can be submitted. By submitting photos, the League of American Bicyclists has the right to use your photos to promote bicycling. Please note that the files will submit immediately and will not appear as an attachment.

We often get requests for model BFC applications from aspiring communities. Would you be willing to share your application?

Yes

How did you hear about the BFC program?

Steve Mitchell, Co-Chair Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Board of Trustees, East Coast Greenway



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

P.O. BOX 495

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Richard Sawitzke - Town Engineer, Director of Capital Projects

March 18, 2014

Mr. Steven Mitchell
165 Old Farms Road
West Simsbury, CT 06092

Dear Steve:

Subject: Tariffville Connection-Greenway

As we recently discussed, attached are 2 copies of information for alternative routes for a greenway connection to Tariffville. I also have a larger drawing that you may borrow, if needed.

Let me know if you have any questions.

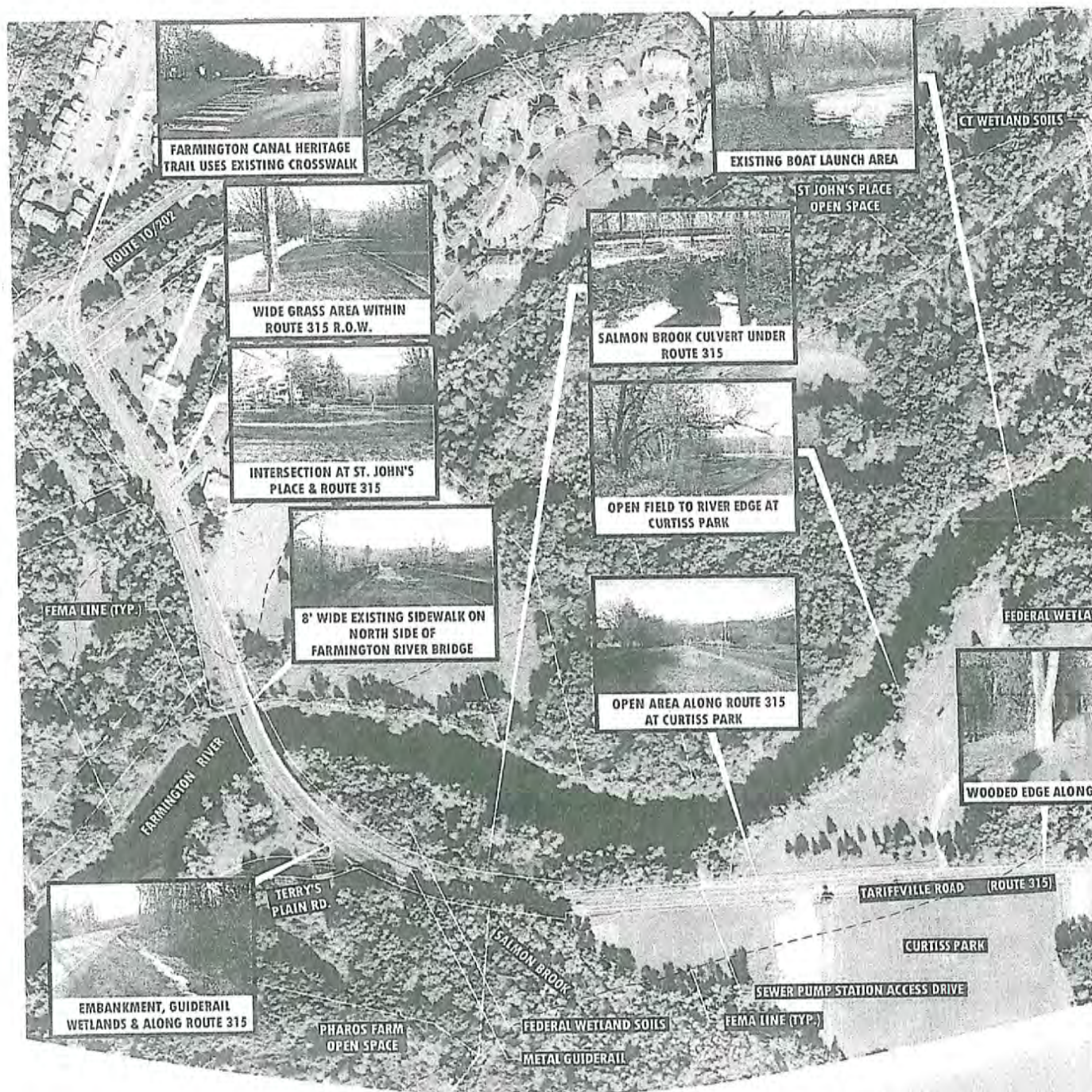
Sincerely,

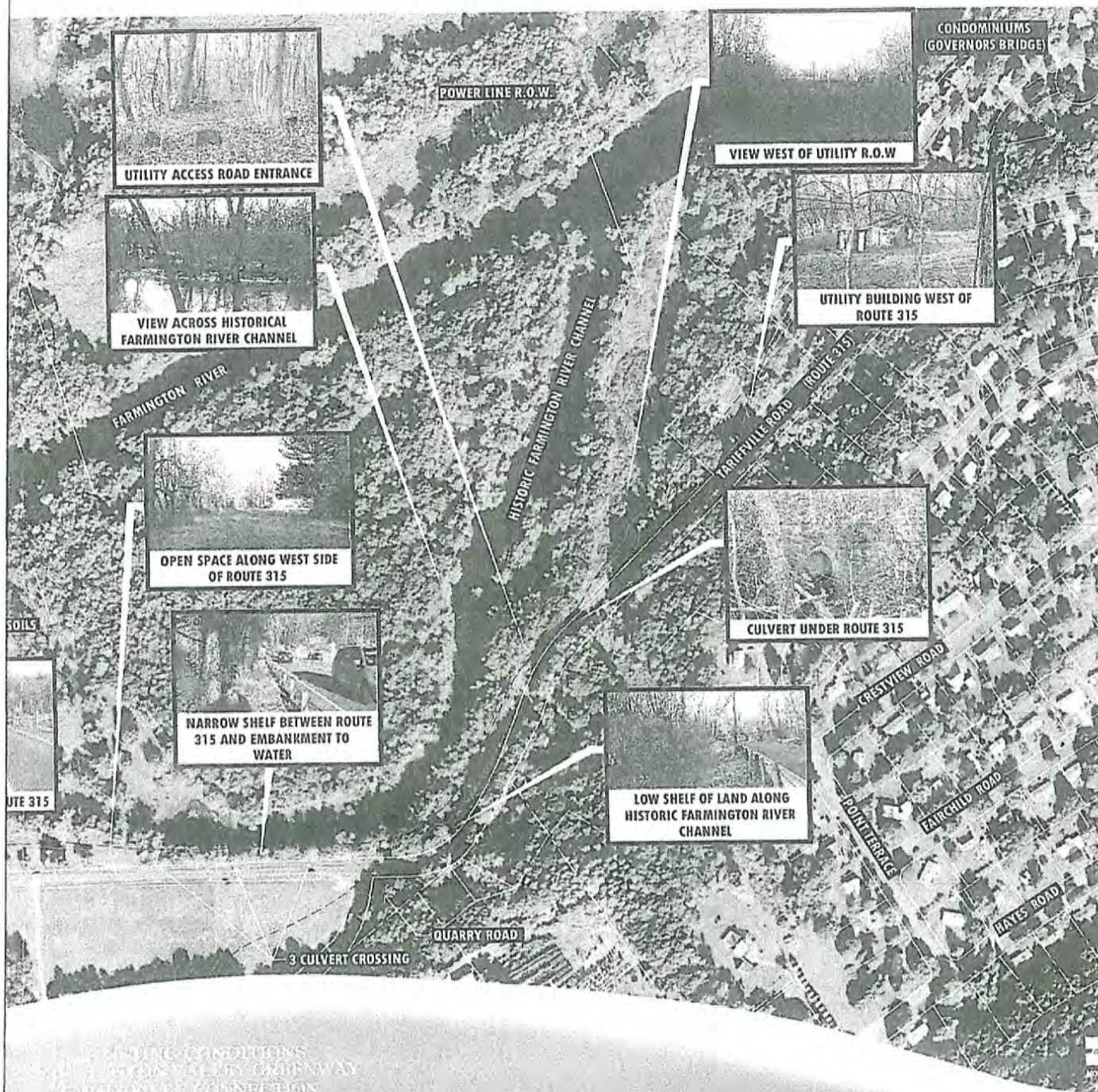
Richard L. Sawitzke
Richard L. Sawitzke, P.E.
Engineering Transition Manager

Telephone (860) 658-3260
Facsimile (860) 658-3205

rsawitzke@simsbury-ct.gov
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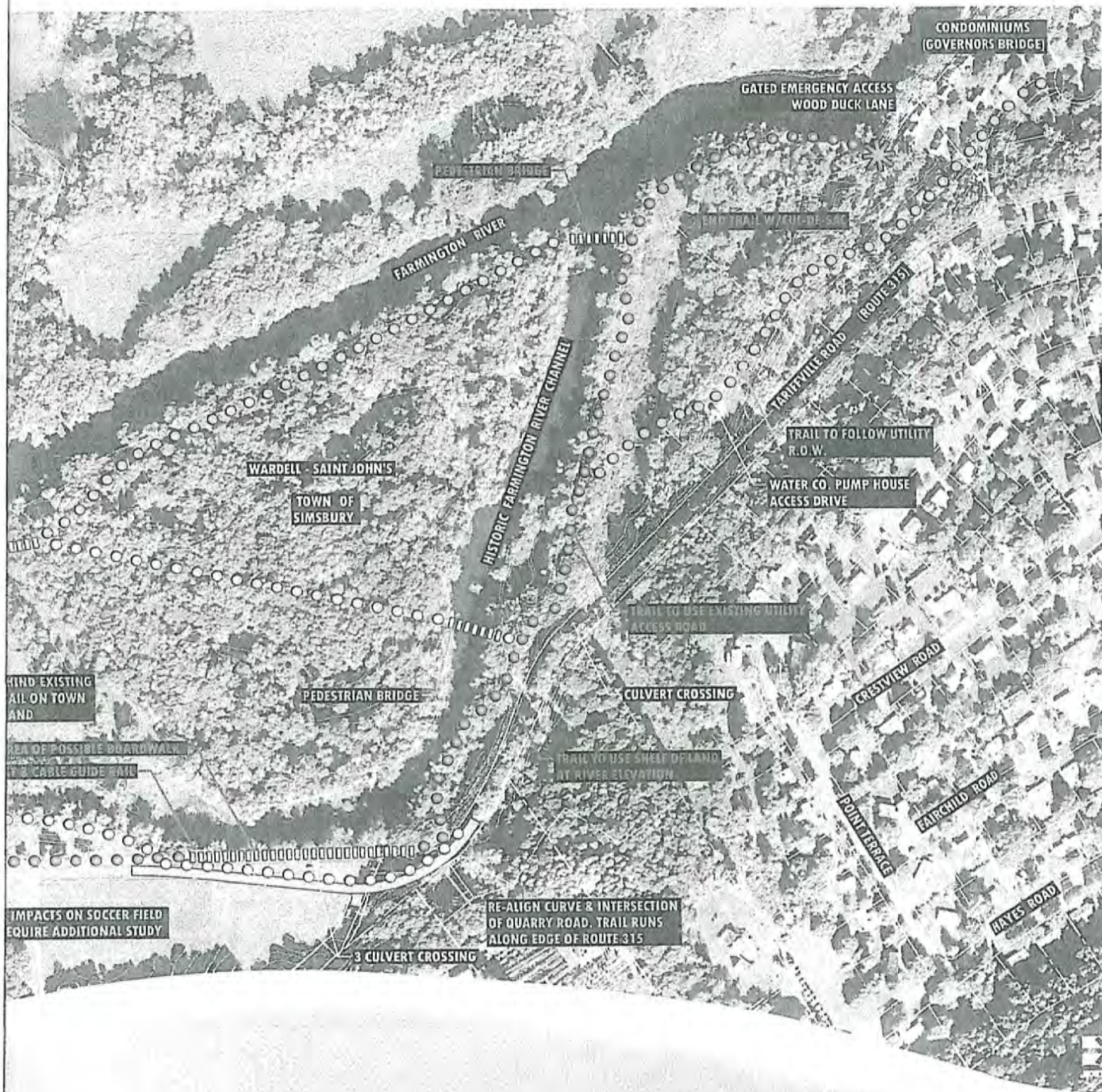




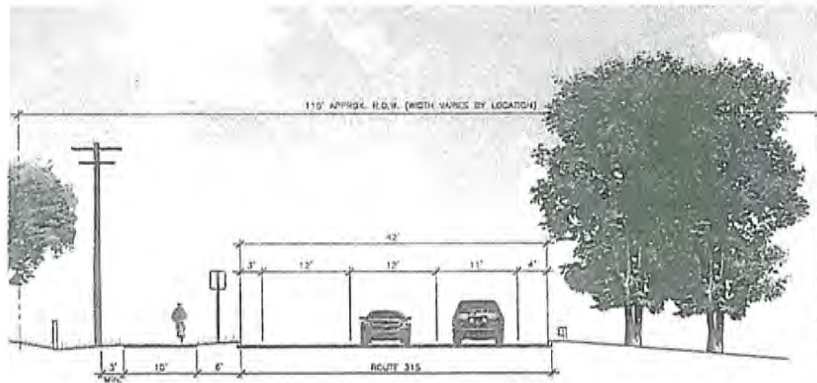
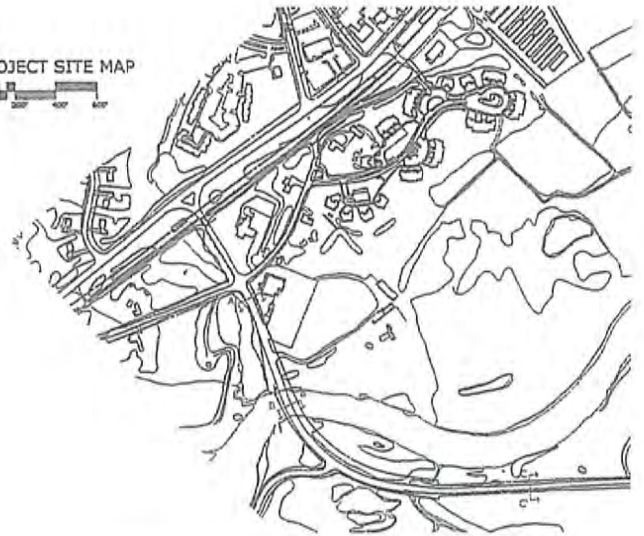
ROUTE CONDITIONS
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MILONE & MACBROOM

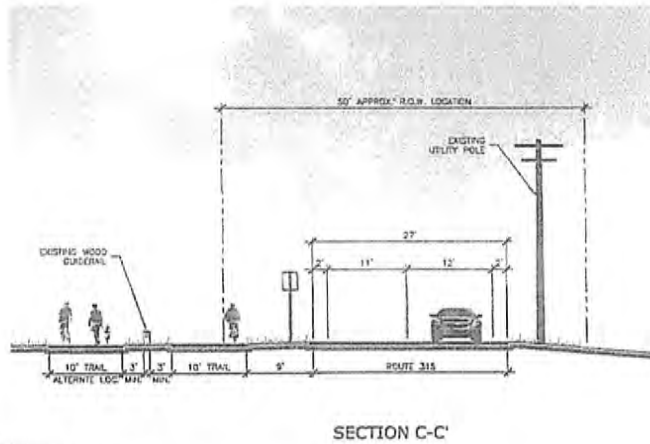
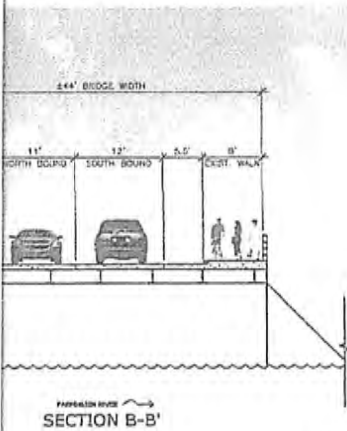
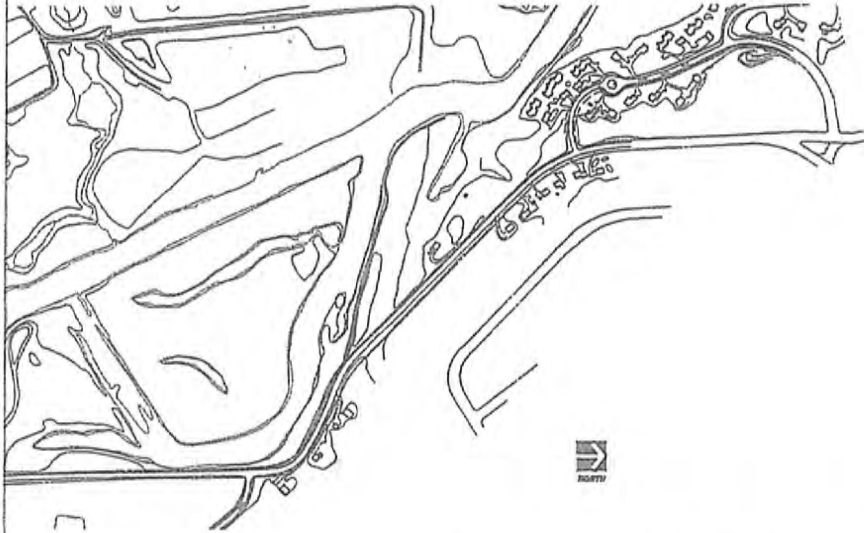
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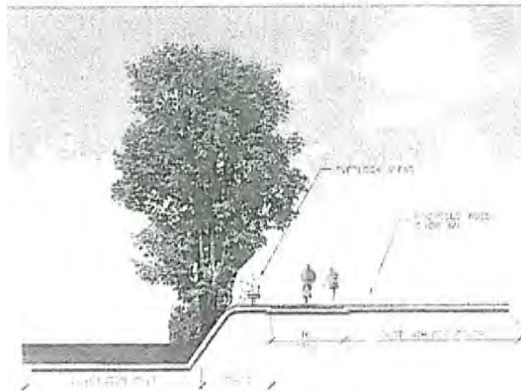
PROJECT SITE MAP



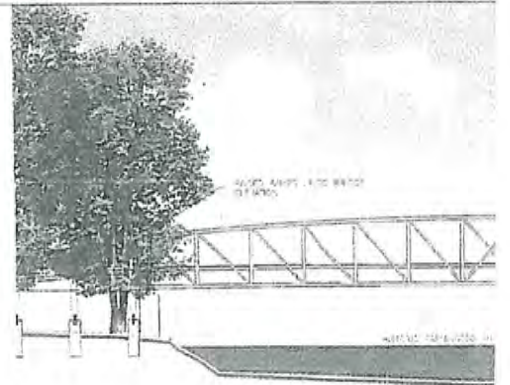
SECTION A-A'



PROJECT SITE MAP



SECTION D-D'



SECTION E-E'

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CRCOG translation disclaimer

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CURRENT STUDIES

Route 10 Corridor Study

GET INVOLVED!

ADD YOUR NAME TO OUR MAILING LIST

[Click Here](#)

Please include your name, mailing address & email address.

EMAIL US YOUR QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

[Click Here](#)

- Introduction to Current Studies
- Comprehensive Transit Analysis
- Hartford I-84 Viaduct Study
- Route 3 Study
- Route 6 Study
- **Route 10 Study**
- Route 195 Study
- Route 305 Study
- Northwest Corridor Transit Study
- New Britain / Hartford Busway TOD Implementation Study
- Information about Completed Studies

Project Overview:



The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) and the Town of Simsbury are initiating a study to address safety, access management and development potential / growth along the Route 10 corridor in the town of Simsbury. We will be working with town officials, the public and the consulting firm of Fuss & O'Neill and over a 10 month period to identify constraints and opportunities throughout the 7-mile study corridor running between the Simsbury/Avon border and Wolcott Road.

Video - Public Introduction to the RT 10 Corridor Study
[Introduction Video](#)

Video - Update on the RT 10 Corridor Study
[Update Video](#)

Please feel free to contact Emily Moos, the Project Manager, (emoos@crcog.org) or 860 522-2217 x219. We will continue to update this site with our findings and meeting announcements as the study progresses.

Public Meetings:



ROUTE 10 STUDY PROCESS

1. Charrette

- Stakeholder Meetings

2. Steering Committee

- Screening and refinement of recommendations

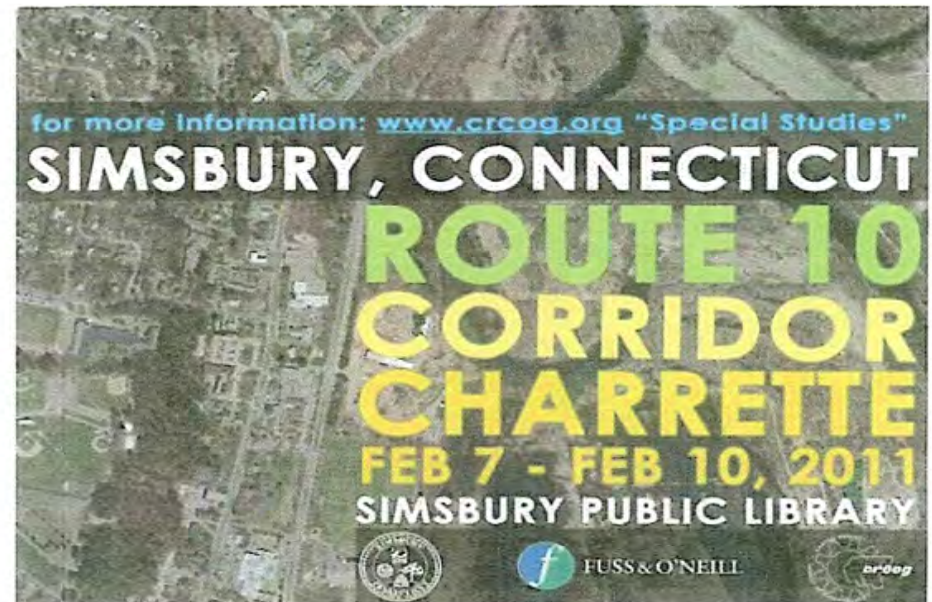
3. Public involvement

- Website: www.crcog.org

4. Report preparation

5. Public comment period

6. Endorsement





SIMSBURY ROUTE 10 CORRIDOR STUDY

JOINT COMMISSION PRESENTATION

Simsbury, Connecticut

August 4, 2011

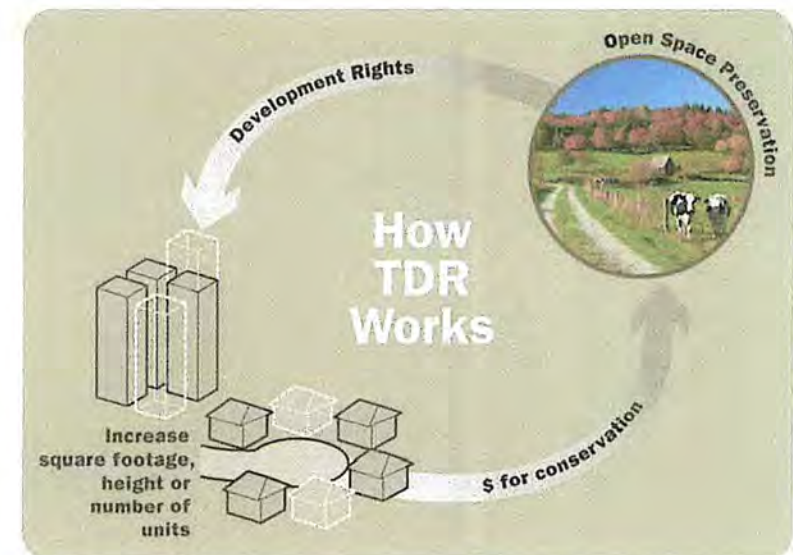


FUSS & O'NEILL



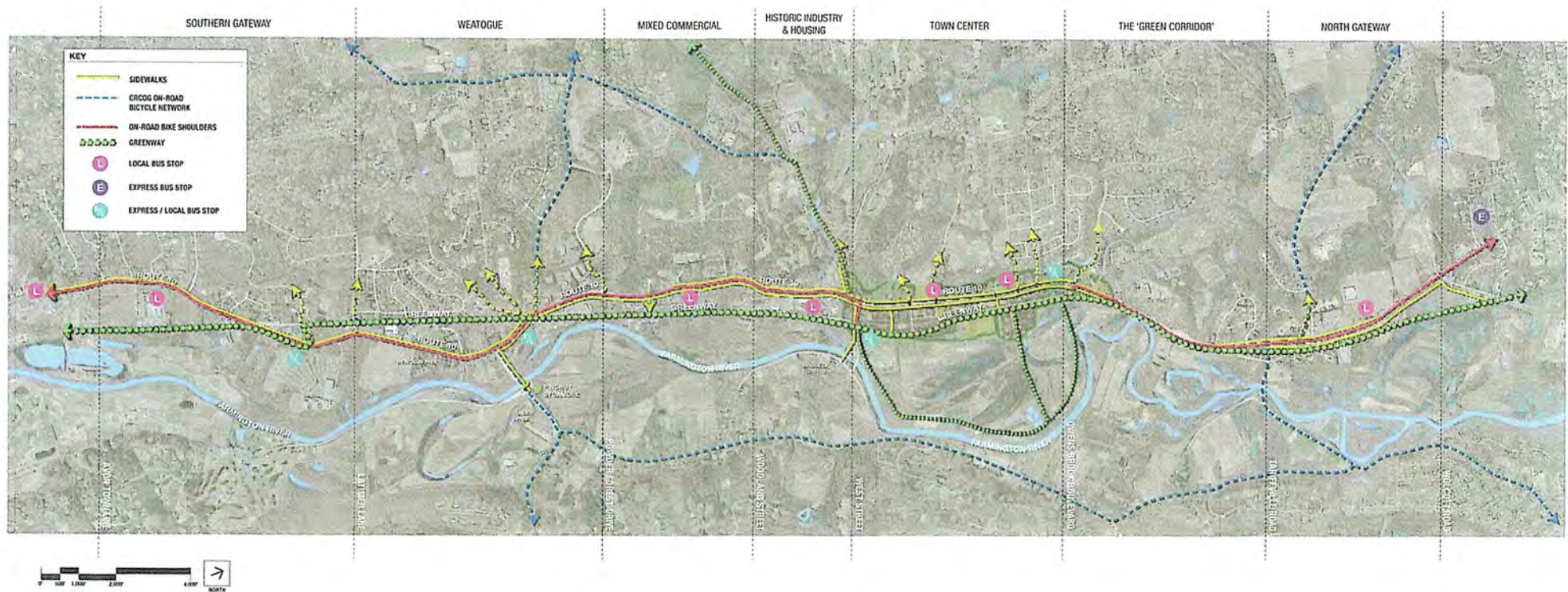
POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Access Management
- Travel Demand Management
 - Flex time, telecommuting, carpooling incentives, site improvements for bike/ped, transit passes, contents
- Formal Complete Streets Policy Incorporation
- Safe Routes to School
- Street Connectivity and Block Size requirements
- Open Space Protection
 - Conservation Easements
 - Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)
- Low Impact Development
- Revise Parking Regulations



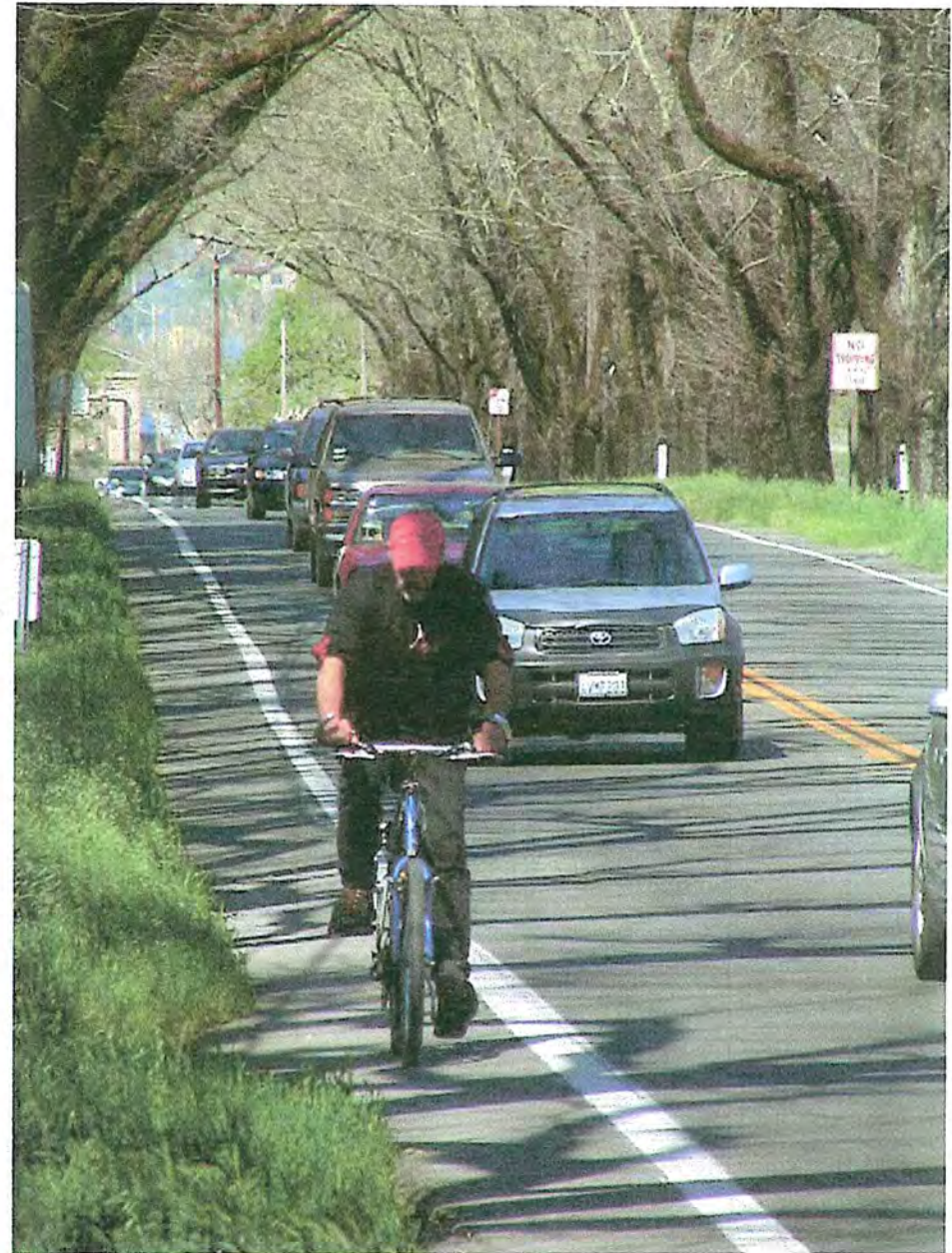
FIRST CLASS PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE SYSTEM

- 5-6' Bike Shoulders on Both Sides of Entire Corridor (CT-44 To Granby)
- Tie in to greenways and on-road bike routes
- Continuous Sidewalk Coverage, appropriate to level of development



BICYCLE FACILITIES

- **Route 10: Restripe lanes**
 - Today – 14 foot lane, 2 foot shoulder
 - Proposed – 11 foot lane, 5 foot shoulder



Education

Simsbury's First LCI Seminar, April 2014



2 new Simsbury LCI's, including Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee member Steven Mitchell

National East Coast Greenway Alliance News – July 2014

Congratulations to New ECGA League Certified Bicycling Instructors!

ECGA Trustee Steve Mitchell recently hosted a League of American Bicyclists Certified Instructor program at his auto dealership in Simsbury, CT. (This was a first ever LAB program hosted in a car dealership!) Our Mid-Atlantic Coordinator Andy Hamilton was one of the 13 participants in this landmark training program, and he and Steve are now League Certified Instructors. Congratulations!

If you are on the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Weatogue, CT, check out the tent behind the Mitchell auto dealership - there's a picnic table and information about the ECG. Thank you so much for your support of the ECG and safe bicycling and walking, Steve and [Mitchell Auto Group](#)!

Education

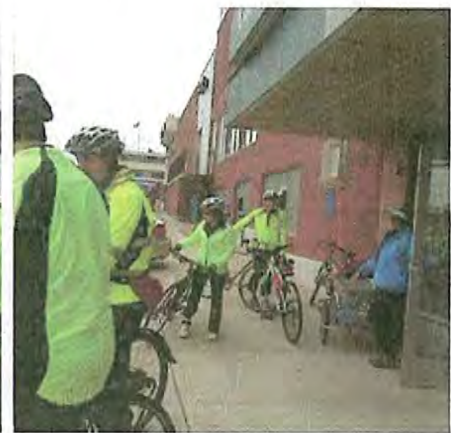
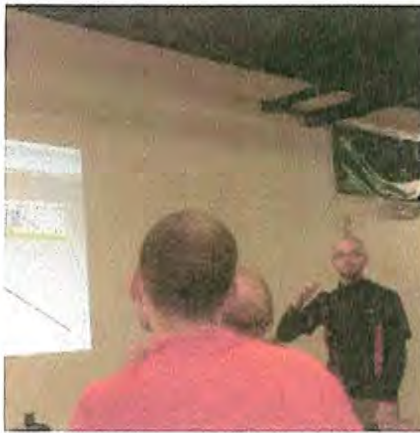
Bike Safety Classes

Six Simsbury Bike Advocates Attend Traffic Skills 101

Updated about 9 months ago · Taken at The West Hartford Underground

Nov. 2013

Thanks to Tony Cherolis, Chris Brown and all the supportive LCI instructors that assisted at the Sunday Traffic Skills 101 course held in West Hartford on Sunday November 10th! Thanks to Bike Walk CT for their support of Bike Education in all its forms!



Biking/Traffic Skills 101 Skills for the Road and Multi-use Trail

Simsbury Culture, Parks & Recreation
Sunday, Sept. 14
8:30 am – 5 pm

*For the knowledge and confidence
to ride safely and legally on roads and multi-use trails.*

Through classroom instruction, on-bike drills, and a group ride, this class will cover the bicycle safety check, starting, stopping, shifting, scanning, proper lane/intersection positioning, crash avoidance techniques, and fixing a flat. Completion of Traffic Skills 101 is a prerequisite for other cycling courses including the certification course for League Cycling Instructors. Participants must bring their own bikes and helmets. Ages 15 and up.

League Certified Instructors (LCI's): Jim Arnold & Steve Mitchell

This class is being sponsored by Mitchell Auto Group.

Register at www.simsburyrec.com

www.simsbury.bike



2014



October 24, 2013 The Valley Press

Bike safety education workshop to 'train the trainer' held in Simsbury

By Abigail Albair
Editor

Bike safety has a lot to do with education.

With that belief in mind, Simsbury's Elementary Physical Education Department hosted a bike safety education workshop Wednesday, Oct. 16.

Though it was held at Simsbury's Central School, it was not the students but rather the teachers that were engaged in the learning experience.

About a dozen physical education teachers from around the state attended the workshop to learn how to implement a bike safety unit within their schools, "either through an intramural program or physical education curriculum," according to a press release from the district.

The all-day workshop was offered through a cooperative effort among Simsbury public schools, Bike Walk Connecticut and Simsbury Free Bike, the release explains.

A bike safety education program was piloted at Tootin' Hills and Latimer Lane schools last spring and is now being incorporated into the fourth-grade physical education curriculum at all five elementary schools.

Tariffville will implement the curriculum this month, while Central and Squadron Line will do so in the spring.

The concept of "train the trainer" in terms of bike safety

See **WORKSHOP** on page 16



Courtesy photo

Simsbury physical education teachers Nichole Bailey-Gates (front) and Rich Keegan (top left) navigate a course during a bike safety workshop.

Education

WORKSHOP

from page 13

education began when Berlin's physical education teacher Jim Arnold designed the program format.

Simsbury's Department of Health and Physical Education Supervisor Amy Muska brought the bike safety curriculum to Simsbury.

"Our interest in bike safety education began when Simsbury Free Bike contacted the school district regarding the potential to introduce bike safety education within our physical education curriculum," Muska explained. "The elementary physical education teachers were excited and on board."

Several Simsbury teachers were sent to the bike safety work-

shop which was led by Arnold and sponsored by the Bike Walk Connecticut.

Muska said the workshop in Simsbury was held to expand interest and train teachers at Central and Squadron Line, specifically, before the bike safety curriculum is implemented there.

"Creating the opportunity and offering it through Simsbury Public Schools was a win for elementary physical education teachers, plus it spread the word," Muska told The Valley Press in an email.

Participants were given a binder at the conclusion of the workshop "covering everything from how to properly size a bike helmet, what happens when you use just the front brakes on a bike, when and how to shift gears, prop-

er hand signals, traffic signs and much more," the release explains. "Pretty much anything you would want to know about riding and the rules of the road were contained in the binders. Participants came from towns as far away as Trumbull, Cheshire, Terryville, Suffield, Glastonbury, Gilbert/Winsted and Waterbury."

Although the paperwork was an important component, the highlight of the workshop was time spent outside where the educators tested their own biking skills.

Although the effort to implement bike safety into the curriculum has been successful, some of the challenges, Muska explained, have included renting or transporting bikes. The department has

"Teaching [students] the benefits and safety of cycling promotes physical activity that can be enjoyed for a lifetime."

-Simsbury's Department of Health and Physical Education Supervisor
Amy Muska

purchased extra helmets, which will also help ensure that all students can learn to ride safely.

Simsbury was designated a bicycle-friendly community in 2010 - the first one not only in Connecticut but in Southern New England - by the League of American Bicyclists.

The town received the

bronze-level designation and is now working to attain silver.

Simsbury applied for the silver status in 2012 and, although it was only reaffirmed at bronze, it received helpful feedback about what is required for the town to receive the higher designation. Pattie Smith Jacobus, a founder of Simsbury Free Bike and the co-director of the Simsbury Bicycle Advisory Committee, has explained.

She noted over the summer that part of attaining the Bike Friendly Designation is having a strong education component in the community, and that the town has made great strides in recent years.

Safe Routes to School committees at local schools have also held Walk-Bike to School Days.

Simsbury Public Schools' Train the Trainer Bike Safety Ed., 10/2013

Education

Simsbury Schools' PE Bike Safety Education and Field Trips



Latimer
Lane
School
May
2013



Squadron Line School
May 2014

Squadron Line School July 2013



Simsbury High School July 2013



Bike month event highlights the 'safe routes to school'

By Abigail Albair
Editor

The streets surrounding Latimer Lane School in Simsbury were filled with bicyclists Wednesday, May 7 as students took part in Bike/Walk to School Day.

The event was part of the school's Safe Routes to School initiative and Simsbury's Bike Month celebration.

The Latimer Lane event co-

incided with National Bike to School Day.

According to a press release, more than 1,800 schools in 47 states and the District of Columbia were expected to participate in Bike to School Day events.

As of press time, both Tootin' Hills and Squadron Line schools were scheduled to have their own events this week.

Debbie Thibodeau, chair of the Latimer Lane Safe Routes to

School Committee and a member of the Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, said 262 Latimer Lane students walked or biked to school May 7 out of a student body of 416 for a participation rate of 63 percent.

Out of 22 classrooms, one class had 100 percent participation and six classes had 75 percent participation or higher.

Nine percent of the student body lives in the designated walk

area, Thibodeau said, referencing the area that is less than .75 miles from the school with no hazards.

"This is just an event that the kids really enjoy, and we're doing it here to motivate them to be active and go out walking and biking to get from one place to another," Thibodeau said.

This is the fourth such event at the school and the second year the events have been held, as Latimer Lane also hosts a Walk to

School Day event in the fall.

The day of Bike to School, groups of students, along with staff and parent chaperones and local dignitaries, left from 12 neighborhood locations to bike or walk to school.

Among those in attendance were several members of the Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Bridget Boucaud of Connecticut Safe Routes to School, as well as school and town officials.

Students were greeted at the school with small prizes for their participation.

Bike/Walk-to-School events are part of a national Safe Routes-to-School initiative dedicated to improving conditions around schools so that more children can safely walk and bike to school, promoting healthy lifestyles and a healthy earth.

The National Center for Safe Routes to School was established in 2006 to assist states and communities in helping and encouraging children to safely walk and bike to school.

National Bike to School Day started in 2012, based on Walk to School Day, which was founded in 1997 to bring awareness that communities should be more walkable.

The one-day event has now grown to a monthlong celebration each October.

National Bike to School Day May 2014

Education

PRESSKIDS



Photos by Abigail Albair

Students at Latimer Lane in Simsbury took part in Bike/Walk to School Day Wednesday, May 7. The event coincided with National Bike to School Day. The day of the Bike to School, groups of students, along with staff and parent chaperones, left from 12 neighborhood locations to bike or walk to school.



Simsbury 2014



Latimer Lane School May 7
Tootin' Hills School May 14
Squadron Line School May 15

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Student Participants:
 Latimer: 262 (114 bike)
 Squadron: 176 (140 bike)
 Tootin': 125 (22 bike)



Here's Why We Are Walking and Biking to School

- It's Good Exercise!
- It's Good for the Earth!
- It's Fun!
- Helps Children Build Safe Walking/Biking Skills!
- It Promotes a Walkable/Bikeable Community!

What is the Safe Routes to School Initiative?

is a national program to improve conditions around schools so that more children can safely walk or bike to school, promoting healthy lifestyles and a healthy earth.

Learn more at <http://www.saferoutesinfo.org> or <http://www.walkitbikeitct.org>.



Contact: Debbie Thibodeau, Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee
boosenberg.thibodeau@comcast.net or 860-539-0538

05-2014

Education

Bike/Walk to School Day - May 2014



Simsbury, CT

From left to right:
 Pattie Smith Jacobus - Simsbury Free Bike, SBPAC Co-Chair
 Larry Linonis - Simsbury Free Bike, SBPAC
 Lisa Heavner - Selectman
 Simsbury Schools' Resource Officer Todd Kushman
 Jennifer Kertanis, Dir., Farmington Valley Health Dist., SBPAC
 Debbie Thibodeau, Latimer Lane SRTS Chair, SBPAC
 Grace Morris, Principal
 Matthew Curtis, Simsbury Superintendent of Schools
 Lydia Tedone, Simsbury Board of Education Chair



Simsbury's 3rd grader Clara Steele wins 2013 CT Roadway Safety Poster Contest with bike safety messages she learned at school.



School library book displays.

Clara's poster was printed for a school safety campaign during 2014 Bike Month.

Roadway Safety is for Everyone



Be Seen Be Aware Be Predictable

Education

A maintained bike is a safe bike.



Public Library
Bike Repair for Kids



Public Library
Bike Repair for Adults



Simsbury Free
Bike Shop Nights




Education

Public Service Announcements (2014) Simsbury Community TV Social Media

May is National Bike Month
SIMSBURY SHARES THE ROAD

Same rights.
Same rules.
Same responsibilities.



For more information:
www.simsbury.bike

May is National Bike Month
CYCLISTS, SHARE THE ROAD



Please Stay Right and Allow Traffic to Pass

www.simsbury.bike

May is National Bike Month



SO HAPPY TOGETHER

Give 3-feet by law. | sharetheroadct.org

www.simsbury.bike

May is National Bike Month
**Wear Your Helmet the Right Way,
Every Time You Ride**

CT Law: Children age 15 and younger must wear a helmet when bicycling on a roadway.

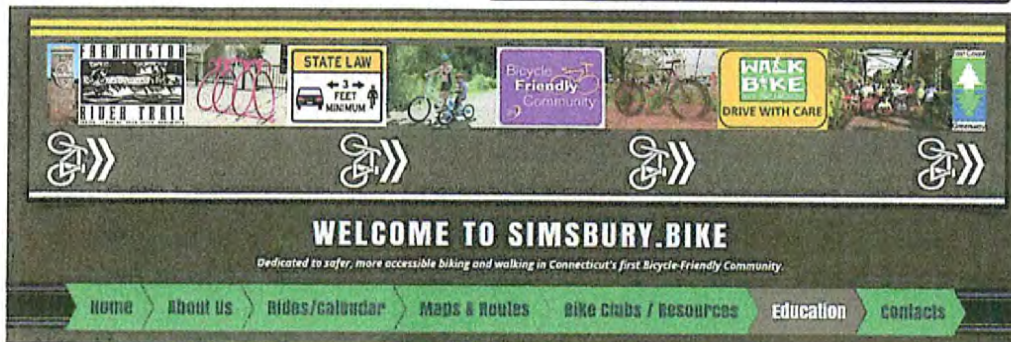
Low on your forehead
Not tipped forward
Not tipped back

Buckled and Snug
1 finger between chin and chin strap

Straps should meet just below the ears when buckled.

www.simsbury.bike

Education



Educational Resources on our website



Simsbury Police Department

"In Partnership With Our Community"

Bicycle and Pedestrian State Law Guide



Prepared by:
PFC Tracy Dunne
Spring 2014



Bike Laws & share the Road Information

Bike Laws and Share the Road

- [Simsbury Police Dept. Bicycle and Pedestrian State Law Guide, 2013](#)
- [Simsbury Police Dept. Bicycle and Motorist Safety Presentation, 2012](#)
- [Dear Motorist Pledge to Share the Road](#) [video 4:42]
- [Share the Road Video by the League of Illinois Bicyclists](#) [video 6:52] (written for motorists but has great information for cyclists on where they need to be most alert)
- [Share the Road: Tips for Cyclists/Tips for Motorists](#) [Pamphlet]
- [Share the Road CT](#), CT Dept. of Transportation [website with literature and links]

TRAFFIC. SKILLS. 101.

Bike safety and Training websites

- [League of American Bicyclists - Ride Smart](#)
 - [Ride Smart Mini Videos](#)
 - [Riding Tips: Shifting Gears](#) [1:02], [Starting & Stopping](#) [1:30], [Scanning](#) [0:55], [Signaling](#) [1:19], [Steering](#) [1:20], [Basic Bike Check](#) [1:38]
 - [Better Bicycling: Lane Changing](#) [1:04], [Intersection Positioning](#) [1:46], [Bike Lanes](#) [1:16], [Traffic Laws](#) [1:35], [Riding on the Sidewalk](#) [1:25], [Sharing the Trail](#) [1:14], [Where Should I Ride](#) [1:36]
 - [Bikes and Gears: What to Bring](#) [0:59], [What to Wear](#) [1:05], [Bike Helmets](#) [0:53], [Fitting & Adjusting Your Bike](#) [1:10], [How to Choose a Bike](#) [1:10]
- [How to Survive Road Hazards](#)
- [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration - Bicycles](#)
- [Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center](#)
- [Resources for Children and Families](#)
 - [Bicycling to School Safety](#) [info. sheet], [CT Safe Routes to School](#)
 - [Bike safety resources for families on WalkBikeToSchool.org](#)
- [Bike Helmets](#)
 - [Bike Helmets 101 - A Basic Users Guide to Brain Safety](#) video [3:02], [Can-Bike Manitoba](#)
 - [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration - Bicycles](#)
 - [Fitting a Bike Helmet](#) video [3:50]
 - [Fitting Your Bike Helmet](#) fact sheet
 - [Bicycle Helmet Safety Institute](#)
 - [Helmets on Heads Program - Schwinn safety initiative](#)

Education



Community Television



Posted on: April 01, 2014

The Simsbury View: Bike Awareness Safety

Althea Greaney sits with Amy Muska, Debbie Thibodeau and Abbe Reese to discuss Bike Awareness Safety on this episode of The Simsbury View



Posted on: June 20, 2013

Simsbury Woman: Episode 11, Bike Friendly Community

Simsbury Selectman Shannon Knall sits with, Debbie Thibodeau Chair, Latimer Lane Safe Routes to School and Member, Simsbury Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Committee also Pattie Smith Jacobus Co Director Simsbury Free Bike and Co-Chair Simsbury Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Committee To discuss Simsbury as a Bike Friendly Community on this episode of The Simsbury Woman



Posted on: April 30, 2013

The Simsbury View

Simsbury Free Bike



Posted on: August 31, 2012

Bike Simsbury!

Bike Simsbury! from Town of Simsbury. Like this? Watch the latest episode of Town of Simsbury on Blip!

<http://blip.tv/-town-of-simsbury/watch>
Brendan Koscher, Officer Tracy Dunne and Patti Jacobus of Simsbury Free Bike sit down to discuss Simsbury's Greenway and Bike Safety. See all episodes of Town of Simsbury <http://blip.tv/-town-of-simsbury#EpisodeArchive> Visit Town of Simsbury's series page <http://blip.tv/-town-of-simsbury>

GUEST COLUMN: Shifting gears

By Pattie Smith Jacobus

My first trip on a skinny tire, multi gear, road bike was with my 20-something son. I asked him, how do these gears work?

He simply said, "You'll figure it out."

Learning to shift gears can be daunting to a new rider, but once you understand some simple mechanics, it provides a foundation for safe and confident cycling.

Towns and cities across America are shifting gears. If you've traveled through the country recently, it would be hard not to notice infrastructure changes in urban centers designed to make walking and biking safer. Safety enhancements encourage biking for both recreation and transportation.

Perhaps you have even borrowed a bike from Hubway in Boston, Capital Bike Share in D.C. or Sobi Bikes in New York City.

Smaller towns, too, like Simsbury, Farmington and West Hartford are working to calm traffic, create protected bike lanes and sharrowed loops, and begin trails in neighborhoods to safely deliver children and families to schools, work, libraries and parks. Safe connectivity and road safety education will encourage more biking and more cooperation between motorists and more vulnerable users on foot or bike.

The Farmington Valley has become a mecca for cyclists. The Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, which begins in New Haven and extends 84 miles north to Westfield, Mass., lures riders from all over New England.

The Simsbury Bicycle Advisory Committee and other advocates from the Farmington Valley want to help shift emerging bike culture here in cen-

tral Connecticut. Since Simsbury received recognition as the first Bicycle Friendly Community in 2010 and again in 2012, many surrounding towns in the Farmington Valley have assembled bike advisory committees.

This work by our towns will help define the Farmington Valley as a destination for cyclists, expand bike tourism and enhance safety on our roads and trails for pedestrians, bikers and motorists.

The whole Farmington Valley is shifting gears to become more bike friendly through programs that focus on education, encouragement, engineering, enforce-

ment and evaluation – the 5 E's of a Bike Friendly Community.

The value to our families, businesses and towns is extraordinary. In some of the next articles we will expand on what it means to be bike friendly and how it can transform communities.

You will also find topics about safety on the trail, bike safety training in the schools, bike events, weekly rides and much more. You will hear from the Farmington Valley Trails Council, the East Coast Greenway, Bike Walk CT and individual towns that are working to earn an official designation from the League of American Bicyclists.

Do you have a question about bike laws or related pending legislation, trail etiquette, volunteer opportunities? Do you have an idea for the column? Would you like to be a contributor? Send us an e-mail at Simsburyfreebike@gmail.com.

Pattie Smith Jacobus is the co-chair of the Simsbury Bicycle Advisory Committee and a founder of Simsbury Free Bike, a regional bike share program headquartered in Simsbury, Connecticut.

For more information about cycling in Simsbury and the Farmington Valley, like us at: www.facebook.com/simsburyfreebike.

18 The Valley Press November 7, 2013

Blog | Bike Walk Simsbury CT

Bike Sharrows are Messages to all Road Users

Posted by Pattie Smith, June 27, 2013 at 08:53 pm

6 Comment 2 Recommend

Like 24 Tweet 2



Simsbury Patch

Simsbury Patch

Safety begins with Personal Responsibility.

By Pattie Smith May 31, 2013 at 2:31 pm 0



The goal of a Bicycle Friendly Community is to create a safe network of roads for bikers, motorists and pedestrians. Safety is critical and precedes the network. If people, bikers and walkers, don't feel safe they won't use the network of paths and roads. Motorists too, want safe roadways without potholes, debris or poor visibility that may obscure bikers, walkers or other vehicles. The development of a safe infrastructure includes planning to address the changing needs of the community and plans to maintain the infrastructure to maintain a safe network. Simsbury takes safety on our roads and our shared use paths very seriously and so should we. Safety is a shared responsibility between the town and path/road users. There is a spectrum of topics that fall under the heading of safety. We will address many of them in future blog posts but the initial safety topic, rightfully,

Simsbury, CT

13

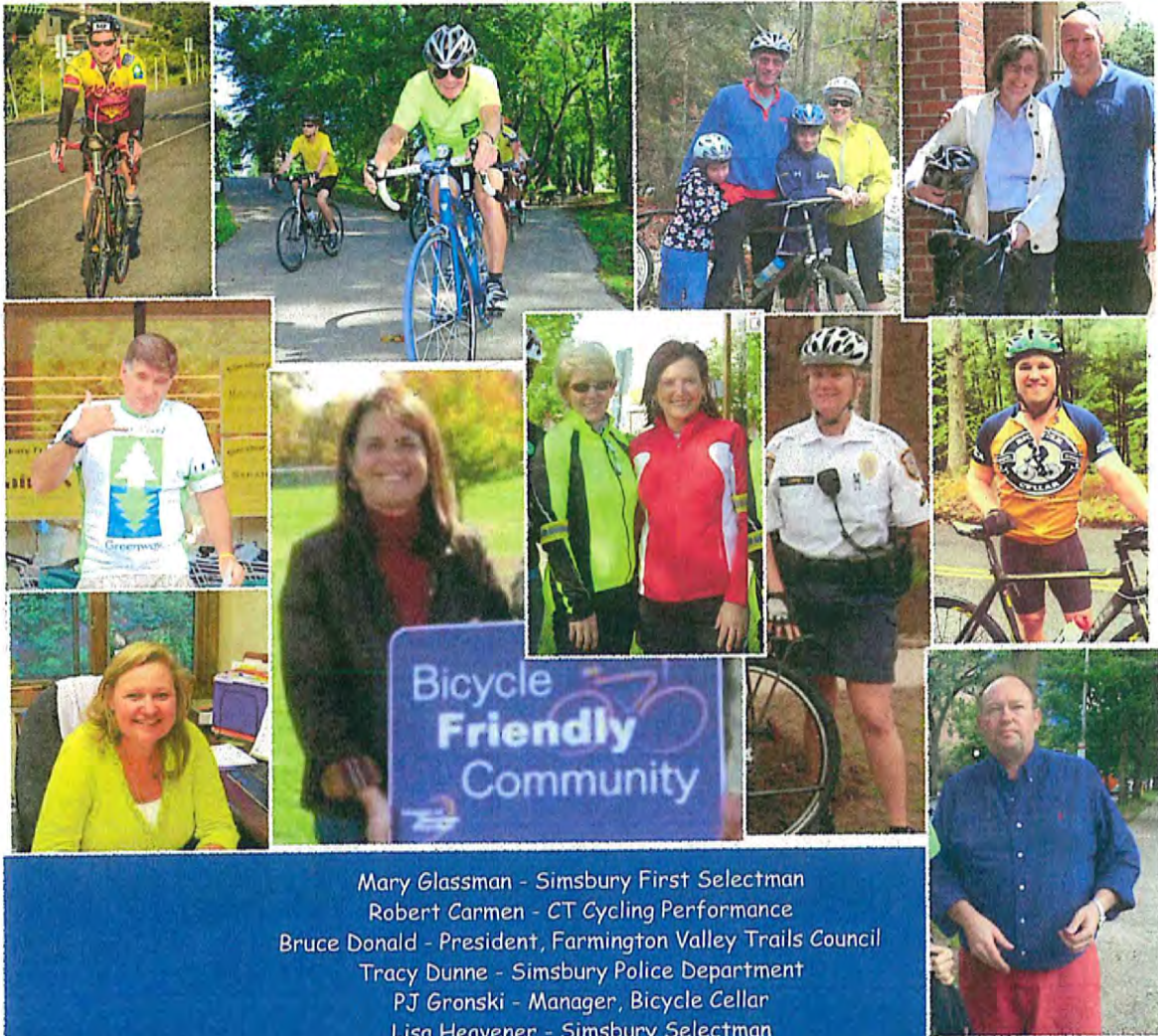
Education



Simsbury, CT

Simsbury Bike Advisory Committee

The 5 E's - Engineering - Encouragement -
Enforcement - Education - Evaluation



Mary Glassman - Simsbury First Selectman
Robert Carmen - CT Cycling Performance
Bruce Donald - President, Farmington Valley Trails Council
Tracy Dunne - Simsbury Police Department
PJ Gronski - Manager, Bicycle Cellar
Lisa Heavener - Simsbury Selectman
Pattie Smith Jacobus - Simsbury Free Bike
Rich Keegan - Simsbury Education Representative
Jennifer Kertanis - Director Farmington Valley Public Health
Larry Linonis - Simsbury Free Bike
Steve Mitchell - Bike Advocate, ECG Director
Diana Moody - Farmington Valley Trails Council Rep
Tom Roy - Simsbury Director of Public Works
Deb Thibodeau - Safe Routes to School Chair - Latimer Lane
Jerry Toner - Director Simsbury Parks and Recreation

**Bike advocates and town officials collaborate to make
Simsbury bike friendly! Ask us how you can help.**

MAY

May is Bike Month



2014

Proclamation of May as Bike Safety Month in Simsbury, Connecticut

Whereas, for more than a century the bicycle has been an utilitarian, economical, environmentally sound and effective means of personal transportation, recreation and fitness; and

Whereas, the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut encourages the use of bicycles as a means of transportation; and

Whereas, the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut recognizes bicyclists as a legitimate roadway users and therefore are entitled to legal and responsible use of all public roadway facilities in Simsbury; and

Whereas, the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut encourages the increased use of the bicycle, benefiting all citizens of Simsbury improving air quality, reducing traffic congestion and noise, decreasing the use of and dependence upon finite energy sources, and fostering exercise; and

Whereas, the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut recognizing the use of bicycles as a viable mode of transportation, endeavors to promote safe and responsible bicycling and is committed to incorporating the development of bicycle facilities in the vision for revitalizing downtown Simsbury; and

Whereas, the League of American Bicyclists has established May as National Bicycle Month, and the First Selectman establishes **May as Bicycle Safety Month in Simsbury** and

Whereas, the Simsbury Bicycle Advisory Committee and the First Selectman encourage all citizens to ride their bicycles to work, to the store, to the park, around their neighborhoods and with friends and family to promote the personal and societal benefits achieved from bicycling.

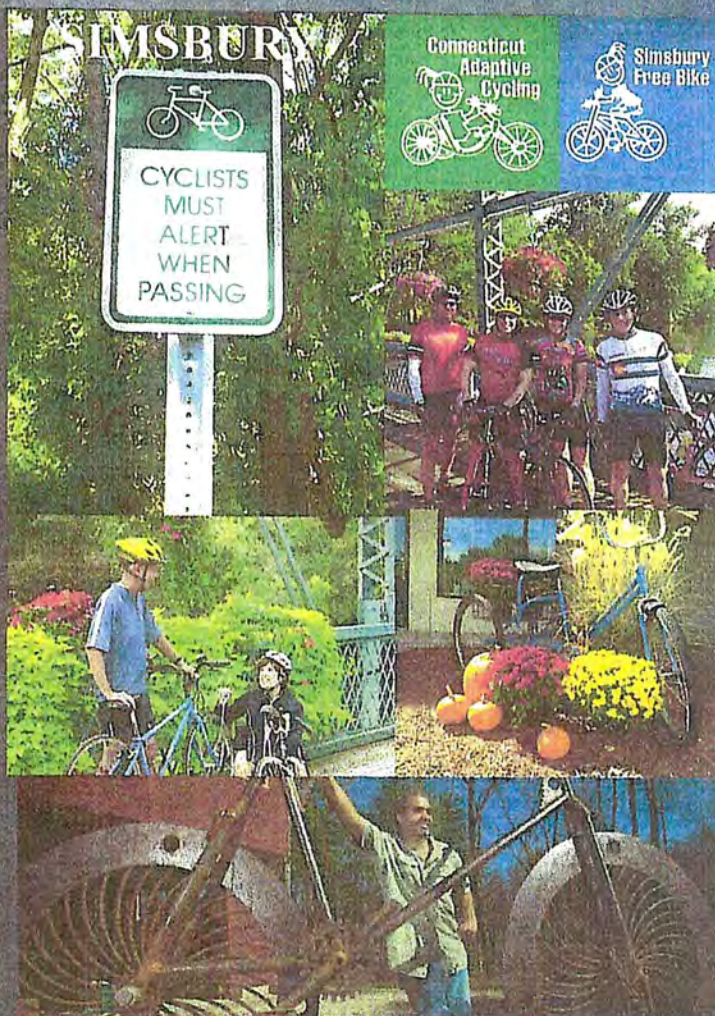
Now, therefore, I, Mary Glassman, First Selectman of Simsbury Connecticut, do hereby proclaim May 2014 to be Bike Month in Simsbury, Connecticut .

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mary A. Glassman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mary Glassman, First Selectman Town of Simsbury, Connecticut

Simsbury, Connecticut

Connecticut's First Bike Friendly Community



RESOLUTION ENDORSING SIMSBURY CONNECTICUT'S PURSUIT OF SILVER LEVEL BICYCLE FROM THE LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS

WHEREAS, the Simsbury Board of Selectmen recognized the need to address the growth of the town and the impact on its ability to provide for safe walking and bicycling, and the need to develop a new corresponding plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Simsbury's officials have collaborated with a group of advocates and volunteers assembled as the Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee to prepare a long-term Master Plan to make Simsbury a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community, which Master Plan has been completed; and

WHEREAS, resident participation on the committee was a critical element in assessing the Community and in the development of the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan is designed as a comprehensive dynamic document and work-in-progress to guide the best and most efficient development of Simsbury's walking and bicycling infrastructure including multi-purpose trails, safer and more pedestrian/bicycle friendly roads now and in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan will be incorporated into the Town's planning, which in turn becomes a subset of the Town's overall Master Plan of Conservation & Development

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Simsbury Board of Selectmen accepts and adopts the final draft of the Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan, Connecting Our Community, dated January XX, 2014; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Simsbury Board of Selectmen recognizes the need to move forward with the implementation phase of the plan.

TOWN OF SIMSBURY CONNECTICUT BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MARY GLASSMAN - FIRST SELECTMAN

NANCY HAASE - DEPUTY FIRST SELECTMAN

LISA HEAVNER - SELECTMAN

CHERYL COOK - SELECTMAN

SEAN ASKHAM - SELECTMAN

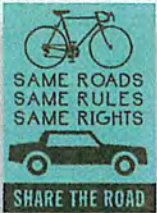















MICHAEL PAINE - SELECTMAN

RESOLUTION MADE ON MAY 1, 2014

SIMSBURY CONNECTICUT 2014

APPLICATION FOR BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY - SILVER DESIGNATION

May 2013 is Bike Month in Simsbury!"

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|
|  | Bike Safety with 4th Graders Latimer Lane and Tootin Hills
 |  | 1 Simsbury Free Bike opens - 4 Towns, 12 Locations | 2 Bicycle Cellar Ride - 6 PM
 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Mountain Bike Rides - 8am Bicycle Cellar
 | 6 Garcia Bike Sculpture Plaque and Landscape Unveiling - 3 PM
 | 7 | 8 Bike to School Day Latimer Lane Bike/Walk to School | 9 Ride with Mary Glassman-4:30 from Town Hall
Latimer Lane Bike/Walk to School (Rain Date) | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Mothers Day
 | 13 Bike to Work Week | 14 DEEP Comm. Esty Rides Simsbury 4-6 PM ends in Stratton Brook Park - Farmington Valley Collaborative | 15 DEEP Rain Date
 | 16 Bicycle Cellar Ride - 6 PM
 | 17 Bike to Work Day 6:30-9:00am iron Horse Blvd
 | 18 Bike Demo Day 10-2pm Weatogue Commuter Lot Bicycle Cellar, Benidorm, Suburban Sports, Ti-Trikes |
| 19 Mountain Bike Rides - 8am Bicycle Cellar Wheel Day - West Hartford | 20 | 21 EMT Memorial Ride - Me to Philly - Rest stop at SFB
 | 22 | 23 Bicycle Cellar Ride - 6 PM | 24
 | 25 Bicycle Express Bike Maintenance 10Am - Noon @ Library Used Bike Drive - Holcome Farm |
| 26 Mountain Bike Rides - 8am Bicycle Cellar | 27 Memorial Day Parade
 | 28
 | 29
 | 30 Bicycle Cellar Ride - 6 PM
 | 31 Connecticut Adaptive Cycling is on Facebook Visit to see Events or to Schedule a Test Ride | 1 National Trails Day FVTC Trails in Motion Ride
Version 7:4 24 13 |

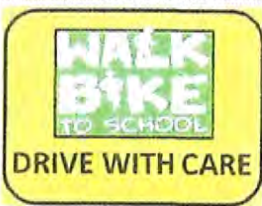
Bike Month 2014 Simsbury CT

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| Don't forget
Flowers for your
Vintage Bike in
the Garden | Watch for Details
Blcycle Cellar
Evening and Sunday
Rides | Pedal Power
May 17th
Exhibit Opens
Simsbury Historical
Society | Simsbury Free
Bike Opens May 1
Earlier Weather
Permitting | 1
Mary Glassman
Board of Seletman
Ride - 5 Miles
5:00 PM | 2 | 3
 |
| 4
Valley Cycling
Annual Meeting
Simsbury Library
May 4th
3 - 5 PM | 5 | 6 | 7
Latimer Lane
Safe Routes to School

Nat'l Bike to School | 8

Latimer Rain Date | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Mother's Day
Nat'l Bike Week

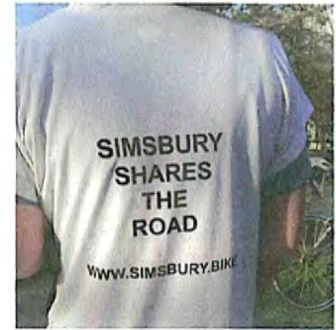
Take Mom for a
Bike Ride!! | 12 | 13 | 14
Tootin Hills
Safe Routes to School | 15
Squadron Line
Safe Routes to School | 16 Squadron Line
Rain Date
Bike 2 Work Day
6:30-9 AM Reception
Iron Horse Blvd
Bike 2 Work 5 PM
Red Stone Pub | 17
FVTC 30 Mile Ride
10 AM - Iron Horse
Red Stone Pub
Guest Bartender 3-6pm
for Simsbury Free Bike |
| 18
Try Simsbury
Run Bike
PaddleTriathlon
11:00 AM
Drake Hill Road | 19 | 20
Simsbury Library
Adult Bike Maintenance
6-7:30 PM
Steve Novy from
Bicycle Express | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 Memorial Day

Parade Day
in Simsbury
Thanks to
Our Veterans! | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Beginners
Ride
9:30 am Bicycle Cellar
Your Host
Lisa Heavener
St Mary's Rodeo 5:30
6-8pm | 31
Bike to the Library
With Your Children
All Day Event |
| 1
Simsbury
Parks &
Recreation
Bike Safety/
Traffic Skills
101
Course | <div></div> | | | | | |

www.simsbury.bike

Encouragement

Simsbury's Board of Selectman Ride
kicks off National Bike Month



**May is National Bike Month
and Simsbury Takes a Ride on
May 1 at 5 p.m.**



Start National Bike Month off right and join First Selectman Mary Glassman and the Board of Selectmen for a leisurely 5-mile bike ride on **May 1, 2014** beginning at **5 p.m.** from the **Simsbury Town Hall** parking lot located at 933 Hopmeadow Street.



Simsbury's Board of Selectman



Encouragement



May is National Bike Month

Friday., May 30th

Beginners' Bike Ride

Hosted by

Selectman Lisa Heavner

The Bicycle Cellar

532 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury

9:30 am (meet at 9:15)

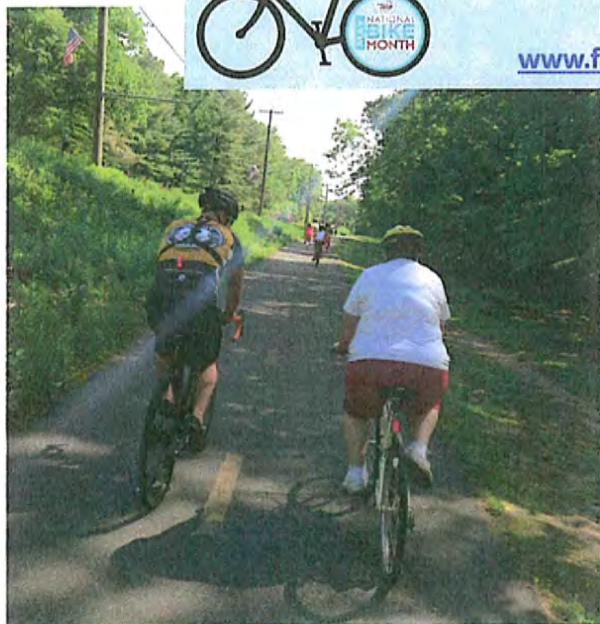
A leisurely ride on the bike trail, ideal ride for anyone who has not been on a bike in many years.

If you need a bike, contact Simsbury Free Bike.



For more information:

www.facebook.com/SimsburyFreeBike 2014



Simsbury, CT

Encouragement



First Farmington Valley Bike to Work Day Event

Date: Friday, May 17, 2013
Time: 6:30 am to 9 am
Place: Iron Horse Blvd. -
Simsbury Meadows

(Near Rotary Children's Park) Simsbury, CT
What: Meet and Greet Bike Commuters
Who: Simsbury Bike Advisory Committee &
Simsbury Parks and Recreation

Stop and have your picture taken!

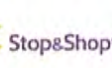
"2013 Faces of Simsbury Bike Commuters"

- Stop for coffee, goodies, win gift cards from businesses listed below, talk about cycling in Simsbury
- Meet members of Simsbury's Bike Advisory Committee & Town Officials

For more information contact us at:

simsburyfreebike@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook at Simsbury Free Bike



Bike To Work Days



National Bike to Work Day



Friday
May 16
2014

Town of Simsbury

Come join our Bike-In Social

6:30 AM to 9:00 AM

Simsbury Meadows (By the Playground)
Iron Horse Blvd., Simsbury

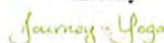
We'll have coffee and goodies, and gift cards to win.
Meet other cyclists. Say hello to Town Officials
and members of the Bike / Pedestrian
Advisory Committee and Police Officers.

Then we're off to work on our bikes!

For more information contact

simsburyfreebike@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook at
Simsbury Free Bike



Don't forget
Happy Hour

Simsbury, CT

Encouragement



Simsbury sign-in station
(Note the Tourism Kiosk in back!)



AmeriCorps helping
to clean the trail

Trail Cleanup Day



Simsbury Free Bike Thank You BBQ
Simsbury, CT



Valued sponsor Stop & Shop

Encouragement



Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection Connecticut DEEP Joins Local Organizations on Bike Ride Showcasing Connecticut's Trail Network

Commissioner Esty participated in 56-mile ride on trails from New Haven to Southwick, MA



June 29, 2013 – Simsbury cycling advocate organizes a trans-CT trail ride with a key DEEP Commissioner.



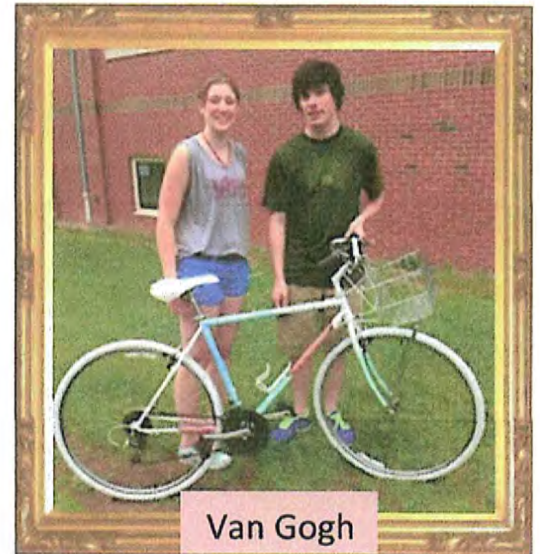
Simsbury, CT

Encouragement

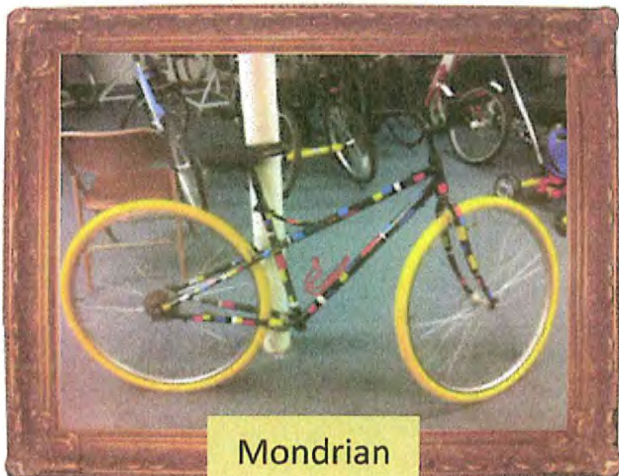


Simsbury Free Bike and Simsbury High School National Honors Art Society team up to create Art Bikes to add to the fleet.

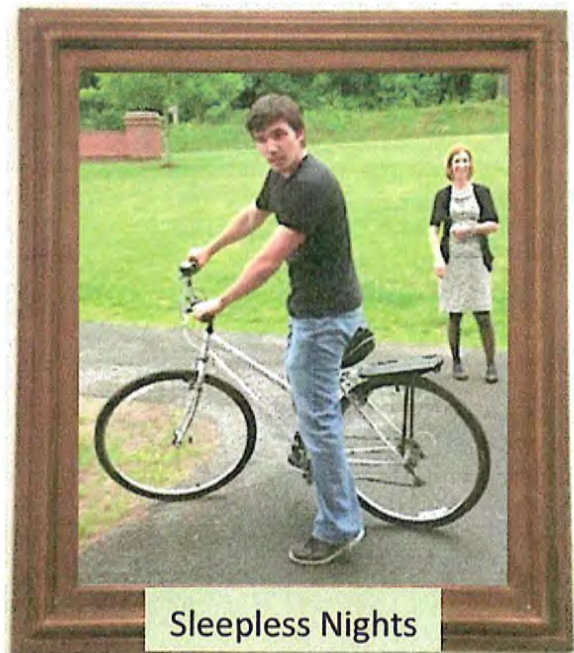
Simsbury Students Create Rolling Art



Van Gogh



Mondrian



Sleepless Nights



Back to the Future

Simsbury, CT

BICYCLE FRIENDLY AMERICA: HOW WE DID IT

*Riders take a break in rural
Simsbury, Connecticut.*

Whether you live in a small town, suburb or large city, bicycling makes life better. Whether you work at a multinational corporation or manage the corner coffee shop, bicycling boosts your bottom line. And whether you're getting a degree at a big state school or a liberal arts college, bicycling is the perfect fit for university life.

The beauty of the Bicycle Friendly America program is that it recognizes the differences among communities, businesses and universities, and helps to guide different types of participants toward their shared goal of creating better places to live, work and learn — through bicycling.

To showcase the power of the program, we went straight to the source, asking representatives from each area to share how they became bicycle friendly — and what key steps they would recommend to others.

BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES >>

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

How the City on the Bay has become a BFC leader

BY EDWARD REISKIN

San Francisco is changing in ways that are requiring us to think more broadly about how we travel in our city. By following through on our city's vision of a people-centered place that prioritizes bicycling, walking, and transit, we can ensure that our residents, workers, and visitors continue to have their transportation needs met while simultaneously enhancing connections among neighborhoods, jobs, and social activities.



Green bike lanes in San Francisco, California (Photo by Matt Roth)

Making riding a bicycle safer, more comfortable, and convenient is a key priority as our city's transportation network evolves — and there are many factors that helped us to increase bicycle ridership and become a Gold-level Bicycle Friendly Community.

These 10 factors in particular stand out as notable dynamics that helped us reach Gold and will aid us in our work towards Platinum.

1>> POLICYMAKERS ON BIKES

Political leadership and collaboration is crucial. We're especially grateful for our elected and appointed officials that make it a point to voice their support for bike-friendly projects and initiatives. Just as important, many of our public officials are part of the action, riding their bikes to work and around town, showing people that bicycling is something they can incorporate into their everyday lives as well.

2>> COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Working closely with community stakeholders has been essential in not only

designing our projects, but securing the support needed to make them a reality. Knowing that residents and small businesses are supportive of a bike project in their area and vocal about their desire to get it implemented helps our projects, not only in that specific community, but across the city as well.

3>> EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY GROUPS

San Francisco's transportation advocacy groups, like the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, bring a wealth of knowledge, passion, and diversity to the discussion on how to improve bicycling in San Francisco. They also help hold the decision-makers on our projects accountable and follow our projects through to completion.

4>> PASSIONATE STAFF

Having dedicated and passionate staff working to plan, design and implement our bike projects also makes a huge difference. Our staff make these projects possible in not only the technical sense, but also ensure work is being done in the realm of community, government, management and administration.



Simsbury, Connecticut.

5» CONTINUED INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The next decade will look dramatically different from the previous ones in how we focus resources. We'll continue to look closely at, not just how we prioritize funds, but also how we prioritize space. This imperative means focusing on cost-effective projects, like bike facilities, with the potential for positive return to the economy, public health, and personal mobility. San Francisco has already begun to implement bikeway projects and effective strategies to improve the comfort of riding. All current and future bicyclists can point to the need to provide more bike facilities to better connect the city and improve the level of comfort.

6» PRIORITIZING INNOVATION

Using innovative bike design has become an essential component as we work to build a modern urban transportation sys-

tem with bicycle amenities. Whether it's for utility or recreational purposes, innovative facilities, such as increased separation from traffic, dedicated bike signals, and even bike parking facilities, enable people to see bicycling as something that's not only safe, but convenient and comfortable as well. Plus, prioritizing innovation helps attract talented staff from around the nation who want to be on the cutting edge.

7» SETTING AMBITIOUS GOALS

We are fortunate to have a long-standing city Transit-First policy that prioritizes improving bicycling environments, along with other modes of non-private automobile travel. Having an agency goal of increasing bicycling from 3.5 percent of all trips to 8 to 10 percent of all trips by 2018 helps us to work toward a shared vision of our future.

8» BEING A PART OF NATIONAL BICYCLE INITIATIVES

Cities across the nation are improving their streets to help people move more efficiently, safely and with less energy use, all while improving the overall quality of life. One key strategy that San Francisco has been executing is making more room for bicycles as usage grows rapidly in our city. Being a part of NACTO and the Green Lane Project has helped better connect us to peers and best practices that have helped guide our agency's work as we continue to combine innovative, new designs and traditional approaches to transform the streets of San Francisco.

9» STRONG BIKE CULTURE

Over the years, the image of San Francisco's bike culture has continued to evolve and it's now more inclusive and mainstream than ever before. The bicycle is now a symbol of modern life in a dense and diverse urban environment, and it's increasingly appealing to San Franciscans from different walks of life.

10» INCREASED PUBLIC AWARENESS

No matter how many bikeways are built, bike share stations deployed, or bike parking racks installed, people need to know that these facilities are there for them. By working with the media to publicize our work, celebrating bicycling through community events and encouraging our stakeholders to spread the word, we've seen an amplified awareness about how riding a bicycle in San Francisco is becoming more safe, comfortable, convenient and fun.

EDWARD D. REISKIN IS THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY (SFMTA) AND IS ALSO THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CITY TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS (NACTO).

BFA BY THE NUMBERS

The BEA program reached record numbers in 2013.

COMMUNITIES

291

BUSINESSES

631

SIMSBURY, CONN.

How a small town has made big strides toward bicycle friendly status

BY PATTIE SMITH JACOBUS

When the Town of Simsbury, Conn., built the first one-mile segment of trail 20 years ago in the center of town, local leaders never imagined that Simsbury would be designated in 2010 as a Bicycle Friendly Community at the Bronze level — and become the first municipality in Connecticut to receive that designation because of its commitment to cycling.

"The designation is so important, not only because of the honor but because it also signals the Town's commitment to a healthy and active lifestyle," said First Selectman Mary Glassman, the chief elected official of the 24,000 population town nestled in the Farmington Valley. Glassman credited the public-private partnership working together to leverage town resources and mobilize volunteers.

Here's how we did it:

1>>> THE POWER OF ONE

One person, the owner of an auto dealership of all things, set active transportation initiatives in motion in Simsbury. Steve Mitchell, a Board Member of the East Coast Greenway, approached Glassman with the League's Bicycle Friendly Community Blueprint in hand and said: "The Town of Simsbury needs to earn this designation! Advocates can get the wheels turning!"

2>>> PLUCKING THE LOW HANGING FRUIT

With little more than the League's Blueprint in hand, a small group of Simsbury bike advocates set out to identify bike-

friendly initiatives that could be accomplished with little to no funding. We launched a social media page (Simsbury Free Bike), sharrowed a 16.2-mile bike route through town, created a bike share program and began a communications campaign on local public access TV.

3>>> SIMSBURY FREE BIKE

Simsbury's Public Works Director casually suggested we start a community bike share. The Simsbury Police Department offered a stash of bicycles collected over the years that were headed to the town dump. Volunteers went to work. They secured a donated space for a bike shop, and with a few cans of blue paint, a fleet of six bikes was created that served 150 riders in its first season. Since its humble start in 2011, the fleet has grown to more than 50 bikes, available in 10 locations in five communities.

4>>> IDENTIFYING FORWARD THINKING BUSINESSES AS MODELS

Not everyone saw the value of attracting bicyclists and reengineering our network of roads and trails. The local bike shop, the Simsbury Inn, and one of the largest town employers were early sponsors. The Simsbury Inn became a sponsor for the bike share program, which was a big hit with their guests, allowing them to get out and see the town and the bike trail.

5>>> EDUCATION, EDUCATION, EDUCATION

Our first priority was to educate ourselves. Then, we worked to demonstrate to our school system the value of teaching independent cycling, bike safety and trail etiquette to our children, including value to families and improving health and fitness. Our Physical Education Department launched a pilot bike safety program for 3rd and 4th graders in 2013, which went town-wide in 2014.

6>>> VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

Simsbury has a rich history of visionary leaders and pioneers in the area of conservation. The result is a town with more

than 7,300 (32%) acres of protected open space. This includes 2,900 acres (40 trails/30 miles) suited to single track mountain biking.

7>>> VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the voice of Simsbury's cycling and walking community and the eyes and ears on our trails and roadways. Volunteers reach out to other Connecticut communities and advocacy groups and provide perspective to town officials and legislators during the legislative/budgeting process on safety and transportation infrastructure priorities.

8>>> NETWORKING WITH LIKE-MINDED ORGANIZATIONS

Networking with and being mentored by like-minded groups have helped Simsbury to build its Bike Friendly program. We have one of the premier trails organizations, The Farmington Valley Trails Council in our area, and have worked closely with that group on projects such as trail maintenance, signage, and closing the gaps in our 80 miles of trail through Connecticut.

9>>> CONNECTICUT ADAPTIVE CYCLING

Simsbury bike advocates encourage everyone to ride and make every effort to ensure that anyone who wants to ride has that opportunity. A fleet of hand cycles and power-assisted trikes are housed at the Simsbury Free Bike shop and available to riders needing assistive cycles.

10>>> IT TAKES A VALLEY

Simsbury is not an urban cycling center. Simsbury is a small town of 25,000 people and lacks safe routes to Hartford, Farmington and West Hartford — primary commuter routes. The entire Farmington Valley benefits when individual towns adopt bike-friendly infrastructure that create the needed safe transportation network and bike friendly culture that appeals to bike commuters.

PATTIE SMITH JACOBUS IS CO-CHAIR OF THE SIMSBURY BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

UNIVERSITIES

75



These bicycles, many of them used by former Simsbury residents, are part of the new Innovations in Pedal Power exhibit, which will open the weekend of May 17-18 at the Simsbury Historical Society.

Photos by Alicia B. Smith



A portion of the Phelps Barn includes a workshop area from the 1800s that artists can use to craft goods while demonstrating a variety of hand tools.

Historical Society “pedals” new exhibits

by Alicia B. Smith
Staff Writer

Riding into the Simsbury Historical Society will be a new exhibit that combines the town's cycling initiatives as well as its work to support and attract innovators to town.

This past winter volunteers bundled up and began to clear out the large white Phelps Barn on the society's property to make room for new exhibits that focus on the past, present and future.

A large portion of the displays will be the Innovations in Pedal Power Exhibit, curated by Joe Buda with the help of fellow volunteers Dennis Fallon and Chris Rice.

The exhibit will follow the theme of past, present and future by showing the history of the wheel and its progression to bicycle wheels. Also part of the exhibit is a display of old bicycles, some dating back to the 19th century.

This particular exhibit is displayed in two former horse stalls. Shelving for the space was created using wooden planks that are balanced so that one shelf holds up a second shelf and can be easily removed.

Posters displayed on the walls ask visitors questions, rather than just providing information, while also visually showing the progression of the innovation of materials used to construct bicycles.

Former Simsbury residents used some of the bicycles on display and local groups, such as Simsbury Free Bikes, donated others.

“We’re trying to make them think,” volunteer Dennis Fallon said of the display.

“This is really about innovation,” Buda said. “The how, why, what to stimulate the learning experience for the visitor.”

Last year the Town of Simsbury established a group of volunteers to brainstorm how the community could promote local innovators while attracting others to the area. Among those assembled were representatives from town government, schools, the historical society, library, MainStreet Partnership and Simsbury Land Trust.

“It’s all focused around innovation and seeing Simsbury as a place where innovations occur in the past, present and future,” Buda said.

Continuing with the theme of “peddling,” there is more in the barn for visitors to see.

On display is also a large peddler’s cart that had been used by Simsbury resident Lucius E. Bigelow, who traveled throughout the Farmington Valley selling his goods from 1875 to 1907.

Bigelow was an innovator in his own right, purchasing his cart from his former employee and developing a market for goods that were not always readily available in a rural area.

“This room is direct sales and Buda said of

dedicated to the innovation,” the area in the barn where the cart is on display.

More formally, he is calling it the Peddle Pitch.

In front of the cart is a large wooden table. It is Buda’s hope that as the innovators’ group grows, those with ideas



Bruno Hazen in the workshop

can make a presentation about their product or service in the space.

Buda said he liked the idea of these presentations being done surrounded in a fun environment have a historical backdrop.

Included in the Peddle Pitch area are several old tables, most have dual functions, that represent innovative styles. One is from the Colonial era. It looks more like a chair with a large back, however when the back is folded down on its leg, the chair turns into a table. Another table dating from the 1930s or '40s has a porcelain top, a smooth surface that could easily have been used for extra counter space. This table, too, can be expanded to seat four or more people.

A third area in the barn is set up to reflect what a woodworking shop would have looked in the 1800s. During this time period there would not have been any electric tools, rather, as Buda said, they would have used "people power."

Fallon said that volunteers from the recently formed Simsbury Guild of Artisans could use the space to

work on personal projects. They may also use the hand tools for historical society projects or to make items to be sold in the society's gift shop.

"The woodworking area will be open to all artists," Fallon said. That includes those who work in fabrics, blacksmithing, glass and pottery.

"The tools are there to be used," Fallon said.

This area also serves as an interactive space where workers will demonstrate how tools are used and answer visitors' questions.

Leaving the white barn, which is scheduled to get a fresh coat of paint, visitors will be able to enjoy the exhibits that will soon take over the current seven-bay building where the society houses its collection of carriages. The carriages will be relocated and the bays will become a further display area, relating to the past, present and future theme.

This space, Buda said, will display innovations unique to Simsbury. For example, there will be a display relating to Simsbury resident William Phelps Eno, who



Volunteers working on the Innovations in Peddle Power exhibit at the Simsbury Historical Society include Dennis Fallon, Joe Buda, Chris Rice and Ieke Scully.

created the traffic patterns now used in New York City. Another will be a display on local resident William Gray who invented the first pay telephone. Mixed in with all the innovative displays will be a spinning wheel exhibit curated by volunteer Ieke Scully.

Scully was inspired, in part, by several old spinning wheels found when cleaning out the barn. They

had changed over time, as new innovations were incorporated. The same was true for weaving looms.

Scully has put together a display called "Fabrics in Time," which will open along with the Peddle Power exhibit on May 17 and 18.

Several guest weavers and spinners will be on hand to share their craft with visitors. Additionally, fiber artist Ed Johnetta Miller will

What Does She Want?



Goldsmith on premises

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The icehouse on the property of the Simsbury Historical Society was built in 1889 and was recently renovated to show its use and the innovations of refrigeration.

give a talk at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

The event will correspond with the May 18 Try Simsbury: River-to-Ridge Try-athlon. Historical society volunteers are hoping spectators will stop by the society while they wait for the athletes to return from the running, biking and paddling event.

Efforts have been made to reintroduce the society's icehouse to more guests. The small white structure on the property was built in Simsbury in 1889 for Lemuel S. Ellsworth. Large chunks of ice would have been carved out of nearby ponds and placed in the icehouse. The space between the interior and exterior walls would have been filled with sawdust, acting as insulation. Additionally, sawdust would have been packed in between the large ice blocks.

Fallon said that when stored that way, ice would have lasted about a year.

Together with fellow volunteers, he created a small "pond" inside the house to help demonstrate the techniques that

would have been used to harvest ice. Visitors will also learn why the ice would have been needed.

Buda is hoping to get his hands on an old ice box and a refrigerator with a motor on top, to illustrate the past, present and future theme. Eventually, the icehouse will have a video display showing the history of ice making in Simsbury.

While the focus of the historical society is the past, Buda would like to install a WiFi system throughout the grounds. Visitors would be able to use their cell phones to log onto the society's website and bring up information relating to the exhibits. He is seeking a grant to cover the cost of installation. **VL**

The Innovations in Peddle Power Exhibit and Fabrics in Time will open the weekend of May 17 and 18. For more information visit the Simsbury Historical Society website at www.simsburyhistory.org.



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UConn
HEALTH

Photo by Natalie K. Pollock



Steven Mitchell of the Mitchell Auto Group is a bicycle lover and champion of bike-friendly communities. He serves on the board of the East Coast Greenway.

Pedal power

What is a successful car dealer doing pushing bikes?

by Natalie K. Pollock
Staff Writer

Four years ago Simsbury was named a bicycle-friendly community by the League of American Bicyclists – the first town in southern New England and one of only 125 in the country with this designation. This April the town is hosting the League's Cycling Instructor Course. The common denominator in both achievements is Steven Mitchell, vice president of the Mitchell Auto Group and a bike enthusiast.

"This is the first time an auto dealership is hosting a league event. It's part of Simsbury's effort to become a bike-friendly community. I

credit [First Selectman] Mary Glassman with the effort in 2010," Mitchell said.

In 2007 the Mitchell Auto Group granted a right of way for the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail to continue its run through town, and in 2009 Mitchell was invited to join the board of trustees of the East Coast Greenway.

Simsbury was followed by Boston, South Windsor and Northampton, Mass. as the only towns in southern New England to earn the title of bike-friendly communities.

Mitchell admits that he and

Town Engineer Rich Sawitzke helped with the logistics in the effort.

Although he returned to the family business after graduating from Northeastern University in 1981, Mitchell has always loved cycling. At age 20 in 1977 he rode across the country on his bike, a total of 3,500 miles. In 1988 he was hit by a car while riding a bike, and flew backwards through the car's windshield.

"The windshield took all the impact. I was very lucky. The driver braked and I was thrown into the other lane of traffic. So I asked myself, 'Why did I live? Why was I saved?'" he said.

Ever since his accident, Mitchell has looked at his life differently, trying to find meaning in everything he does and looking for opportunities to give back to his community.

Mitchell lives in West Simsbury with his wife Susan, and they have five grown children.

He represents the third generation to take over the operation of the

family business, which observed its 90th anniversary in 2012 and has grown over the years to include several dealerships in Simsbury, Canton and Torrington. It all began with his mother's father, Robert Pringle and his small auto repair business in Weatogue that he opened in 1922.

In the 1990s when the Rails to Trails project was fully underway, linking towns by reusing old railroad tracks as biking and walking trails, he was the father of three children who were learning to ride bicycles. Mitchell would load the kids and the bikes into the family minivan and drive to Cheshire so they could learn to ride in safety on a dedicated lane that was set apart from vehicular traffic.

"In the '50s through the '70s, departments of transportation had no regard for pedestrians and bicycles. The widening of Route 44 in Simsbury is an example of that. American drivers still don't have much regard for pedestrians and cyclists, but in Europe there is much more respect," he said.

However, Mitchell sees a change coming with support from the current state administration. The mission of the department of transportation, under Commissioner James Redeker, is to adopt the Complete Streets approach in all state road and building projects near state highways. The new nationwide initiative calls for ensuring that transportation planners and engineers consistently design and operate the entire roadway with all users in mind, including bicyclists, public transportation and its riders, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities.

"There is an awakening going on. A new consciousness is apparent in many states," Mitchell said.

From his vantage point on the East Coast Greenway board, he has seen progress in Richmond, Va.; Baltimore, Md.; and Washington, D.C. to create safe lanes of movement for bicycles and pedestrians alongside car traffic.

"It is the vision of New York City and Boston planners to have a bike trail from Washington, D.C. to Boston using I-95 as the spine route for the East Coast Greenway," he said.

The league instructor course is important because, "there is a lack of confidence among bike riders and

older cyclists who have not ridden in years." The course focuses on educating adults because bike signals have changed.

"Motorists want to know what the bicyclist will do. When they are on the road, bicyclists must follow the same rules as motorists. As soon as you walk your bike or get off the road, you become a pedestrian," Mitchell said.

Simsbury has led the way in embracing the bike-friendly effort, and those involved, like Mitchell, have been called upon to help other towns such as Farmington, Avon, Canton and Newtown with their efforts.

"The League of American Bicyclists is very particular. It's not an easy designation to get. The more cooperation from each department in town, the better," he said.

Simsbury achieved its designation on the bronze level and is now aspiring for the silver in a continuing effort to make the town ever more bike-friendly. The distinction promises to bring with it the opportunity for tourism dollars.

"We live in a beautiful state, two hours away from Boston and New York City. I am also on the tourism committee for the Town of Simsbury," Mitchell said.

Pattie Smith Jacobus is a member of the committee of 10 that is focused on bringing the town to the silver level. Larry Linonis, retired from a transportation company and a former helicopter pilot in Vietnam, lives in Weatogue, rides 8,000 miles a year on his bike, and operates the Simsbury Free Bike program that allows people to pick up a bike in one location and drop it off at another. He is also doing his share to promote bike riding.

"There needs to be a spark plug in every community. That's the best. Other people have come together over the last few years. We will get to the silver level. We have a dream team of public officials with the support of Mary Glassman," Mitchell said.

For him this effort is not just about the potential to attract tourism.

"Everyone can use the trails from age 5 to 85. That makes me most proud," he said.

He and his family own seven dealerships, and he works with his brother Mark who is president. The Mitchells are committed to community involvement. But Steven Mitchell's greatest passion is his work for the East Coast Greenway.

"My involvement leads to other things that support that effort. The Greenway will go through 15 states. About 45 million people will live within five miles. Almost 30 percent is done now. It started in 1991," he said.

Smith Jacobus is working with the committee of 10, formerly called the Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee, "to change the culture to make the roads safer in town." Simsbury's bronze level is the lowest designation.

"We put together a non-official committee of town officials and people advocating for safe places for people and bikes. Last year when public works repaved Ironhorse Boulevard, they narrowed the road for cars and added dedicated bike lanes. It is hourly trafficked by pedestrians so it's good for pedestrians, too," Smith Jacobus said.

Her group is also focusing on education and getting schools involved, and they are encouraging maintenance and repair of trails such as the Town Forest Road piece near Ethel Walker School and the Farmington River Trail from Unionville and Canton into Simsbury. The latter section could be extended to go through Stratton Brook and then into the center of Simsbury.

"We're working on cleaning up the trails for bikers, walkers and kids biking to school. Now there are linear parks all over the country. We want a bike-friendly Valley. People will be their healthiest and more of them will come to Simsbury. People like riding bikes to Simsbury. If it's safe, they will do it more," said Smith Jacobus. **VL**

The League of American Bicyclists cycling instructor course is for adults and children, and will be held on April 17, 18 and 19 at the Mitchell Chrysler-Dodge building, 416 Hopmeadow St. For more information email stevenmitchelljp@gmail.com.

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PRESSNews

'Responsive, responsible' budget goes to vote

By Jennifer Senofonte
Staff Writer

GRANBY - On April 28, Granby residents will have the chance to vote on the upcoming year's budget being proposed at \$42.4 million.

The fiscal year 2014-15 budget, if approved by voters, carries a 2.08 percent spending increase and a 1.98 percent change in the mill rate - bringing the mill rate to 35.52 mills.

The Board of Finance hosted a budget hearing April 14, during which Chairman Michael Guarco said the board established guidelines to keep proposed education and town budgets in the low 2 percent range.

"We know that incomes are, overall, not growing much or not at all, yet costs continue to creep up for households and the town," he said. "The budget must be responsive to the needs, but also responsible in terms of expense and cost to the taxpayers who foot the bill."

The finance board feels this budget meets those parameters, Guarco said. He concluded that requests for 2 percent budget increases from the school board and selectmen will continue until 2020-21 when the debt service drops about \$600,000-\$700,000.

Resident Johanna Audolensky addressed this drop in the debt service during public comment and asked that when it does drop, taxes do not go up.

See **BUDGET** on page 20



Photo by Sloan Brewster

From left to right: Police Chief Peter Ingvertsen, Selectman Nancy Hasse, Ron Locandro, Diana Moody, First Selectman Mary Glassman, Selectman Lisa Heavner, Steve Mitchell, Larry Linonis, Selectman Michael Paine, Pattie Jacobus and Police Captain Nicholas Boulter. The selectmen and members of the town's bicycle advisory committee discussed National Bike Month during the April 16 Board of Selectmen meeting.

Getting back in the bicycle seat

Town gears up for National Bike Month

By Sloan Brewster
Senior Staff Writer

SIMSBURY - Simsbury Selectman Lisa Heavner is going to find out if the adage that you never forget how to ride a bike is true.

As part of the town's celebration of National Bike Month in May, Heavner will host a beginners bike ride to help those who haven't been on a bike in a while get back into riding.

The ride will be Heavner's first time on a bike in about 11 years, when she and her family first moved to town from Bethesda, Md., she said.

"I thought I would start riding when I moved to Sims-

bury because it's such a bucolic place," she said. "I bought a bike and took a few rides, but it didn't take."

Before that, the last time she was on a bike was when she was 9 years old and had a purple flowered banana seat on her bike.

The date for the ride has not yet been set, but will be between three and five miles.

"It's going to be a slow, easy ride, not a long ride with professional bicycle riders," Heavner said, "a comfortable ride."

Larry Linonis, a local avid rider, will be on hand to give lessons in changing gears and riding to help people get back in the groove.

There will be a slew of oth-

er activities during the month, according to Simsbury Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee member Diana Moody.

The kickoff to the month will take place May 1 with a five-mile ride with First Selectman Mary Glassman and other selectmen.

"It's going to be a very low key, very easy five-mile ride, very scenic," said Patty Jacobus, another member of the advisory committee, in a presentation to the Board of Selectmen April 16. "Everyone's invited."

For those who do not have a bike, free loaners will be available through Simsbury Free Bikes, Jacobus said.

See **BIKE** on page 20

SHS students awarded in DMV contest

By Jennifer Senofonte
Staff Writer

SIMSBURY - In February, Simsbury High School film students Emilee Buytkins and Sammi Dowd found out their entry for the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles Teen Safe Driving Video Contest was a top 10 finalist.

This month, they were awarded fourth place out of 137 entries from students across the state.

As such, Simsbury High School received \$2,000 and the students were honored at an awards ceremony April 7.

A panel of judges representing highway safety advocates that included Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, Attorney General George Jepsen, Travelers Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer Andy Bessette and others, selected the ranking winners.

"We launched this campaign as a way to reach our youngest and most inexperienced drivers early-on to give them the information they need to make the right decisions when they get behind the wheel," Malloy said in a press release.

"I'm proud to say that this year we saw a higher level of participation in the contest than ever before and I want to commend and congratulate all of the high schools on a job well done."

Daniel Hand High School in Madison won first place, Hall High School in West Hartford took second and Arts at the Capitol Theater in Willimantic took third.

Buytkins and Dowd are both seniors at SHS and created a 25-second video that took viewers

See **DMV** on page 20



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"As soon as our debt service starts going downhill we have savings, but you don't pass that along to the taxpayers, you use it to spend for more items," Audolensky said. "We the taxpayers deserve to get a break when we finally pay off our debt service for our bond issue instead of having you continue the level amount of spending."

She noted that while she does support the 2014-15 budget as presented, seniors on fixed incomes should be considered because they receive less and less to pay for rising costs of commodities like gas and milk.

Six others spoke in favor of the budget including Mike Gailor, president of the Granby Football Supporters, who thanked the Board of Education for including funds for transportation for football, golf and hockey teams at the high school.

Other school budget highlights include adding world language to grades two through four, expanding the one-to-one computing program by purchasing a device for every student in grades seven through 10, adding AP physics at the high school and eliminating girls freshmen soccer in response to the limited demand.

The school budget was presented by Board of Ed Chair Ron Walther and represents a 1.9 percent increase over the current year for a total of \$28 million.

First Selectman Scott Kuhnly presented the municipal budget, which totals \$14.4 million and carries a 2.04 percent increase.

Some budget drivers include funding for a detective/youth services officer, increases in the recycling budget, additional infrastructure maintenance for public works to cover the new community center addition and Holcomb Farm, and increased library personnel hours.

"This budget attempts to meet the expectations of our residents in an efficient, lean way while anticipating our future needs," Kuhnly said.

Resident Rosemary Powers was the one speaker to voice opposition of the budget due to its increase in the mill rate and declining property values. "Property taxes have increased every year since we moved here in the year 2000, but Granby home values have declined," Powers said, noting the recent revaluation resulted in a 3.6 percent decline. "How can you pay more taxes on property value that continues to decline?"

The budget referendum will be held April 28 from noon-8 p.m. in the Town Hall meeting room.



File photo

Safe Routes to School will host rides to school for children May 14 and 15. Past rides to school, such as the one pictured above at Latimer Lane in October of 2012, have been successful.

BIKE

from page 13

Safe Routes to School will host rides to school May 14 and 15.

May 16 will be the town's Second Annual Bike to Work Day. The event takes place from 6:30-9 a.m. During that time, the advisory committee and the Farmington Valley Health District will set up booths, Moody said. There will be handouts, gifts and prizes, including flashing reflectors and bicycle bells.

At noon, Linonis will be a guest bartender at the Red Stone Pub and the end of the day a happy hour will be held at the

pub from 5-7 p.m.

"This is the first year that we've done the happy hour, so we're really looking forward to it," Moody said. "You don't have to bike to work to go. ... Anyone can go, it's just a Bike to Work Day happy hour."

On the 17th, the Farmington Valley Trails Council will hold a 30-mile ride beginning at 10 a.m. on Iron Horse Boulevard.

The Try Simsbury Run, Bike, Paddle Triathlon will be held May 18. The event will end near the Drake Hill Flower Bridge on Drake Hill Road.

"It's great to have it during bike

month," Jacobus said. "It's turned out to be a significant event during bike month."

Also on the 18th, the Simsbury Historical Society will exhibit "Pedal Power" from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The exhibit, which will officially open April 29, will include old wheels, bicycles and pictures of old bikes, Moody said.

An adult bike maintenance class will be offered at the Simsbury Library May 20. On Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, bike riders from the advisory committee and trails council will participate in the parade. On May 31, there will be an all-day Bike to the Library with Your Children event.

DMV

from page 13

right into the car of a teen driver who had just got his license.

The driver pulls his phone out of his pocket, removing his eyes from the road just a few seconds, long enough to crash the car and end his own life and the life of his teen friend in the passenger seat.

"Because we only have 25 seconds to

deliver such a powerful message, we had to make sure that every second counted," Dowd said of their video.

The pair solicited help from the Simsbury Fire and Police departments for the mock-crash scene. At the end of it a police officer says over a radio, "It is a double fatal."

The words "Drivers and distractions, a fatal combination" flash on the screen; a message related to the theme of the contest theme set by the DMV: "Put your brakes on distractions."

Dowd said that she plans to be a film production major in college next year after graduating from SHS, where she's gained

"I'm proud to say that this year we saw a higher level of participation in the contest than ever before and I want to commend and congratulate all of the high schools on a job well done."

-Gov. Dannel Malloy

experience through many film classes and contests that she's entered including the DMV Teen Safe Driving Video contest, of which she was a finalist last year as well.

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Inside Simsbury

The key to your community

TEAM
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MIGHTY OLIVER

TEAM
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MIGHTY OLIVER

May Is National Bike Month
BIKE TO SCHOOL, WORK
Estate Planning, Elder Law
FIRM OPENS OFFICE
Special Olympics Connecticut
WINTER GAMES

May 2014

March for Babies

Area Walkers Join In for This Annual Fundraiser

Bike Month Peddles to Town

Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee lines up multiple biking events for residents to enjoy the fun, healthy form of transportation.



Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee members, Simsbury officials and business persons promote Bike Month activities. From left, Deb Thibodeau, Tim Roy, Diana Moody, Pattie Smith Jacobus, Lisa Heavener, Mary Glassman, Peter Ingvertsen, Larry Linonis, Nancy Anstey and Steve Mitchell. Photo courtesy of Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

by *Pattie Smith Jacobus*
Community contributor

This is Simsbury's third year celebrating National Bike Month with rides, events and fun. This national event is sponsored by The League of American Bicyclists. Communities across the country, urban and suburban, promote biking for fun, health, transportation and the environment each May. The streets of Simsbury will be sporting banners, the historical society will feature an antique bike collection and business's will be encouraging bikers to visit shops with Bike Month specials.

National bike month dates for 2014 include Bike to School Day, May 7, Bike to Work Week, May 12-16, and Bike to Work Day, May 16. Simsbury's full bike month calendar can be found at simsbury.bike.

Simsbury is one of two, and Connecticut's first, Bicycle Friendly Communities. The goal of every Bicycle Friendly Community is safety. This includes the creation of a safe, well-connected

network of trails and roads for bikers, motorists and walkers and programs that educate all users about safety.

All Simsbury public elementary schools will teach bike safety in physical education classes this year. Three elementary schools will hold Bike to School events as part of the National Safe Routes to School Program. Children walking and riding bikes to school during the month of May is an important

part of encouraging more physical activity and reinforcing personal responsibility and bike safety skills.

Learning to ride in traffic and navigate the rules of the road on a bike are essential. Simsbury's Culture, Parks and Recreation Department will host a 4-hour course, Bicycle Skills for Road and Trail, on June 1. Sign up for the course by visiting the Culture, Parks and Recreation Department website at simsburyrec.com.

This program is designed for older teens and adult cyclists and will provide participants with the skills, knowledge and confidence to ride safely and legally on roads and multi-use trails.

Simsbury First Selectman Mary Glassman and our Board of Selectmen will be on bikes for the 5 mile First Selectman's Ride that will leave from Town Hall.

The Bicycle Cellar, through the summer, will host Thursday evening rides through Simsbury and Mountain Biking

rides on Sunday mornings at Penwood State Forest. Everyone is welcome.

Looking for a family ride or an adventure race? The Simsbury Police Department has teamed up with the Farmington Valley Trails Council to host a Family Ride in May and on Sunday, May 18,

Simsbury's first adventure: run, bike, paddle, Try-Simsbury Triathlon will attract people from all over New England. Registration is at trysimsbury.com. Haven't trained? Come watch the fun from Iron Horse Boulevard or the Drake Hill Flower Bridge.

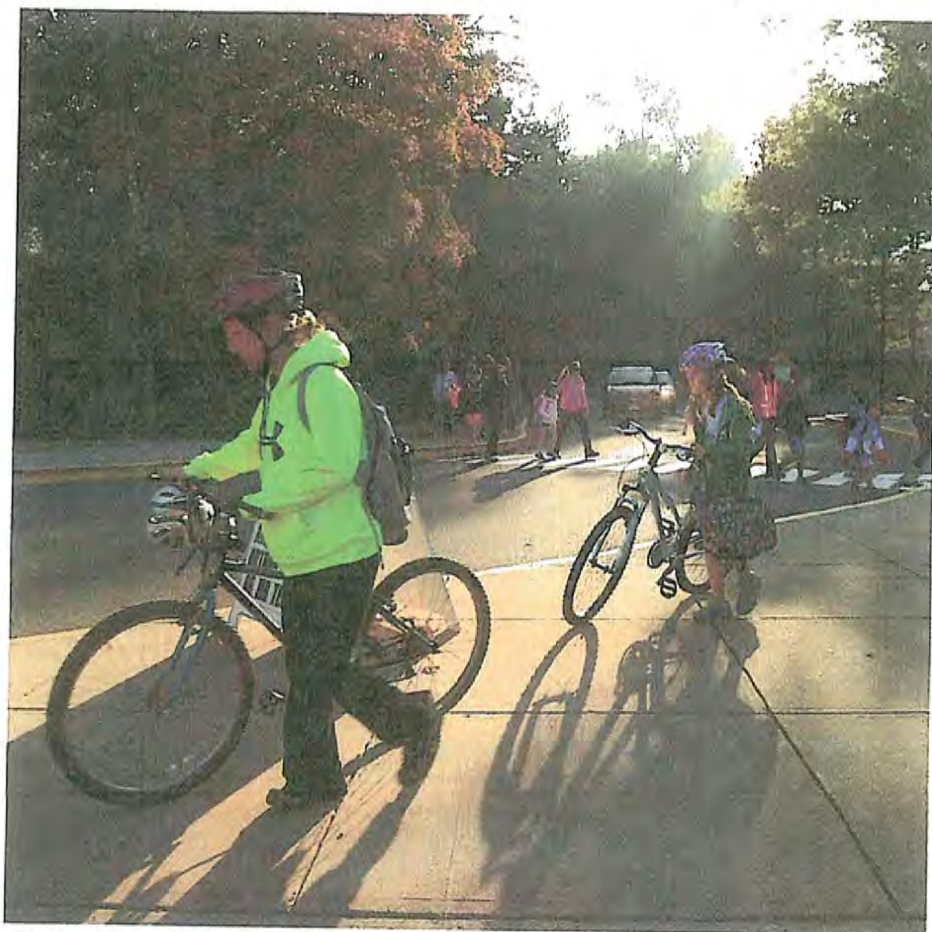
Simsbury Free Bike Regional Bike Share reopens for a fourth season on May 1 with more than 50 bikes in five towns including four locations in Simsbury. Invite friends to join you for a day cycling on the scenic, 84-mile Farmington Canal Heritage Trail.

Simsbury-based bike centers include Fitzgerald's Super Market, Live Every Day Physical Therapy, Mitchell Auto Group and J Foster Ice Cream. The Simsbury Inn also provides Simsbury Free Bikes for their guests. Visit its Facebook page for more.

Who will be cycling to work on May 16, Bike to Work Day? Leave that car behind and give bike-commuting a try.

This is a great way to squeeze in a workout or challenge your employees or co-workers to start the day on two wheels. We will be greeting bike commuters on Iron Horse Boulevard at 7 a.m. and again at the Red Stone Pub between 5 and 7 p.m.

See a complete list of Bike Month events on our website at Simsbury.bike or send inquiries to info@simsbury.bike.



Members of the community walk/bike to school in October 2013.
Photo courtesy of Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

4

Simsbury Free Bike, a not for profit business dedicated to bike friendly communities, opens for a fourth season on May 1.

The regional bike share program, which began with six bikes at a single Simsbury location, has evolved into a regional bike share serving Avon, Farmington and Granby as well. Riders can borrow bikes from business locations along the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail. To borrow a bike: provide identification, complete a waiver and leave \$10 deposit. Riders receive a bike and helmet for up to 24 hours.—Information provided by Simsbury Free Bike

BIKE MONTH SCHOOLS CELEBRATE

If past history repeats itself, you are going to see hundreds of students on bicycles during the month of May. Fourth graders at Squadron Line and Central Schools will learn bike safety, completing the district's rollout of bike safety education to all five elementary schools.

Students will celebrate Bike to School Day at Latimer Lane School (May 7), Tootin' Hills School (May 14) and Squadron Line School (May 15) by biking (or walking) to school. Bike-to-school events are part of the national Safe Routes to School program. Bike-themed posters and book displays in libraries and halls will encourage students to bike.—**Debbie Thibodeau**

Like this story? Tell us why.
hibumagazine.com/survey



Clara Steele of Simsbury was a winner in the 2013 Connecticut Roadway Safety Poster contest.
Photo courtesy of Steele family

Slice of LIFE

Staff photos



The Farmington Valley cycling community was out and about for the month of May, celebrating National Bike Month with a variety of activities.



National Bike Month

1. A group of Tootin Hills School students and parents pose for a photo on Wildflower Lane before riding their bikes to school the morning of May 13 when the school celebrated Bike/Walk to School Day. **2.** More than 160 Squadron Line studios biked or walked to school on May 15 in celebration of National Walk/Bike to School Day. **3.** Sixty-three percent of Latimer Lane students walked or biked to school May 7. **4.** Simsbury Board of Selectmen members, town representatives, residents and others pose for a picture before taking off for the Board of Selectmen ride held on May 1. Simsbury First Selectman Mary Glassman, center, led the five mile ride that started at Town Hall. **5.** Parents and teachers escorted Latimer Lane students from multiple locations May 7 for Walk/Bike to School Day.

Slice of LIFE

Staff photos



National Bike Month

1. Bicycle Friendly Farmington chair Ron Goralski shows the BFF T-shirts that Explore! BFF passport program participants received at the end of Bike Month. **2.** Simsbury First Selectman Mary Glassman leads a five mile bike ride on May 1 to kick off Bike Month. **3.** Bicycle Friendly Farmington chair Ron Goralski and vice chair Doug Gerlach park their bikes in Unionville on May 6. **4.** Haley Gilbert approaches the school on her bike the morning of May 15 for Walk/Bike to School Day. **5.** The back of the Bicycle Friendly Farmington T-shirts given to Explore! BFF passport program participants at the end of Bike Month. **6.** Latimer Lane students arrive at school May 7 on that school's Bike to School Day. **7.** Nine-year-old Tobin Grande and his grandfather Mark Orenstein of the Simsbury Historical Society pose in the Pedal Power exhibit at the Simsbury Historical Society on May 17.

GUEST BARTENDER

Larry Linonis

Director, Simsbury Free Bike



Red Stone Pub

Drinks and Good Cheer

Guest Bartender Charity Event

Saturday May 17

12:00 - 3:00 PM



**\$1.00 from all drink
sales goes to
Simsbury Free Bike**



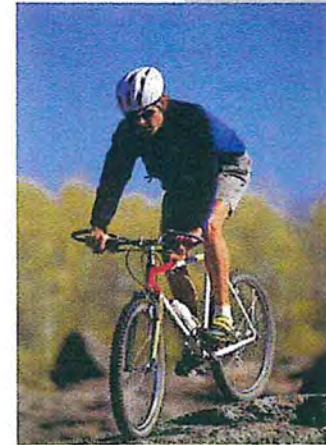
Simsbury Police Department Presents



Bicycle and Motorist Safety
PFC Tracy Dunne
Spring 2012

Share The Road - BICYCLISTS

- Driving on the road requires attention and courtesy whether you are riding a bike or driving a car.
- As road users, BICYCLISTS must be predictable and obey all traffic laws.
- As road users, DRIVERS must be alert and obey all traffic laws.



On The Road

- Cyclists must ride **WITH** traffic.
- At an intersection with a right turn lane, if you intend on going straight, ride with **THROUGH** traffic.
- On a road too narrow for cars and bikes to ride side by side, **BE ALERT**.

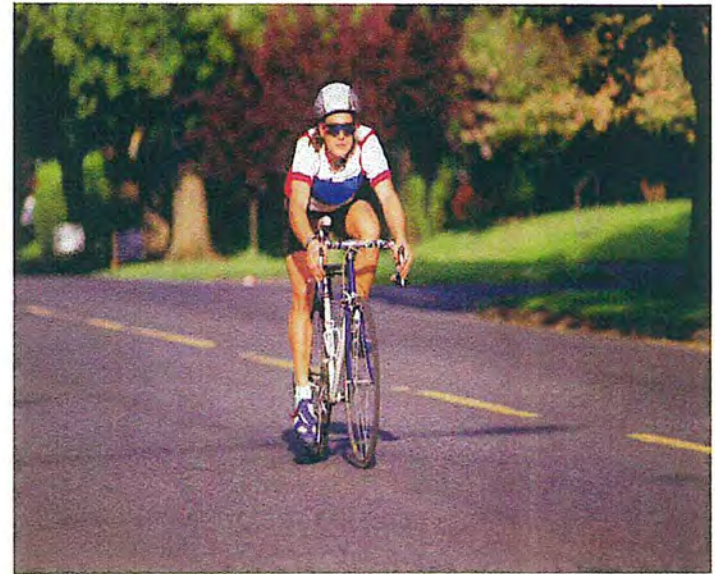


Turns and Lane Positions



BE ALERT

- Watch for potential hazards-potholes, drains, debris, open car doors.
- Scan the road at least 100 ft. ahead.
- Allow time to maneuver around these hazards and negotiate traffic.

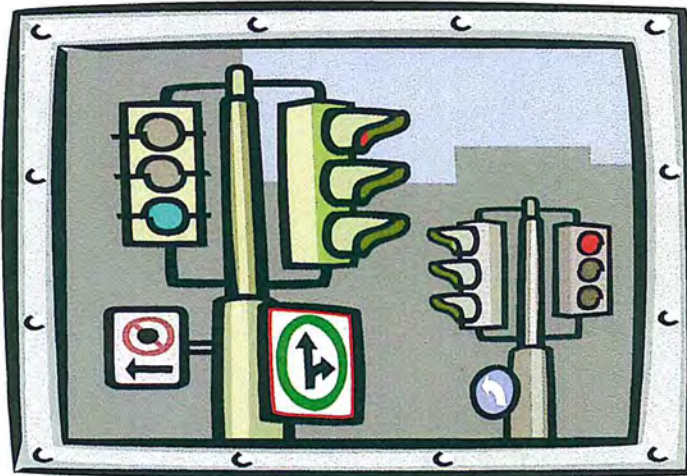


RIDE PREDICTABLY

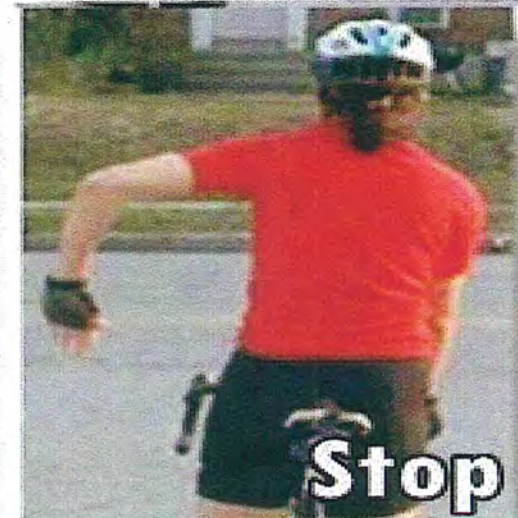
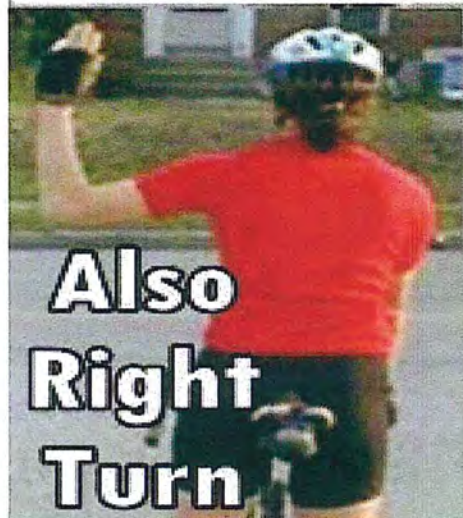
- Ride in a straight line.
- Don't swerve in and out of traffic or between parked cars.
- Check for traffic before entering the street or intersection.
- Anticipate hazards and adjust your position accordingly.

Signal All Turns

- Look back before you make a lane change or turn.
- Signal safely in advance using the proper hand signal.
- When making a left turn, proceed as a vehicle would by moving into the left side of the travel lane OR cross like a pedestrian at a marked crosswalk.



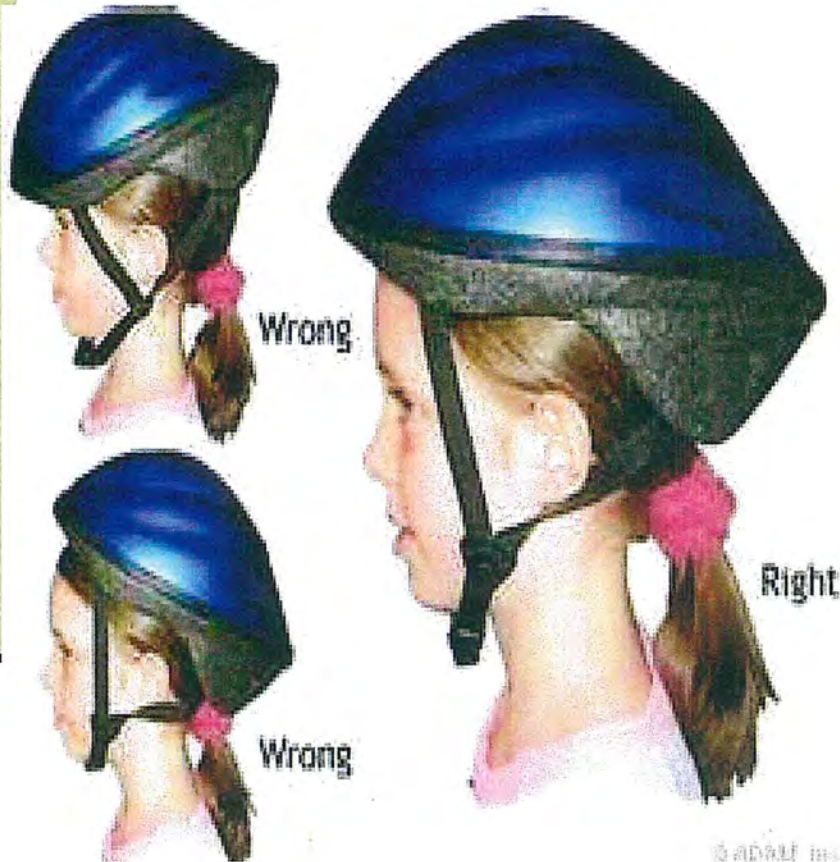
Bicycle Hand Signals



Be Safe and Be Seen

- Always wear a properly fitting helmet.
- Inspect your bicycle and make sure it is safe.
- Wear brightly colored clothing.
- Make sure you have proper lights at night – white light on front (visible from 500 ft.) and a red light on the back (visible from 600 ft.)

Proper Helmet Fit



- Helmet should sit level on head.
- One or two finger widths above eyebrow.
- Buckle the chin strap and tighten so that no more than one or two fingers fit under strap.

Share the Road - MOTORISTS

- Bicycles are less visible so always be aware of bicyclists that MAY be on the road.
- Reduce your speed when passing bicycles.
- Don't blast your horn because you could scare them and cause an accident.



In the roadway...

- When a road is too narrow for cars and bikes to ride safely side by side, motorists must BE ALERT and bicyclists must BE ALERT.
- If you recognize hazardous situations or obstacles give bicyclists adequate space to maneuver.
- DO NOT pass bicyclists if oncoming traffic is close, have PATIENCE.

PASSING BICYCLISTS

- Give at least 3 ft. of passing space between your vehicle and the bicyclist when passing, IT'S THE LAW.
- After passing a bicyclist on your right make sure you have allowed enough room before moving back over into the lane.
- Do not pass bicyclists if you will be making a right turn immediately afterward.
- When turning left at an intersection, yield to oncoming bicyclists just as you would a vehicle.
- When turning left also be aware of a bicyclist's position in the roadway, remember, bicycles are not as visible as vehicles.
- Before opening a car door, always look for bicyclists who may be approaching.

SHARE THE ROAD

- Be considerate in bad weather, give extra room.
- When uncertain in any situation, SLOW DOWN until it is safe to pass.
- Bicyclists may be unpredictable so expect the unexpected.
- Always take the safest approach.

When we all drive safely, have
patience and are considerate of
each other, it is easy to
SHARE THE ROAD!






[Our Town](#)
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[Boards](#)
[Online Services](#)
[Forms](#)

[Home](#)
[Police / Emergency](#)
[Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety](#)

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY



[Send by email](#)

Contact:
Officer Tracy Dunne
860-655-3108

May is National Bike Month

May is National Bike Safety Month. In order to encourage and reward safe bicycling, members of the Simsbury Police Department will be recognizing safe riding behavior among youth during the month. Officers will interact with young bicyclists and randomly provide them with coupons for free ice cream/frozen yogurt at any one of the 4 local ice cream/frozen yogurt businesses in Simsbury.



[Bicycle and Pedestrian State Law Guide 2014](#)
[Bicycle Safety-Share The Road Presentation](#)

Click the icons below to be linked to various safe bicycling information.






[860-655-3108](#)
[860-655-3108](#)
[860-655-3108](#)
[860-655-3108](#)




Simsbury, CT Police Department shared a link.
 May 13



May is National Bike Month | Simsbury CT
www.simsbury-ct.gov

May is National Bike Safety Month. In order to encourage and reward safe bicycling, members of the Simsbury Police Department will be recognizing safe riding behavior among youth during the month....

[Like](#)
[Comment](#)
[Share](#)


 Deborah Thibodeau likes this.



Crossfit Simsbury Adult riders deserve some tasty ice cream treats as well!
 May 13 at 12:43pm



Simsbury, CT Police Department shared a link.
 April 30

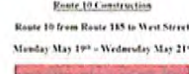


Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety | Simsbury CT
www.simsbury-ct.gov

May is National Bike Safety Month. In order to encourage and reward safe bicycling, members of the Simsbury

[Like](#)
[Comment](#)
[Share](#)



Simsbury, CT Police Department shared a link.
 April 30





Route 10 Construction/Paving | Simsbury CT
www.simsbury-ct.gov

Expect heavy traffic delays during the week of May 19, 2014 on Hopmeadow Street between the intersections of...

[Like](#)
[Comment](#)
[Share](#)


 Thet Nandar likes this.



Simsbury, CT Police Department shared a link.
 April 30



May is National Bike Month | Simsbury CT
www.simsbury-ct.gov

May is National Bike Safety Month. In order to encourage and reward safe bicycling, members of the Simsbury

[Like](#)
[Comment](#)
[Share](#)


Simsbury, CT Police Department
 March 31

From: **Boulter, Nicholas** NBoulter@pd.simsbury-ct.gov
Subject: Ice Cream Tickets
Date: May 14, 2014 at 10:01 AM
To: Police Personnel Police@pd.simsbury-ct.gov

All,

Officers Trombly and Kushman have created ice cream vouchers (with support from Henry James School) to be handed out to youth who are exhibiting safe bicycling behavior (e.g. wearing helmets, riding on the proper side of the street, etc.). The tickets are for the participating ice cream businesses (Tulmeadow Farms, TCBY, J Foster and Blue Fox Rock & Bowl). The tickets are good for one treat at any location. Since May is National Bike Month, make efforts to hand these vouchers out this month. When you hand a ticket to a youth, place a reflective orange circular sticker on the youth's helmet. It provides additional safety, but also let's us know that the youth was already provided with a voucher. Sergeant Valko handed out the vouchers and stickers yesterday and made them available through the sergeants in the sergeant's office. Funding for this was provided by Simsbury Social Services. This information is on our website <http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/police-emergency/pages/bicycle-and-pedestrian-safety> and our facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/simsburyctpolicedepartment>.

Captain Nicholas Boulter
Simsbury Police Department
933 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070
(860) 658-3106

Simsbury Advocates Bicycle Sign Proposal

Simsbury enjoys a reputation for being a quintessential New England town and attracts tourists, history buffs, and cyclists. Simsbury's designation as a bicycle friendly community contributes to a continuous increase in the number of tourists on bikes visiting town. Well placed signage is both welcoming and essential to cyclists navigating bike routes through the Farmington Valley. Many of our own town residents, either new to town, new to cycling or with young children just beginning to cycle, welcome clear bicycle signage that assists them with identifying safe through-routes.

I. Trailhead Signage

A. Purpose: Trailhead signage is intended to provide positive first and last impressions for all trailhead visitors and to establish the visitor experience and welcome trail users to the Town of Simsbury.



Figure: A

B. Design Guide: Follow design guidelines established by the Farmington Valley Trails Council for Trailhead welcome signs; See Figure A

C. Needs/Location: Three trailhead signs:

1. Simsbury Route 10 / Tariffville Road Intersection.
- 2). East Weatogue/ Route 10/ Commuter Parking Lot
- 3) West Mountain Road Trail Access: River Trail - Simsbury Center 3/4 Mile
- 4) Rules of the Trail (FVHT) will be posted at Trailhead kiosks.

D. Schedule/Responsibility: Two trailhead signs to be produced and installed by Simsbury Parks and Recreation and Simsbury Public Works by yearend 2014.

II. Wayfaring Signage

A. Purpose: There is no national standard for pedestrian/bike wayfinding signs. Pedestrian/cycling wayfinding signs are usually one of two types: directional or maps. Directional signs are usually simple signs with an arrow indicating direction, a destination name, and sometimes distance to the destination. Maps usually show the pedestrian their location, and the surrounding streets and destinations. Simsbury's wayfaring signage should be designed to assist trail users when looking for route direction, distance and destination information. Placement of signs should aid cyclists at key decision making points when using the map produced by the Farmington Valley Trails Council.



Figure: B

B. Design Guide: Design recommendation would be to follow MUTCD or national parks signage scheme depending on location of signs. Bike routes: brown and white; distance and destination signage: green and white MUTCD signage. Signs

Simsbury Advocates Bicycle Sign Proposal

should be large enough to be read and contain helpful information, without causing visual clutter or line of sight safety issues. (See figure C)

C. Needs/Location: Simsbury will identify and prioritize bicycle wayfinding signage needs.

-Simsbury Wayfinding signage

1. Simsbury Route 10 / Drake Hill Road Intersection.
- 2). East Weatogue: 2 Miles to Simsbury Center
- 3) Tariffville Center/Food Shops (Arrow) at Route 315/10

-River Trail Signage:

- 1) Sign: "River Trail "- Intersection of 309/10 in town center
- 2) Sign: "Trail Access" : Intersection of Bushy Hill Road and 309 (South entrance to Stratton Brook Park;
- 3) Sign: North Entrance to Stratton Brook Park (Visible from both the North and South) (See figure C)
- 4) Sign: "Trail Access" - At north end of Town Forest Road



D. Schedule/Responsibility: Jerry Toner/ Tom Roy/Bike Advocates

Figure: C

III. Municipal Signage

A. Purpose: To direct trail users to local services such as fire, police, library, historic district. "Critical Segments": A "Critical Segment" is a portion of the trail that was determined to have the highest density of hazards and is considered the highest priority by the community.

B. Design Guide: Follow design guidelines established by the MUTCD;

C. Needs: Advocates will work with Public Works to outline needs.

- 1) Sign: "Simsbury Town Center" at Iron Horse Boulevard and Jim Gallagher Way
- 2) Sign: "Simsbury Town Hall/Police (Arrow)" at Iron Horse and Pent Road
- 3) Sign: "Simsbury Center 2 miles"; Weatogue Commuter Parking Lot

D. Schedule/Responsibility: Plan to be complete by year end. Signs to be installed by Spring 2015.

IV. Commercial Signage

Simsbury Advocates Bicycle Sign Proposal

- A. Purpose:** To provide trailside signage that identifies services essential for bike travel. (Food, medical, bike repair, etc) and to eliminate all signage that is unauthorized and for commercial use only. A work group will work to develop business guidelines for seasonal signage. Target Date: Complete a proposal in time for Spring 2015 bike season.
- B. Design Guide:** To be determined by working group - Town of Simsbury, Chamber of Commerce, advocates, and the Trails Council.
- C. Needs:** Minimal commercial signage; all signs must have direct trail user value; local businesses only; financial buy-in; details to be drafted by a work group - advocates, businesses (Chamber or MS Partnership) and Public Works/Parks/Recreation.
- D. Schedule/Responsibility:** Develop a plan to manage commercial signage along the 7.2 miles of Simsbury FCH Trail.

Bicycle Advocacy Plan

2014 Simsbury Connecticut



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Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee*

Robert Carmen - Web Developer and CCAP Cycling Coach; Silver Steering Committee

Bruce Donald - President Farmington Valley Trails Council

Tracy Dunne - Town of Simsbury Police Department - Bike Officer

Lisa Heavner - Selectman - Town of Simsbury

Pattie Smith Jacobus - Simsbury Free Bike; Chair Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee; Silver Steering Committee

Jennifer Kertanis - Director Farmington Valley Health District

Larry Linonis - Director of Simsbury Free Bike; Silver Steering Committee

Stephen Mitchell - Business Owner, Director East Coast Greenway Alliance; Silver Steering Committee

Diana Moody - Chair - Silver Steering Committee

Amy Muska: Supervisor of Physical Education and Health, Simsbury Public Schools

Tom Roy - Town of Simsbury Director of Public Works

Deborah Thibodeau - Safe Routes to School Chair and Silver Steering Committee

Gerry Toner - Town of Simsbury Parks and Recreation

Advisors:

Mary Glassman - Town of Simsbury First Selectman

Peter Ingvertson - Chief- Town of Simsbury Police Department

Sara Nielsen - Simsbury Mainstreet Partnership

Ad Hoc Members: Chuck Brody, Sheree Landerman, Mark Winbourne

*This list represents contributors to the Advocacy Plan, SBPAC meetings, various working group and survey work.



What is a Bicycle Friendly Community

What does it mean to be designated a Bicycle Friendly Community, what is the value to our community and how are communities evaluated?

A community recognized by the League of American Bicyclists as a Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC)

- welcomes bicyclists by providing encouragement and safe accommodation for all forms of cycling
- is committed to making biking a safe, enjoyable transportation option and recreational activity
- values bicycling for its many benefits, which include improving citizen's health, well-being and quality of life; reducing traffic congestion and pollution; and boosting community spirit and sense of place.

Through collaborations between town officials, advocates and businesses, a BFC addresses the areas of Engineering, Education, Encouragement, and Enforcement to improve conditions so that more people bike.

Across the U.S., interest in bicycling is skyrocketing, and it's easy to see why. A bike is a ticket to health, mobility, freedom, and fun. Bicycling isn't just a way to get from one place to another; it's an avenue to a better life. And when communities get on board, great things happen. The value of the Bicycle Friendly Community designation has become clear to cities, towns, universities, businesses and families in Connecticut and across the country. Research and experience has confirmed that being bike friendly gives a community vibrancy that attracts young adults, drives economic development and tourism, protects home values, and enhances the quality of life in a community. Check out the League of American Bicyclists' roadmap to a Bicycle Friendly America.

Simsbury's Bicycle Friendly History

In 2010, Simsbury was recognized by the League of American Bicyclists, as Connecticut's first Bike Friendly Community - at the bronze level. Simsbury received accolades from advocacy groups and the award fueled excitement in other Connecticut towns as the value of the designation became clear to cities, towns, universities, families, and business. Research confirms that being a bike friendly town creates a vibrancy that attracts youth, economic growth, tourism and business development.

Since 2010, Simsbury has completed many bike friendly infrastructure improvements, expanded the town bike share, launched educational safe-cycling campaigns and worked with neighboring towns to help build a bicycle friendly Farmington Valley.

In August 2012, Simsbury resubmitted an application to the League of American Bicyclists highlighting work done since 2010, hoping to achieve recognition as a Silver Level BFC. The League was complimentary of Simsbury's sustained commitment to cycling, but again awarded Simsbury Bronze level BFC designation. To guide further progress, they provided Simsbury with a LOAB Feedback Report with clear recommendations for achieving excellence in the 5 E's. education, engineering, enforcement, encouragement and evaluation.

In August of 2014, the Town of Simsbury and the Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee will reapply to the League. The goal is to be recognized as Connecticut's first Silver level Bike Friendly Community.

Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

The Application Feedback Report from the League recommended that Simsbury assemble a bicycle advisory committee that conducts regular meetings. Collaboration between advocates and town officials and gives all stakeholders a voice in our Bicycle Friendly Community planning. In March of 2013, Simsbury assembled an expanded bicycle advisory committee that includes town officials, advocates, educators, public health representatives, the business community, greenway advocates and law enforcement. The diversity represented on the committee provides a balanced perspective when addressing all 5 E's important to improving cycling in Simsbury. Monthly meetings are held at the Simsbury Library and are open to the public.

Mission

The stated mission of the committee is to promote biking and walking for recreation and transportation on a safe network of roads and trails linking the five villages of Simsbury.



Simsbury Advocacy Plan

The Simsbury Bicycle Advocacy Plan is written for anyone interested in knowing more about why and how Simsbury is working to improve the quality of bicycling in our town. This includes lifestyle riders, recreational bikers, families that ride, bicycle commuters, mountain bike advocates, pedestrians, motorists and all trail users including walkers, runners, dog walkers, strollers, and seniors. The League's guidelines help communities remember the importance of serving all road and trail users.

The plan uses guidelines and tools, provided by the League of American Bicyclists, to help the Town of Simsbury to identify opportunities to improve in the areas of Education, Engineering, Enforcement, Encouragement and Evaluation/planning (5E's). This Plan focuses on safety and connectivity for cyclists that will result in more riding for recreation and transportation.

The Bicycle Advocates Plan goal to help identify and prioritize town wide efforts that:

1. encourage and enhance safety;
2. increase ridership;
3. support underserved populations;
4. improvement of network connectivity on trails, arterial roads and streets;
5. collectively, contribute to a positive, supportive bike culture in Simsbury.

Simsbury recognized that improving safety for cyclists through infrastructure improvements and education of cyclists and motorists, and making biking convenient through network connectivity, are keys to establishing a bike culture that includes a wide range of bicyclists biking for a variety of reasons including active transportation. A strong, supportive bike culture will foster recognition that the bicycle is both a fun and efficient means of transportation.

Engineering

Simsbury advocates believe trails should begin in neighborhoods and are committed to promoting the development of a safe network of streets and shared use paths to support biking and walking from all parts of town. Simsbury is a large, suburban town with finite resources for infrastructure improvements. This engineering summary is designed to showcase the areas that the committee feels would help create a safer, more bicycle and pedestrian friendly network. The focus is on connecting our five villages, starting trails in neighborhoods, maintaining the quality of our trails, improving signage, and expanding shared use paths and safe commuter routes.

The tide has turned; state departments of transportation and community engineers are committed to reinventing our transportation infrastructure to accommodate all users. "Complete Streets" (<http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=3531&q=531678>) policy is being adopted across the country. As state and local roads are upgraded, new safety features are being incorporated to accommodate every road user.

Promotion of the Share to Road campaign and the Three Foot Rule (law) remind all of us about the importance of relearning our driving (bike and car) etiquette to encourage a culture of safety and respect on Simsbury roads.

Cycling advocates support these engineering initiatives in Simsbury:

- Road/Trail Infrastructure: Advocate collaboration with Simsbury Culture, Parks and Recreation and Public Works is essential to developing and maintaining Simsbury's cycling infrastructure which is a combination of on-road bike routes and cycling greenways. Advocates work closely with both groups to identify and prioritize needs related to dedicated bike lanes, road repair, signage, and transition areas and crossings.
- Signage: Results from a recent Simsbury advocate survey indicate that respondents identified good cycling wayfinding signage on trails and routes as the



most important element for improving the quality of a cycling experience. A signage plan has been written to improve wayfinding in Simsbury that will work with the maps distributed by the Farmington Valley Trails Council of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail and the Farmington River Trail. Similar plans are being developed for Simsbury mountain biking routes and trails.



- **Trail Development:** Simsbury has a long history of pioneering trail development. Simsbury constructed the first shared use path in the State of Connecticut and has 7.2 miles of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Simsbury and 2 miles of the 28 mile Farmington River Trail loop. Major development initiatives will support the resurfacing of the Farmington River Trail from Stratton Brook Park to Simsbury Town Center and a commuter route linking Simsbury Town Center, through Tariffville and Bloomfield, into Hartford. This section of the trail would become a designated East Coast Greenway route.
- **Trail Maintenance:** Advocates work together with town officials to address trail maintenance needs including funding for fencing, drainage, resurfacing and mowing/trimming. Advocates conduct an annual spring audit of the trails and a Trail Clean Up supported by town volunteers and the Farmington Valley Trails Council.
- **Neighborhood Connectivity:** Advocates promote the identification and mapping of interconnectivity of neighborhoods, multi-use trails and town services. The mapping and promotion of these safe routes to Simsbury's growing trail system and marked/sharrowsed arterials will contribute to increased ridership. Mapping is currently underway and will be loaded into the town GIS system. The development and extension of shared use paths and sharrowsed routes on major Simsbury arterial routes are key areas of interest in the work to create safe routes through Simsbury.

- Tracking infrastructure progress: Simsbury advocates completed a benchmark 2014 Bicycle Account that includes year-over-year cycling infrastructure metrics.

Education

Bike education efforts must reach all our residents and Simsbury businesses, those in neighboring towns who may ride here, and tourists. Our efforts must target both cyclists and motorists, adults and children. Educational programs range from basic on-bike skills and maintenance to more advanced classes like Traffic Skills 101 and League Cycling Instructor (LCI) courses. It is vital that motorists and cyclists understand their rights and responsibilities on the road and public education campaigns that promote the 3 foot law and the Share the Road messages are being used to educate all road users. Laws that govern safe behavior and etiquette enhances the community bike culture and keep everyone safe. Simsbury advocates are committed to building a culture of safety and respect through educational programs.

The Committee agreed to focus on these primary educational initiatives:

- Safe Routes to School: Safe Routes to School is a National Program that was adopted by Simsbury Schools in 2011. Participation, which began at Tootin' Hills school has expanded to all three of our public elementary schools with a goal to reach 100% of eligible k-8 schools. Metrics will be tracked.
- Social Media: We manage two social media Facebook pages: Connecticut Adaptive Cycling and Simsbury Free Bike. Simsbury Free Bike began as a community bike share but has evolved to a regional advocacy group for cycling. Connecticut Adaptive Cycling serves adaptive athletes and their families. Both Facebook fan pages are built to appeal to both adults and teens, residents and



visitors and post information about all aspects of cycling including adaptive events and equipment. These are significant educational tools for our community. We will continue to grow our on-line fan base, including outreach to adaptive cyclists, and to promote a bike friendly culture in Simsbury and the Farmington Valley. Social media tools allow us to measure our reach and our effectiveness.

- Adult Education Classes: Simsbury Parks and Recreation and the Simsbury Library host a variety of cycling classes throughout the year including bike maintenance for children/adults; mountain biking clinics, Traffic Skills 101, Training League Cycling Instructors (LCI) instructors is also an objective currently offered by BPAC.

-Elementary Schools: Bicycle Safety Training in Simsbury public elementary schools is now standard PE curriculum. The expansion of this program to all schools including the middle school and private schools is a high priority for advocates. Teaching bike safety in the schools accomplishes many objectives - students learn safety skills and because families are involved, this has the potential to be the most effective way to educate whole families about trail etiquette, bike safety and Connecticut auto and bike laws.



- High School: Engaging high school students is ongoing. We utilize riding clubs, summer biking courses, created art bikes for our Simsbury Free Bike fleet with the Honors Arts students. We will continue these efforts with an eye on continuous expansion in participation.

- Businesses: Businesses benefit from bike traffic. The committee will work to educate business owners, the chamber, Main Street Partnership and key Simsbury commissions on the value to the Simsbury business community of becoming more accommodating and welcoming to cyclists. We will encourage businesses to understand the value and the process for earning a Bicycle Friendly Business designation.



- Other Education Opportunities: Simsbury Public Television is a welcome outlet for cycling and Safe Routes to School programming. We will continue to produce and schedule both programming /Public Service Announcements, monitor

social media and publish articles in local press to raise awareness for bicycle safety in Simsbury.

Target goals will be set for annual participation levels in bike education classes.

Encouragement

The goal of any bicycle advocate is to get more people on bikes. Town officials, advocates, parents, teachers, business owners and our state legislators all play a critical role in encouraging more people and to ride more frequently. Encouragement through public education, free seminars, rides, celebration of Bike Month and Bike to Work Day bring communities together and can change a culture. Parents can lead by example by teaching responsibility, patience and respect for all road users. Teachers can teach bike safety, not just in physical education classes but in health and driver education classes. Business owners have many opportunities to make their businesses welcoming to cyclists with racks, promotions, and signs. Our goal is to foster the development of a culture where bicycling is an accepted and viable mode choice in Simsbury. It absolutely takes a village to build a safe cycling community and it starts with encouragement from all over the community.

- Bike Month/Bike to Work Day: Simsbury began celebrating National Bike Month in 2012 and has expanded the celebration each year. Activities in 2014 include Bike to School Day, Bike to Work Day, bike maintenance workshops, a Board of Selectman's ride and a Try Simsbury Triathlon.
- Simsbury Free Bike Regional Bike Share: Simsbury Free Bike has grown from a Simsbury-based bike share to a regional bike share. Riders can borrow bikes at retail locations adjacent to the Farmington Canal Heritage. Established in 2010, this not for profit bike share has grown from 6 bikes to 50, 1 location to 12 with bikes available in 5 towns. Ridership has grown from 150 to 1200 riders (1600 forecast 2014). It is an all volunteer organization supported by grants, local business sponsorships and rider donations. Simsbury's public bike share, Simsbury Free Bike, encourages people to make short trips by bike and explore the greenway.

The volunteers at the bike share have also undertaken the development of a fleet of children's bicycles that will be used by the Simsbury Public School system for use in town-wide Physical Education Bike Safety classes.

- Connecticut Adaptive Cycling: Simsbury non-profit, CT Adaptive Cycling is dedicated to helping riders with mobility issues return to cycling with modified trikes. Riders with service-related injuries, MS, Parkinson's and other activity-limiting diseases can borrow hand-cycles and power assisted trikes. Riders are encouraged to bring family members often borrow equipment from Simsbury Free Bike. The bike shop is trailside providing easy access for special athletes. Rides are scheduled out of the shop, and modified routes are added to other town rides to insure that "Everybody Rides."
- Engagement by Town Leaders: Engagement by town leaders in Simsbury's Bicycle Friendly Community program is a high priority for the committee. The Simsbury Board of Selectmen, police, Chamber of Commerce President, Town commission members (finance, parks and recreation, safety) are encouraged to join advocates for town rides including a ride to kick off May Bike Month festivities.



Enforcement

A good relationship between the Simsbury cycling community and the Simsbury Police Department is essential. Engaging law enforcement professionals creates a transportation culture that values and respects all road users. Simsbury's Police Department understands the laws and how to enforce them, and is committed to applying them equitably to all road users to ensure public safety. In addition to enforcement the Simsbury Police Department helps educate and monitor behavior of motorists, pedestrians and cyclists. A Simsbury PD officer, also a bicycle patrol officer, is a member of our committee which helps increase their understanding of cyclists issues. All enforcement and incidents are recorded by the PD and evaluated by the committee at year end.

- Bike Patrols: Simsbury's bike patrol unit is visible on our trails. These officers see more from bikes that they do from behind a wheel, recognize behavior and safety issues that can be integrated into educational initiatives.
- Enforcement: Simsbury PD uses various methods of enforcement. including a Positive Ticketing Program to recognize youth exhibiting safe-cycling behavior.
- Participation in Bicycle Advisory Meetings: Simsbury PD plays an active role in the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee meetings. The support of Simsbury PD is essential when planning events, trouble shooting enforcement issues, reinforcing educational initiatives or working with the State of Connecticut on state road safety improvements.



- Police Department Education Programs: Simsbury PD conducts bike rodeos, participates in town events such as Septemerfest, Bike to School, Bike to Work Day and annual safety meeting hosted by cycling clubs.
- Accident reporting and Investigation: Simsbury is proud of its safety record and uses education and enforcement initiatives to maintain that record.
- Infrastructure improvements on State Roads: Many of our toughest safety challenges. Simsbury PD is our liaison with the CT DOT.

Evaluation and Planning

Evaluation helps to organize planning and to direct funding. A safe cycling network for short family/individual trips as well as multi-modal trips, increases ridership - always our endgame. Our Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee wants to play an important role in helping town and state officials prioritize and build bicycle programs and infrastructure, backed by effective cycling policy, to improve cycling in Simsbury, the Farmington Valley and the state of Connecticut.

Metrics are essential to bicycle friendly community progress and planning. Simsbury advocates are committed to establishing baseline and ongoing metrics to assist with goal setting, evaluation of progress and to secure funding. Measurement of our infrastructure and education gaps and changing qualitative opinions helps shape future programs.

Evaluating and planning initiatives:

- Qualitative Surveys: Two surveys were scheduled for 2014. A self-report speed survey to identify opinions on trail safety and maintenance and a longer, on-line survey, via Survey Monkey, that solicited opinions on a long list of bike/ped issues. Results will be posted in the 2014 Simsbury Bicycle Account and will assist with setting priorities for 2015.
- Quantitative Surveys: The committee monitors, reviews or conducts trail counts on the Simsbury Trail. This include CCROG's annual trail count and the Farmington Valley Trails Council (FVTC) electronic counter results and our own counts. Data is reflected in the 2014 Simsbury Bicycle Account.
- Simsbury Free Bike Usage: Simsbury Free Bike waivers contain valuable demographic and marketplace information that is tracked each year and year over year. 2014 marks the 4th season for the regional bike share. Each year we



review the season, amend the plan to address user needs based on identified trends and amend plans for the next season.

- Simsbury PD Accident/Safety Reports: Annual reporting of bicycle related accidents are reviewed for trends or problem trail/road conditions to determine appropriate actions necessary to reduce accidents.
- 2014 Benchmark Bicycle Account: Simsbury identified the need to complete a Bicycle Account to benchmark and measure year-over-year progress in key areas including miles of shared use paths, bicycle lanes, bike racks, children completing bicycle safety classes and participation rates for Safe Routes to School. This tool is ideal for setting goals and measuring Simsbury's progress against targets.
- Bicycle Advocacy Plan - The Advocacy Plan outlines the key areas of focus for the Town of Simsbury and bike advocates with projected timelines reflected in annual Target Objectives.

2013 Performance Objectives & Progress

Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

1. Establish a Simsbury Bike Pedestrian Advisory Committee (SBAC): Established March 2013; **Meetings held Monthly**
2. Write a Simsbury Bicycle Advocacy Plan: **Complete**
3. Secure Simsbury Board of Selectmen Resolution to Adopt Advocates Bike Plan
4. Master Plan evaluation against objectives. **2013 evaluation is complete; new 2014 objectives have been established.**
4. The Town of Simsbury to secure funding for Trail Maintenance for the 7.2 mile Simsbury section of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail: **Line item for trail maintenance added for the first time in the 2014 budget.**
5. Create a 3 year plan for Simsbury bicycle wayfinding signage. **See Attached**
6. Bike Safety program in the Simsbury Public School system: **Pilot program complete; expansion to town 4th graders; fleet development underway with 30 bicycles.**
7. Celebrate National Bike Month in May: **Celebrated with Bike to Work Day, Demo Day, Safe Routes to School and related celebrations in 2013 and 2014. See Bike Month Calendars for 2013/2014**
8. Create a Benchmark Bicycle Account . **Complete**
9. Create a bicycle network/connectivity plan: **Progressing - 85%**
10. Encourage local businesses: Presentations made to the Economic Development Commission and the Chamber of Commerce

2014 Performance Objectives

Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

1. Expand Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee talent. Recruit project managers for: bike parking, walking/ped needs, trail network research, PSA development and web design.
2. Expand Bike Safety Public school physical education Program: Complete school fleet with trailer.
3. Expand Safe Routes to School Program: Add Squadron Line School, increase town-wide percentage participation.
4. Finalize Mountain Bike Plan: Signage, mapping, promotion.
5. Conduct a Bike-Motorist-Pedestrian Forum - Address friction issues related to enforcement, culture, safety.
6. Expand participation by Simsbury business community through Mainstreet Partnership, the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Commission
7. Network Mapping: Complete Simsbury network mapping including GIS map tool.
8. Simsbury.bike: Refine content; Search engine optimization work, create metrics tracking and content management tools.
9. Secure resolution to adopt the Simsbury Bicycle Advocates Plan by the Board of Selectmen
10. Adoption of Phase 2 of the Simsbury Trail Signage Plan by the Town of Simsbury.

Resources

The work necessary to create a more bike and pedestrian friendly Simsbury is driven by people who love Simsbury and understand the economic, social and health value of walking/cycling for recreation and transportation. Contact simsburyfreebike@gmail.com if you are interested in offering your experience or enthusiasm to our Bike Friendly Community projects.

www.simsbury.bike

www.facebook.com/simsburyfreebike

The League of American Bicyclists

<http://www.bikeleague.org>

Connecticut's Bike Transportation plan

<http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=1390&q=259656>

How to become a Bike Friendly state, community business or university

http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/bicyclefriendlyamerica/pdfs/bfa_brochure_2012.pdf



What is a Bicycle Account?

A Bicycle Account is a tool used to monitor the development of bicycling activity in a community. Its primary use is to assess how well a community is achieving its cycling objectives. The tool also allows a community to conduct town-wide marketing and communication research on bicycling and then incorporate public opinion into the bicycle planning process. This process provides metrics for town officials on cycling objectives including qualitative data on how residents perceive the quality and safety of cycling in a town.

The League of American Bicyclists, the national organization for bicycling advocacy in the United States, recognizes that the Bicycle Account is an important monitoring, evaluation and planning initiative that can be used by communities to track their progress in becoming bicycle friendly.

The Simsbury Bicycle Account provides the Town of Simsbury a method to systematically review town cycling activity, infrastructure projects, and trends as a guide for prioritizing future bicycle projects and investments.

Simsbury's Bicycle Account includes four features:

A. Bicycle Traffic Data

Bicycle traffic data is a fundamental building block of a Bicycle Account, starting with bicycle mode-share which includes automatic and manual traffic counts. Counts can be supplemented with research surveys conducted by telephone, on-line or through personal interviews. Surveys ask residents about their transportation behavior.

B. Bicycle Infrastructure

A Bicycle Account compiles annual metrics on bicycle infrastructure such as miles of bicycle lanes/boulevards, cycle tracks, sharrows and commuter routes, shared use paths, mountain bike trails and bicycle facilities including bicycle parking.

C. Quality and Safety of Cycling

The Bicycle Account combines quantitative and qualitative data to track both the quality of trails and roads and the degree to which people feel safe. This qualitative perception of Simsbury's bike/walk culture may be the result of focus groups, on-line surveys or telephone interviews. The intent is to track, over time, the perception of Simsbury's level of bike friendliness, cyclist/motorist behavior, network connectivity and safety. Quantitative safety data from the Simsbury Police Department is included.

D. Active Transportation Themes

Bicycle Account themes are areas identified as important to the development of safe cycling in a community, and that warrant additional effort and evaluation.

Simsbury Bicycle Account

The Simsbury Bicycle Account includes three active transportation themes:

- * **Infrastructure** efforts that improve safety and connectivity.
- * Transportation **safety education** for cyclists, pedestrians and motorists
- * **Encouragement** of cycling for riding for recreation and transportation for all residents of Simsbury.

Simsbury Bicycle Account

A. Bicycle Traffic Data

Mode Share

1. **Farmington Valley Trails Council (FVTC) Trail Counter Data:** The FVTC purchased 3 traffic counters and installed them in 3 Farmington Valley Towns - Canton, Farmington and Suffield. The objective is to capture activity on the trail that runs through the Farmington Valley, including 7.2 miles through Simsbury. The results for the first season, 2013 - May - October - have been published. [2013 FVTC Trail Usage Study](#)

| Trail Count Location | Trail Users 2013 | Trail Users 2014 |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Annual Farmington Total | 97,636 | |
| Annual Canton Total | 99,999 | |
| Annual Suffield Total * | 117,634 | |
| Annual Regional Trail System Total ** | 252,215 | |
| Weekday Peak Hour | 11:00 AM | |
| Weekend Peak Hour | 1:00 PM | |
| Month with Highest Activity | August | |
| Month with the lowest Activity | January | |
| Weekday Peak Day Volume | 565 | |
| Weekend Peak Day Volume | 1,066 | |

* **Suffield**, the location closest to Simsbury.

** The **Annual Regional Trail System Total** figure is approximate and includes an estimate that 20% of use at each of the three collections sites must be factored out as users traveling to or from another counted site.

2. Simsbury Speed Survey Results

A one-minute self-report survey was conducted to capture quantitative and qualitative data from Simsbury trail users. The survey was distributed to volunteers at a Simsbury trail

Simsbury Bicycle Account

clean up event, to members of the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce, to respondents attending other town events, and to other resident and non resident trail users. A summary of the results of 111 completed surveys is below.

| Total Responses:111 | Number | Percent |
|--|--------------------|---|
| Daily Trail Users | 18 | 16% |
| Seasonal Trail Users | 72 | 65% |
| Weekly Trail Users | 79 | 35% |
| Respondents: Bikers | 76 | 69% |
| Respondents: Walkers | 69 | 63% |
| Respondents: Other | 23 | 21% |
| Respondents: Out of Town | 21 | 18% |
| Respondents: Residents | 90 | 82% |
| How safe do you feel on the Simsbury section of the (FCHT)Trail? | 4.6 | (Rank 1-5) 5=Safest |
| How well do you feel the Simsbury Trail is Maintained? | See comments below | 60% left comments about maintenance or how much they appreciate the trail |

Comments included: Need safer bike commuting, plant flowers along the trail, signs for local businesses, make sure crossings have a good line of sight; vendors on trail on weekends; fill cracks in trail; i love the trail; connect to Simsbury Farms; fix holes, cut back brush; plow in winter; repair roots and ruts; repair damaged sections; fix frost heaves; fix root encroachment - love the trail!; check Mass trail for maintenance example; make it wider; bikes don't alert walkers; great asset to the community; drainage problems; keep weeds down; sand; more waste bins for pet owners; more courtesy; weak effort on part of town; more sweeping; more neighborhood connections so you don't have to drive to trail; better maintenance by businesses near the trail; clean dog leavings; north end of trail is a mess; roots need repair (lots of repetition here);

3. Simsbury Opinion Survey on Biking and Walking

Through the use of Survey Monkey, Simsbury advocates conducted qualitative research on a variety of walking and biking issues including trail safety, trail etiquette, usage habits, opinions about Simsbury's transportation infrastructure and the degree to which respondents felt Simsbury was Bike Friendly. This was designed as a benchmark study for the Town of Simsbury. For a summary of the results see section C. - Quality and Safety of Cycling and Walking in Simsbury.

Simsbury Bicycle Account

4. Simsbury Trail Usage Study

Simsbury conducted its first (benchmark) trail usage study in 2014. It was modeled after the The Connecticut Region Council of Governments (CCROG) trail usage study conducted in 2011. The locations were identical 1) the Simsbury trail intersection at Routes 315 and 10; 2) the Simsbury trail intersection Route 10 and Canal Street. The 2011 CCROG study did not include gender so direct comparisons could not be made. CCROG will again conduct this study in September 2014; gender will be included. We will compare CCROG results with Simsbury results when available. The trail counts were taken for two hours in the AM and two hours in the PM on a weekday and a weekend. More women than men were reported to not be wearing a helmets when riding. Between 15% - 20% of cyclists observed, were not wearing a helmet.

CCROG will again be measuring trail usage in September 2014 and they will include gender.

| Weekend Usage July Trail Study - 2014 | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|----|-----------|----|-----------|----|
| | Cyclists w
No Helmet | | Cyclists | | Peds | |
| Location:
Route 10 and 315 @ FCH Trail | Men-Women | | Men-Women | | Men-Women | |
| 8-10 AM | 1 | 1 | 21 | 15 | 13 | 12 |
| 4-6 PM | 21 | 24 | 105 | 90 | 5 | 8 |
| Total | 47 | | 231 | | 38 | |

Simsbury Bicycle Account

| Weekday Usage July Trail Study - July 2014 | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|-------------|----|-------------|----|
| | Cyclists w
No Helmet | | Cyclists | | Peds | |
| Location:
Route 315 /Canal Street @ FCHTrail | Men - Women | | Men - Women | | Men - Women | |
| 8-10 AM | 4 | 0 | 18 | 6 | 0 | 14 |
| 4-6 PM | 8 | 8 | 74 | 28 | 18 | 14 |
| Total | 20 | | 126 | | 46 | |

B. Bicycle Pedestrian Infrastructure

Sharrowed Routes

A sharrow is a pavement marking symbol that indicates that motor vehicles and bicyclists must share the road. Simsbury has been adding sharrowed bike routes through town since 2010. This table demonstrates that since 2010 Simsbury has added over 18 miles of sharrowed routes with plans expand that work where appropriate.

| Description/Miles | 2010 | 2012 | 2014 | 2016 |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|-------|-----------------|
| Scenic Route #1 | 0 | 16.6 | 16.6 | 16.6 |
| River Trail On Road (Canton-Simsbury) | 0 | 0 | 1.75 | 1.75 |
| Firetown Road | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4.4
Proposed |
| Total Sharrowed Miles | 0 | 16.6 | 18.35 | 22.75 |

Shared-Use Paths

A bikeway physically separated from motorized vehicular traffic by an open space or barrier and either within the highway right-of-way or within an independent right-of-way. Shared use paths may also be used by pedestrians, skaters, wheelchair users, joggers and other non-motorized users.

Simsbury Bicycle Account

| Description | To 2012 | 2014 | Fcst 2016 |
|--|---------|------|---------------------|
| Stratton Brook Park Center Path | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| High School to Town Center | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Owens Brook Blvd to Town Center | | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Farmington Canal Heritage Trail | 7.2 | 7.2 | 7.2 |
| West Mountain Path to Town Forest Road | | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| East Coast Greenway Link Through T'Ville | | | 2.0 *
(Budgeted) |
| Latimer Lane School to FCHT | | | 0.3 |
| Total Shared Use Path Miles | 9.2 | 10.7 | 11.2 Forecast |

* This project created a safe, off-road connection on the 26 mile River Trail Loop. This will also be a safe, off road route for biking to the high school to avoid Route 309, a Safe Route to School artery for several neighborhoods and bike-safe route to Town Center via Stratton Brook Park.

* * This project would extend the Simsbury section of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail through Tariffville to connect to Bloomfield to create a true commuter route into Hartford. It would be designated as the official East Coast Greenway route.

Simsbury Bicycle Account

Bicycle Lanes

A portion of a roadway which has been designated by pavement markings and, if used, signs, for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.

| Description | 2012 | 2014 |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|
| Iron Horse Boulevard - Dedicated | 0 | 2 |
| Hopmeadow Street | 2 | 2 |
| Total 2014 Miles of Bicycle Lanes | 2 | 4 |

These are the two primary roads through the center of town

Simsbury Bicycle Account

Mountain Bike - Single Track Routes

Simsbury has miles of mountain bike terrain. The Simsbury Bicycle Advisory Committee has recruited a talented Mountain Bike working group to develop a signage, mapping, education and promotional plan that will address short and long term needs for the mountain biking community in Simsbury.

| Description | Trails | Trail Miles | Acres | Mapped | Signed | Rated | Owner |
|----------------------------|--------|-------------|-------|--------|---------------|-------|---------------------|
| Still Brook | 4 | 2.5 | 47.5 | Yes | No | | Simsbury Land Trust |
| Belden Forest | 2 | 1 | 42 | Yes | No | E | Simsbury |
| Penwood State Park | 8 | 7 | 787 | Yes | Signed Blazed | M/T | State of CT |
| Stratton Brook Park | 9 | 10 | 148 | Yes | Blazed | E/M | State of CT |
| Ethel Walker Woods | 9 | 11 | 427 | Yes | Blazed | E/M | Simsbury |
| Town Forest | 1 | 1.5 | 296 | No | Blazed | E | Simsbury |
| Tulmeadow Woods | 1 | 2 | 88 | Yes | Blazed | E/M | Simsbury |
| Great Pond | 5 | 5 | 288 | Yes | Blazed | M | Simsbury |
| Onion Mountain | 4 | 3 | 190 | Yes | Blazed | M/T | Simsbury |
| Nod Brook WMA | 2 | 3 | 137 | Yes | | | State of CT |
| Simsbury WMA (Ferry Road) | 1 | 2 | 315 | Yes | | | State of CT |
| Massacoe | 2 | 2 | 73 | No | No | E | Simsbury |
| (Proposed) Riverwalk Trail | 1 | 3.5 | | No | No | E | Simsbury |

Simsbury Bicycle Account

| Description | Trails | Trail Miles | Acres | Mapped | Signed | Rated | Owner |
|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|----------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Total | 49 | 53.5 | 2838.5 | E=Easy; M= Moderate; T=Technical | | | |

Bicycle Racks

Devices that allow cyclist to park and lock bicycles for security and safety.

At the end of 2013 bicycle racks were distributed throughout Simsbury's five villages. Simsbury North has expressed interest in investing in efforts to make their businesses more bicycle friendly and bicycle racks will be one of their first investments. The village of Tariffville currently has no safe bike route to town center and very few bicycle racks. The addition of the bike trail through Tariffville in 2016 will boost the demand for racks. Use this link to locate bike racks in Simsbury. These are locations as of December 31, 2013.

| Simsbury | 2013 | |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| Village | Racks | Spaces |
| Tariffville | 5 | 64 |
| Weatogue | 6 | 85 |
| Simsbury Center | 51 | 410 |
| Simsbury North | 4 | 26 |
| West Simsbury | 5 | 92 |
| Total | 71 | 677 |

Bike Share

Simsbury Free Bike Regional Bike Share, established in 2011, provides bikes to borrow at retail establishments along the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail. It is currently the only multi-town bike share in the state of Connecticut and the largest bike share in the State.

Simsbury Bicycle Account

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|------------------------|------|------|------|---------------------|
| Number of Bikes | 6 | 35 | 51 | 55 |
| Number of Towns | 1 | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| Number of Centers | 1 | 8 | 12 | 14 |
| Number of Riders/Trips | 150 | 650 | 1196 | 1600
(Projected) |

Safe Routes to School

Safe Routes to School is a national program dedicated to improving conditions around grade K-8 schools so that more children walk and bike to school, promoting healthier lifestyles and a healthier earth. Education, encouragement, enforcement, engineering and evaluation efforts are all part of this program's comprehensive approach.

In 2010, Simsbury began working with the Connecticut Safe Routes to School Program for assistance in developing programs at Simsbury schools. An effective SRTS program requires a partnership between motivated parents to drive a committee and organize events, supportive administration and staff, a receptive study body/families, and supportive town partners.

At the district level, Simsbury Public Schools is very supportive of SRTS efforts and has allowed individual schools to pursue SRTS programming based on each school community's interest and needs. In 2013, a Simsbury schools SRTS representative joined the Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee as a resource for all of the local programs and any schools desiring to start a SRTS program.

Simsbury has five public grade K-6 elementary schools (Central, Latimer Lane, Squadron Line, Tariffville, and Tootin' Hills) and one public grade 7-8 middle school (Henry James Memorial School). Our goal is to increase public school participation and provide outreach to private elementary and middle schools (St. Mary's, Master's School, Ethel Walker Middle School, The Cobb School Montessori).

Simsbury Bicycle Account

| Event | 2011-2012 | 2012-2013 | 2013-2014 | 2014-2015 |
|--|---|---|--|-----------|
| Participating Schools | -Tootin' Hills Elementary (TH)
-Henry James Middle (HJMS) | -Tootin' Hills Elementary (TH)
-Latimer Lane Elementary (LL) | -Tootin' Hills Elementary (TH)
-Latimer Lane Elementary (LL)
-Squadron Line Elem. (SQL) | |
| SRTS Activities | -Parent survey (TH)
-International Walk to School Day (TH)
-Walking Wednesdays (TH)
-Mini-grant mapping and brochure(TH)
-SRTS Master Plan (TH)
-Infrastructure grant application (TH)
-Walk Audit (HJMS)
-CT SRTS presentation at public library (open to town) | -International Walk to School Day event (TH, LL)
-National Bike to School Day event (LL)
-Walking Wednesdays (TH)
-SRTS program presentation (LL)
-School-wide safety assembly (LL)
-PE class bike/ped safety review (LL)
-Parent survey (LL)
-Library Book Display (LL)
-Booths at Harvest Fest (LL), Walk to Work Day | -International Walk to School Day event (TH, LL)
-National Bike to School Day event (TH, LL, SQL)
-Walking Wednesdays (TH)
-PE class bike/ped safety review (LL)
-Parent survey (SQL)
-Student transportation Tally (LL)
-May Bike Rack Tally (LL)
-SRTS Master Plan (LL)
-CT SRTS Walk Audit (LL)
-Library Book Display (TH,LL, SQL)
-Booths at SeptemberFest, Walk to Work Day, Try Simsbury, Harvest Fest (LL), Fall Festival (SQL) | |
| Walk/Bike to School Day Event Participation | FALL:
TH 158 students (40%) | FALL:
TH: 75 students (20%)
LL 222 students (50%)
68 biked

SPRING:
LL 226 students (50%)
96 biked | FALL:
TH 247 students (62%)
LL 263 students (62%)
125 biked

SPRING:
TH 125 students (31%)
22 biked
LL 262 students (63%)
114 biked
SQL 176 students (29%)
>100 biked | |

Simsbury Bicycle Account

Education

Bike Education Opportunities for Youth

Simsbury Public Schools - Bike Safety Education Program

| | 2011-2012 | 2012-2013 | 2013-2014 | 2014-2015 |
|--|-----------|--|--|--|
| # Students | | 350 | 769 | |
| Simsbury Elementary School Bicycle Fleet (Prepared by Volunteers at Simsbury Free Bike) | | 4 district bikes 16-24" (supplemented with rentals) | 5 district bikes 16-24" (supplemented with rentals) | 28 District Bikes: 16" - 15%
18" - 25%
20"- 50%
24" - 10% |
| Participating Schools | | -Tootin' Hills Elementary
3 rd
[120]

-Latimer Lane Elementary
3 rd
[150]

200 minutes of instruction

-Simsbury High School
summer PE (3 courses) [80]

150 minutes of instruction followed by group ride | -Tariffville Elementary
4 th
[84]

-Central Elementary
4th-6th graders
[225]

-Squadron Line Elementary

4th-6th graders
[375]
200 minutes of instruction

-Simsbury High School
summer PE [85]

150 minutes of instruction followed by group ride | |

Simsbury Bicycle Account

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| Train-the-Trainer Bike Safety Course | April 2012 –2 PE teachers attended 6 hr. course through Bike Walk CT/ Berlin High School | June 2012 – 3 PE teachers attended 6 hr. course at Berlin High School | Oct. 2013 - 6 hr. course at Central Elementary School hosted by Simsbury Public Schools and attended by 4 Simsbury teachers and 12 other teachers from across the state | |
|---|--|---|---|--|

Other Opportunities for Youth

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|------|
| Safe Routes to School | See SRTS | See SRTS | See SRTS | |
| Simsbury High School Cycling Club | | | Cycling skills for beginners to advanced (mountain and road) | |
| Simsbury Leisure, Parks, and Recreation | | 'Awesome Adventure' Camp offers one day of mountain biking (ages 12-15) | Awesome Explorers Camp offers one day of mountain biking (ages 12-15)

Traffic Skills 101/Bicycling Skills for the Road and Multi-use Trail (ages 15+) - 9/14/14

Mountain Bike Clinic - 9/20/14 | |
| Simsbury Public Library | Bike Safety Seminar for Adults/ Teens | | Keeping Your Bike Rolling: Bike Maintenance and Safety for Kids (ages 12-17) 1.5 hrs. | |

Simsbury Bicycle Account

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Simsbury Boy Scouts (Troops 76, 174, 175)

Simsbury Cub Scouts (Packs 76, 174, 175, 276) | Annual Bike rodeos
Biannual Biking Merit Badges | Annual Bike rodeos
Biannual Biking Merit Badges | Annual Bike rodeos
Biannual Biking Merit Badges | |
| Simsbury Police Dept. | Bike Safety Rodeo | Bike Safety Rodeo with Cub Scouts | Bike Safety Rodeo with Cub Scouts - 3 Events

Positive Ticketing (Ice Cream Coupons)
Biking Rodeo - PD Open House | |
| Simsbury Free Bike | | Weekly Bike Maintenance Clinics open to public | Weekly Bike Maintenance Clinics open to public | |

Simsbury Bicycle Account

Opportunities for Adults

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
|--|---|--|---|------|
| Simsbury Leisure, Parks, and Recreation | | | Traffic Skills 101/Bicycling Skills for the Road and Multi-use Trail (ages 15+) 9/14/14 | |
| Simsbury Public Library | May 2012 Bike Safety Seminar | Bicycle Repair and Maintenance, 1.5 hr. | Bicycle Repair and Maintenance, 1.5 hr. | |
| Simsbury Bicycle Ped. Advisory Committee | | Community TV campaign
-Info. Booths at festivals, bike events | -April 2014 League Cycling Instructor Seminar (20 hrs.)
13 Graduated including 2 Simsbury Residents

-Community TV campaign
-Newspaper column Shifting Gears
-Info. Booths at festivals, bike events
- Beginners Ride - 5/14
- Board of Selectman's Ride | |
| Simsbury Free Bike | | Weekly Bike Maintenance Clinics open to public | Weekly Bike Maintenance Clinics open to public | |
| Simsbury Police Dept. | | -May 2013 Share the Road Campaign - 3'Law
-Bicycle and Pedestrian State Law Guide 2013
- Simsbury Community TV | -May 2014 Share the Road Campaign
-Bicycle and Pedestrian State Law Guide 2014 | |
| Communications, new media, traditional media | Facebook - Simsbury Free Bike, CT
Adaptive Cycling, SCTV | Facebook Simsbury Free Bike, CT
Adaptive Cycling; SCTV | Facebook
www.simsbury.bike
SPTV
"Shifting Gears" News column; | |

Simsbury Bicycle Account

Bicycle & Pedestrian Path/Trail Inventory

The SBPAC is cataloging off-road neighborhood routes and connectors on public land. These routes are used to connect schools, parks, neighborhoods and other simsbury destinations. The mapping of these routes, along with other bike facilities (dedicated bike lanes, sharrowed routes, multi-use trails) is an important step toward building a safe, well connected transportation network. The goal of the committee is to identify and map these routes and create public, on-line access.

Simsbury's bike network:

C: Quality and Safety of Cycling and Walking in Simsbury

Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee conducted the first qualitative survey designed to solicit in depth opinions on biking and walking in town. Residents and non residents, cyclists and walkers, with knowledge of the town, were asked to complete the survey using Survey Monkey as the on-line tool. Over 650 responses were received. The objective of the survey was to identify areas for improvement in education, enforcement, equity and infrastructure. These results will help Simsbury to identify and prioritize future advocacy or town bike-ped projects.

Qualitative Survey Results

Survey Respondents Demographics

| Demographics | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--|--------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|----------------|--------------|
| Residency | Simsbury (subdistricts below) | | | | | | | |
| | North | West | Center | Tanville | Weatogue | Other | Other In-State | Out-of-State |
| | Number
85 | 141 | 86 | 16 | 95 | 20 | 261 | 18 |
| Percentage | 12.1% | 20.1% | 12.3% | 2.3% | 13.5% | 2.8% | 37.2% | 2.6% |
| Gender | Female | Male | Declined | | | | | |
| | Number
388 | 306 | 8 | | | | | |
| | Percentage
55.3% | 43.6% | 1.1% | | | | | |
| Age | Under 16 | 17-25 | 26-40 | 41-55 | 56-65 | Over 65 | Declined | |
| | Number
0 | 14 | 121 | 263 | 174 | 123 | 7 | |
| | Percentage
0.0% | 2.0% | 17.2% | 37.5% | 24.8% | 17.5% | 1.0% | |
| Classification | Cyclist (Note: Respondents could select multiple types of bikes) | | | | | | Pedestrian | Both |
| | Road/Racing | Hybrid | Mountain | Recumbent | Other | | | |
| | Number
290 | 222 | 133 | 11 | 22 | 448 | 319 | |
| Percentage | 41.3% | 31.6% | 18.9% | 1.6% | 3.1% | 63.5% | 45.4% | |

Simsbury Bicycle Account

Respondents' Seasonal Walking and Cycling Practices:

| Frequency (Days/Month) | Pedestrians | | | | |
|------------------------|--|---------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| | None | Under 5 | 5 - 10 | 11 - 15 | Over 15 |
| Spring | 8.4% | 29.5% | 20.1% | 18.7% | 23.3% |
| Summer | 6.4% | 30.6% | 21.1% | 18.6% | 23.3% |
| Autumn | 4.4% | 28.6% | 21.2% | 19.7% | 26.1% |
| Winter | 55.6% | 21.1% | 9.4% | 7.6% | 6.3% |
| | Cyclists (Overall) | | | | |
| | None | Under 5 | 5 - 10 | 11 - 15 | Over 15 |
| Spring | 8.6% | 27.9% | 25.1% | 18.2% | 20.2% |
| Summer | 3.1% | 29.4% | 20.1% | 19.7% | 27.7% |
| Autumn | 3.2% | 31.4% | 23.5% | 19.1% | 22.9% |
| Winter | 80.1% | 10.8% | 5.1% | 1.3% | 2.6% |
| | Cyclists (Commuting : 13.2% of total surveyed) | | | | |
| | Under 5 | 5 - 10 | 11 - 15 | Over 15 | |
| Spring | 7.3% | 2.6% | 1.9% | 0.9% | |
| Summer | 6.6% | 2.6% | 2.1% | 1.1% | |
| Autumn | 7.7% | 2.4% | 1.7% | 0.7% | |
| Winter | 10.4% | 1.0% | 0.1% | 0.1% | |
| Purpose | Cyclists | | | Pedestrians (Future) | |
| | Leisure | Fitness | Errands | | |
| Number | 399 | 278 | 47 | | |
| Percentage | 56.8% | 39.6% | 6.7% | | |

Respondents' grade Simsbury as a Bicycle Friendly Community

| Bike Friendly Simsbury - Planning and Prioritizing for the Future | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| How Bike Friendly is Simsbury? | | Average | Most Frequent | Qty 4 - 6 | Qty 1 - 3 |
| | | 4.94 | 6 | | |
| | Number | | | 518 | 62 |
| | Percentage | | | 89.3% | 10.7% |
| How well does Simsbury maintain the Greenway? | | 4.64 | 5 | | |
| | Number | | | 486 | 92 |
| | Percentage | | | 84.1% | 15.9% |
| How familiar are you with relevant vehicle laws? | | 4.31 | 6 | | |
| | Number | | | 425 | 168 |
| | Percentage | | | 71.7% | 28.3% |
| What educational programs would you attend? | | Basic Skills Refresher | Commuting Skills | Bike Maintenance | Laws and Bike Etiquette |
| | Number | | | 0 | 0 |
| | Percentage | | | 0.0% | 0.0% |

Simsbury Bicycle Account

Respondents Safety and Etiquette Practices

| <i>Bike Trail / Road Safety - Survey Questions Rated between 1 - 6, Higher Number is Positive</i> | | | | | |
|---|------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| | | Pedestrian Responses | | | |
| | | Average | Most Frequent | Qty 4 - 6 | Qty 1 - 3 |
| Do you feel safe walking/running? | | 5.16 | 6 | | |
| | Number | | | 379 | 34 |
| | Percentage | | | 91.8% | 8.2% |
| How courteous are other pedestrians? | | 5.03 | 5 | | |
| | Number | | | 380 | 33 |
| | Percentage | | | 92.0% | 8.0% |
| How courteous are cyclists? | | 4.01 | 5 | | |
| | Number | | | 278 | 135 |
| | Percentage | | | 67.3% | 32.7% |
| How courteous are motorists? | | 4.1 | 4 | | |
| | Number | | | 300 | 112 |
| | Percentage | | | 72.82% | 27.18% |
| | | Cyclists Responses | | | |
| | | Average | Most Frequent | Qty 4 - 6 | Qty 1 - 3 |
| How safe do you feel cycling on the path? | | 5.31 | 6 | | |
| | Number | | | 465 | 25 |
| | Percentage | | | 94.9% | 5.1% |
| How courteous are pedestrians? | | 4.39 | 4 | | |
| | Number | | | 374 | 100 |
| | Percentage | | | 78.9% | 21.1% |
| How courteous are other cyclists? | | 4.51 | 5 | | |
| | Number | | | 396 | 86 |
| | Percentage | | | 82.2% | 17.8% |
| How courteous are motorists? | | 4.04 | 5 | | |
| | Number | | | 324 | 155 |
| | Percentage | | | 67.6% | 32.4% |
| How safe is your route from home to the path? | | 3.81 | 5 | | |
| | Number | | | 292 | 192 |
| | Percentage | | | 60.3% | 39.7% |
| How safe are Simsbury roads? | | 3.48 | 4 | | |
| | Number | | | 271 | 207 |
| | Percentage | | | 56.7% | 43.3% |
| How safe are Simsbury sharrows? | | 3.87 | 4 | | |
| | Number | | | 328 | 152 |
| | Percentage | | | 68.3% | 31.7% |
| How safe is Simsbury for child cyclists? | | 3.15 | 4 | | |
| | Number | | | 190 | 259 |
| | Percentage | | | 42.3% | 57.7% |

| <i>Cyclist Safety Indicators (Percentages based on responses per question, some permit multiple responses)</i> | | | | | | |
|--|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------|--------------|
| How often do you wear a helmet? | | Always | Sometimes | Never | | |
| | Number | 435 | 34 | 22 | | |
| | Percentage | 88.6% | 6.9% | 4.5% | | |
| How often do you wear high visibility gear? | | Always | Sometimes | Never | | |
| | Number | 233 | 214 | 38 | | |
| | Percentage | 48.0% | 44.1% | 7.8% | | |
| How often do your children wear helmets? | | Always | Sometimes | Never | N/A | |
| | Number | 225 | 5 | 1 | | |
| | Percentage | 46.5% | 1.0% | 0.2% | | |
| How do you communicate your presence? | | Bell/Horn | Lights | Reflectors | Voice | Hand Signals |
| | Number | 190 | 198 | 323 | 397 | 362 |
| | Percentage | 38.7% | 40.3% | 65.8% | 80.9% | 73.7% |

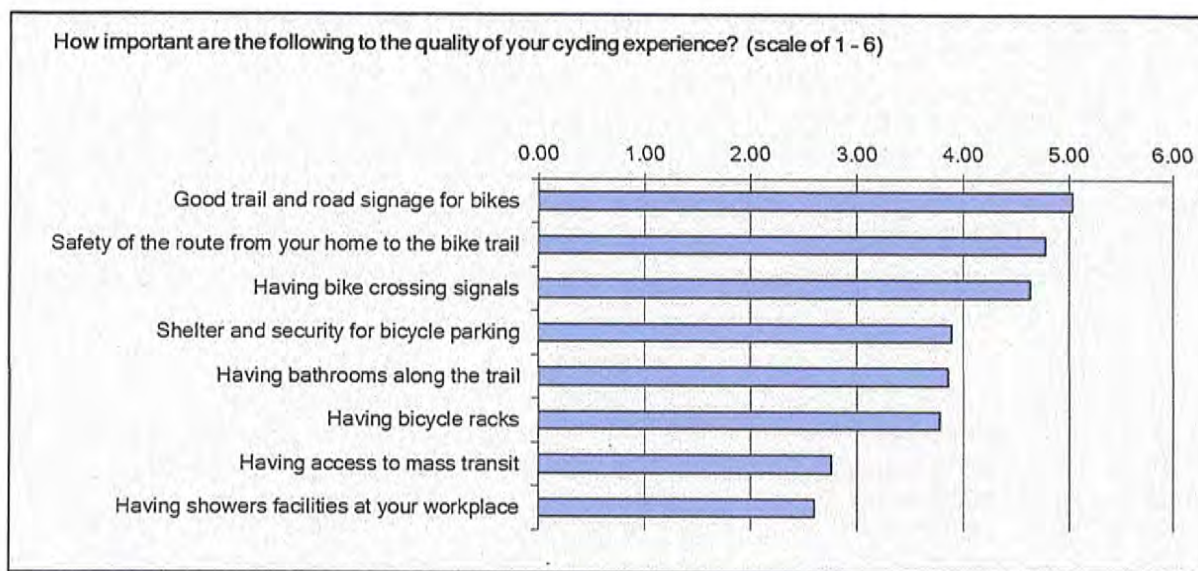
Simsbury Bicycle Account

Respondents Attitudes and Practices: Bicycle Commuting

| <i>Bicycle Commuting Drill Down (Percentages based on response rates per question - less than total surveys)</i> | | | | | | |
|--|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Do you ever commute by bicycle? | | Yes | No or N/A | | | |
| | Number | 95 | 498 | | | |
| | Percentage | 16.0% | 84.0% | | | |
| Do you combine bike with other modes? | | Yes | No | | | |
| | Number | 29 | 68 | | | |
| | Percentage | 29.9% | 70.1% | | | |
| What is your total commuting miles round trip? | | Less than 10 | 11 - 30 | 30 - 50 | Over 50 | N/A |
| | Number | 45 | 34 | 14 | 5 | 9 |
| | Percentage | 45.0% | 34.0% | 14.0% | 5.0% | 9.0% |
| How much of your commute miles do you bike? | | Less than 10 | 11 - 15 | 16 - 25 | Over 25 | N/A |
| | Number | 42 | 11 | 18 | 23 | 13 |
| | Percentage | 42.4% | 11.1% | 18.2% | 23.2% | 13.1% |
| What prevents you from commuting by bike? | | Unsafe Route | Distance | No Parking | No Shower | Logistics |
| | Number | 25 | 16 | 4 | 15 | 65 |
| | Percentage | 31.6% | 20.3% | 5.1% | 19.0% | 82.3% |

Simsbury Bicycle Account

Respondents comment on what improves the quality of the cycling experience?



Collision Data Quantitive Safety Data - Simsbury Police Department

| Incident Reports | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Simsbury Bicycle Accidents | 6 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 1 | |
| Simsbury Bicycle Fatalities | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

* Going forward, accidents will be identified as bike only; bike/bike; bike/motorist; bike/pedestrianActive Transportation Themes in Simsbury

Simsbury Bicycle Account

D. Active Transportation Themes

1. Infrastructure to Improve Safety and Network Connectivity

- **Trail Maintenance:** The Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (SBPAC) conducts trail audits and works with town official to identify projects or programs that will insure that our trail is properly maintained for the safety and enjoyment of all trail users.
- **River Trail Development:** The SBPAC recommended the improvement of the River Trail path to Town Forest Road as a means to 1) provide neighborhood connectivity and 2) to move cyclists off the road onto a safer, 'direct to town' route. 3) Improvement of this section of the trail will decrease the "on road" mileage of the River Trail Loop by 3 miles. This section of trail was completed in August of 2014. We continue to work on the section near Simsbury High School to eliminate winter drainage issues.
- **Tariffville/East Coast Greenway Connection:** The SBPAC enthusiastically supports the creation of a 2 mile trail extension, along the Farmington River, off of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail through Tariffville. This extension will create 1) a safe route for Tariffville residents biking and walking into and out of Simsbury Town Center; 2) will improve commuting mode share by providing access to a safe commuter route to Hartford, via Bloomfield; 3) will be designated as the official East Coast Greenway route through Simsbury offering dramatic opportunities for encouraging commuting and increasing bike tourism. The town has entered into an agreement with the adjacent town of Bloomfield to move this project forward and budgeting has been approved.
- **Wayfaring Signage:** The SBPAC is working with the Town of Simsbury, the Simsbury Chamber of Commerce, businesses and the Farmington Valley Trails Council to develop a signage policy and plan that provides needed information for all trail users. The plan is currently in draft form being reviewed by stakeholders. Two new trailhead signs, welcoming trail users to Simsbury, are scheduled to be installed in August 2014. Signs have recently been installed that direct cyclists to dedicated on-road bike lanes, to town center, to parking and to the 16 mile sharrowed bicycle route.
- **Neighborhood Connectivity:** The SBPAC is working with the Town of Simsbury to identify and map trails through town that will provide safe connectivity for families to safely walk and bike throughout Simsbury. The goal is to develop an interactive map that will guide both residents and visitors safely through neighborhoods via trails and multi-use paths to schools, parks, the library, our trails and town shops.

2. Transportation Safety Education for Cyclists, Pedestrians and Motorists:

Simsbury Bicycle Account

The SBPAC is working to educate all road and trail users about active transportation laws, etiquette, and general safety guidelines that will make biking for transportation or recreation, safer and more enjoyable.

- Simsbury TV: Simsbury public access television programming.
- Public Schools: Bike Safety - Town-wide, 4th graders receive, off and on-bike, bike safety education
- Library: Free bike maintenance classes for children and adults
- Parks and Rec: Mountain Biking Programs; TS 101- prerequisite to LCI Training
- LOAB Tools: Simsbury Hosted its first League Cycling Instructor (LCI) Training in April 2014: After a successful first class, a second class is scheduled for September 2014. This class positions Simsbury as a leader in efforts toward creating a more, bikable Simsbury, Farmington Valley and State of Connecticut.
- National Bike Month Efforts: Simsbury's May bike events are education-based and include bike rodeos, maintenance classes, bike/walk to school events (SRTS), Bike to Work Day celebrations and beginners rides.

3. Encouragement/Advocacy:

Simsbury is committed to pursuing initiatives that encourage and enable cycling as a safe, convenient and enjoyable form of transportation and recreation. To accomplish this Simsbury employs the following programs/strategies, events, campaigns and promotion:

- **Simsbury Board of Selectmen:** Continue to showcase the work of the SBAC to the Simsbury Board of Selectmen to demonstrate the value a Bike Friendly Community designation provides to Simsbury residents and businesses and the Farmington Valley.
- **Simsbury Economic Development Commission:** Continue to showcase the work of the SBAC to Simsbury's Economic Development Commission demonstrating the value a silver designation can provide in retaining talent and attracting new residents, tourists and businesses to the Town of Simsbury.
- **Business Community:** The Simsbury Free Bike advocacy group and the SBPAC will continue to work through local foundations, the Chamber of Commerce and Mainstreet Partnership to collaborate and build opportunities designed to enhance our reputation as a Bicycle Friendly Community. Local businesses benefit from an increase in riders from in and out of town, and businesses that welcome riders will see the greatest return.
- **Simsbury Schools:** The goal of the SBAC is to engage all of our Simsbury Schools, public and private, elementary through high school, in the adoption of walking and biking programs either through health and wellness programs, physical education classes or as after school sports programs and clubs.

Simsbury Bicycle Account

- **Simsbury Free Bike Regional Bike Share:** Simsbury Free Bike has grown from simply a regional bike share to an advocacy organization that supports state bike share initiatives, reviews Farmington Valley BFC applications, encourages school initiatives (including fleet building for our local schools) and organized rides for beginners. We routinely work with the State and other towns interested in understanding what it means to to a Bicycle Friendly Community.
- **Equity Initiatives** - Simsbury continues to identify and address the needs of underserved populations by conducting women's rides, offering free maintenance clinics to women and children and by donating bikes where we see a need, such to the ABC (A Better Chance) house in Simsbury. Our goal is to make biking a viable transportation option for all our residents.
- **Build a Bike Friendly Farmington Valley** - In 2014, 2 Simsbury residents became League Cycling Instructors (LCI), we have 1 Bike Friendly Community application reviewer and we counsel bike advocates from other towns. Simsbury advocates are active in all FVTC, ECG and State of CT bike initiatives. We have hosted a number of State of CT rides to bring attention to the gaps in the trail in other towns that have included the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental and Energy Protection. In September we will host a ride that included the Commissioner of Tourism, State of Connecticut.
- **Simsbury Celebrates Bike Month** - Education and encouragement are the two biggest objectives for Celebrating Bike Month in Simsbury! The month is filled with PSA's on community TV, safety signage on the roads, safety programs in schools and safety messages in the local papers and on social media.

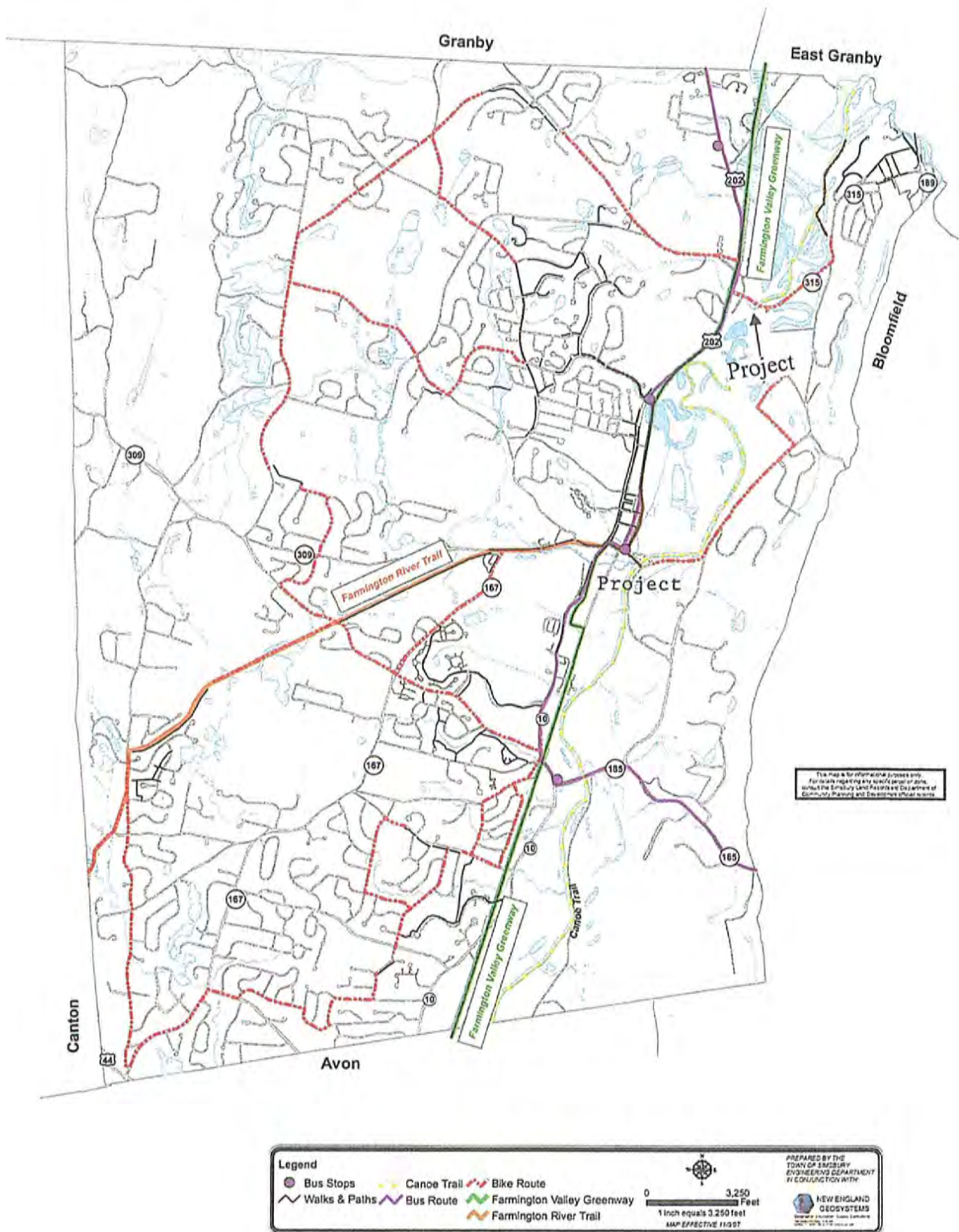
Questions? email simsburyfreebike@gmail.com

"Like" us on www.Facebook.com/Simsburyfreebike

ATTACHMENT C-5



Town of Simsbury Non-Vehicular Transportation Plan




Simsbury Bike Network Map

Interactive GoogleMaps map: <https://mapsengine.google.com/map/edit?mid=z6pR47Dy3lSU.kGRkPdQLS7ag>


Simsbury Bike Network- 8/2014

Preliminary map; all locations and boundaries are approximate.
Interim map while data is integrated with Simsbury's GIS mapping program.


Mountain Biking

 All items (12)


Rest Rooms

 All items (6)

CT Transit Park and Ride

 All items (3)

Bike Shops/Repair Services

 All items (5)

Multi-use Trails

40 ☐

Red lines ECG – Green lines

Sharrowed and Signed Road Routes 7 ☐

Sharrows: Purple lines
Signed Routes: Pink lines

Bike Lanes

2 ☐

Blue lines

Cautionary On-Street Bike Routes 14 ☐

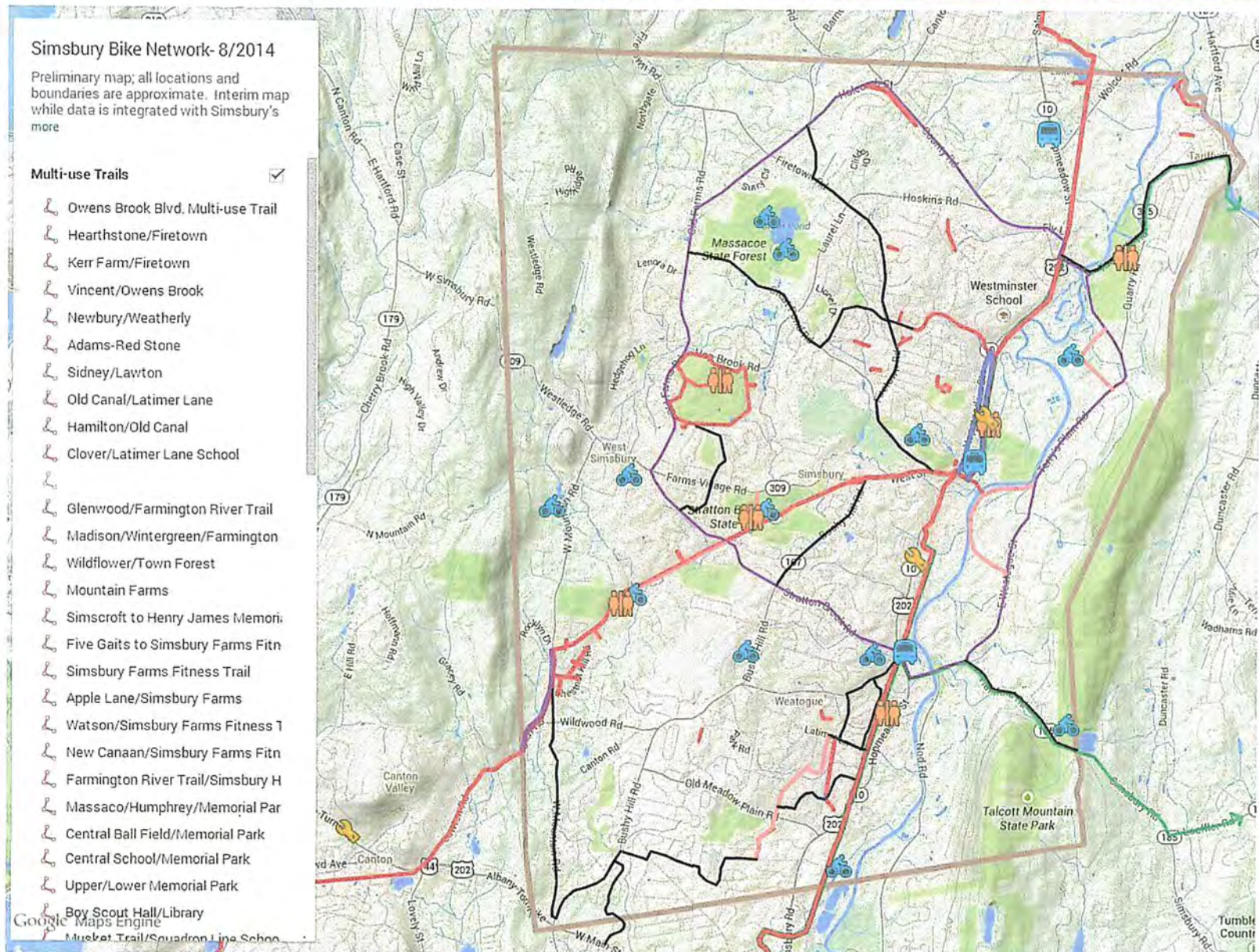
Black lines

Simsbury Border

Tan/silver lines

Simsbury Bike Network Map

Interactive GoogleMaps map: <https://mapsengine.google.com/map/edit?mid=z6pR47Dy3ISU.kGRkPdQLS7ag>



Simsbury Bike Network Map

Interactive GoogleMaps map: <https://mapsengine.google.com/map/edit?mid=z6pR47Dy3ISU.kGRkPdQLS7ag>

Sample: Multi-use Trail Descriptions

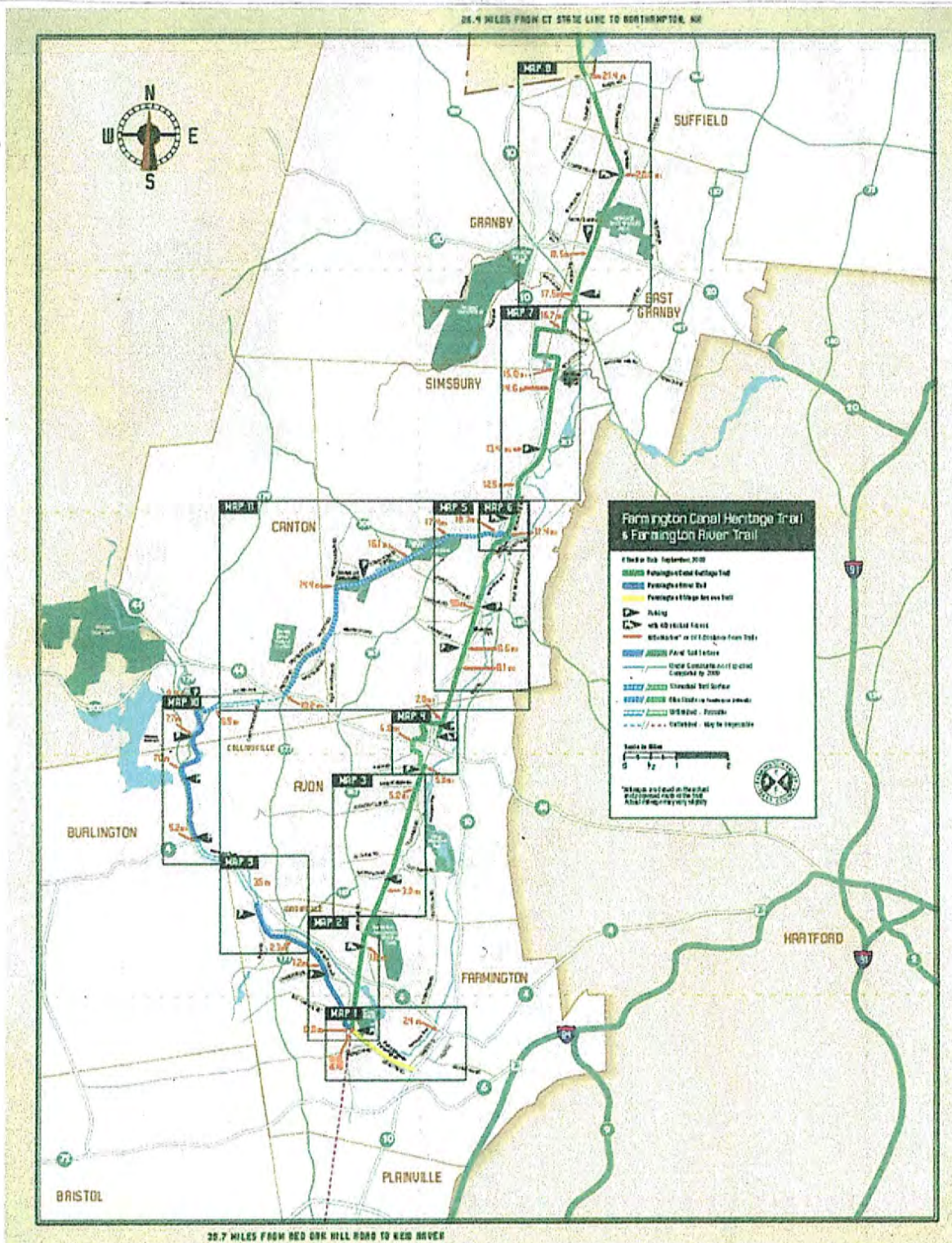
Multi-use Trails

Find in table

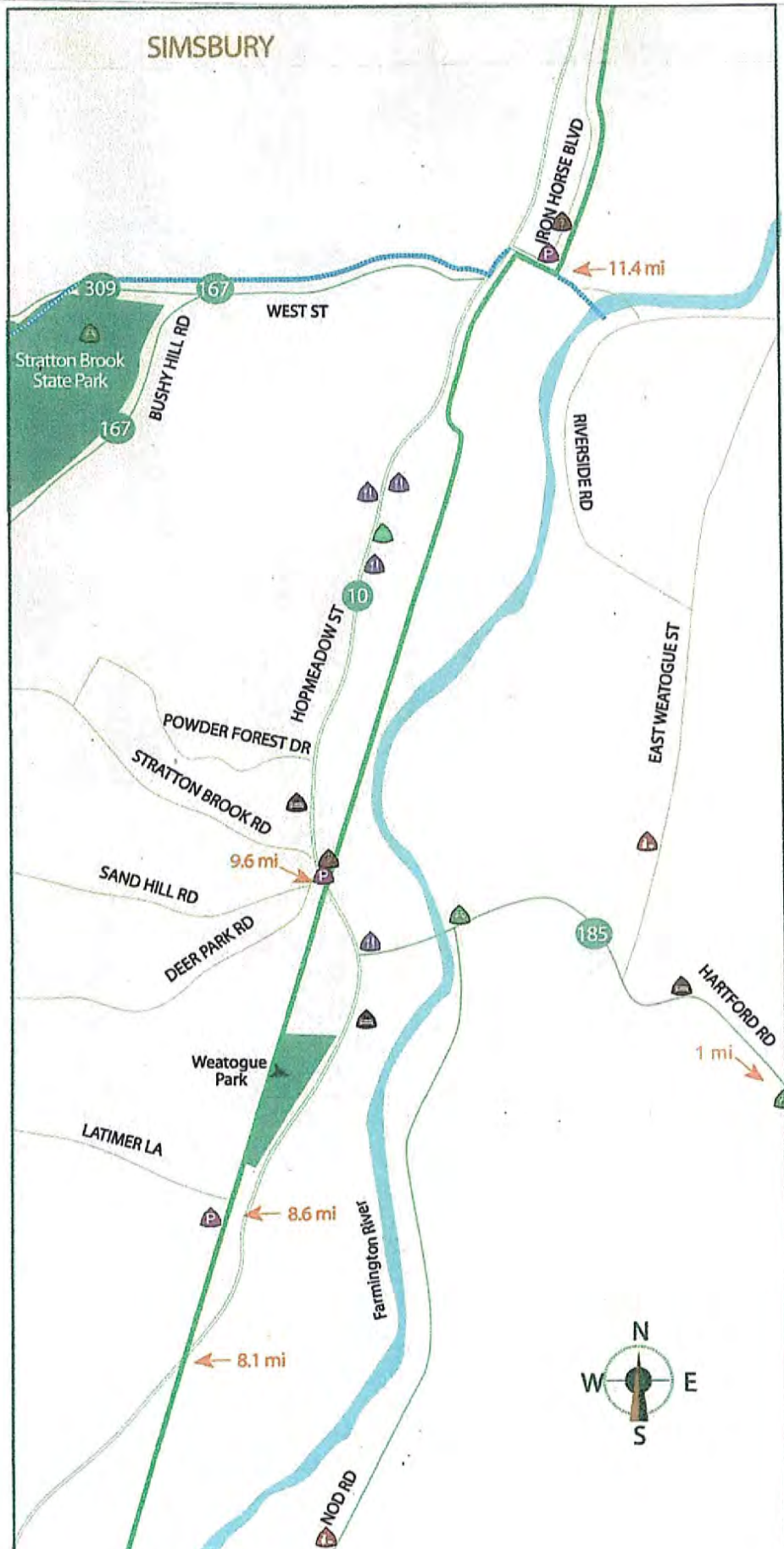
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| | name | description | Surface | Length |
|---|--|--|--------------------|----------------|
| 1 | | Simsbury Border | | |
| 2 | *East Coast Greenway | Simsbury's completed section of ECG, a 2,900 mile multi-use trail from Maine to Florida. | paved | 9.4 mi. |
| 3 | *East Coast Greenway - temporary route | Temporary route for East Coast Greenway | paved, on road | 1.9 mi. (Sims) |
| 4 | *Farmington Canal Heritage Trail | 84-mile multi-use trail connecting New Haven, CT to Northampton, MA. Simsbury's 7.2 mile section is all shared-use paths. | paved | 7.2 mi. (Sims) |
| 5 | *Farmington River Trail | 18.3 mile from Farmington through Unionville, Burlington, Collinsville, to Simsbury. Simsbury section is 5.9 miles includes on-road and off-road sections. | paved, stone dust | 5.9 miles in S |
| 6 | Adams-Red Stone | Neighborhood Connector Trail. Short trail through grassy wetlands. Single Lane | paved, single lane | .15 mi. |
| 7 | Apple Lane/Simsbury Farms | Neighborhood Connector Trail | dirt | 280 ft. |
| 8 | Boy Scout Hall/Library | Boy Scout Hall/Library Connector Trail | paved | 100 ft. |
| 9 | Central Ball Field/Memorial Park | Neighborhood Connector Trail | dirt, single track | 250 ft. |

Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, and Farmington River Trail



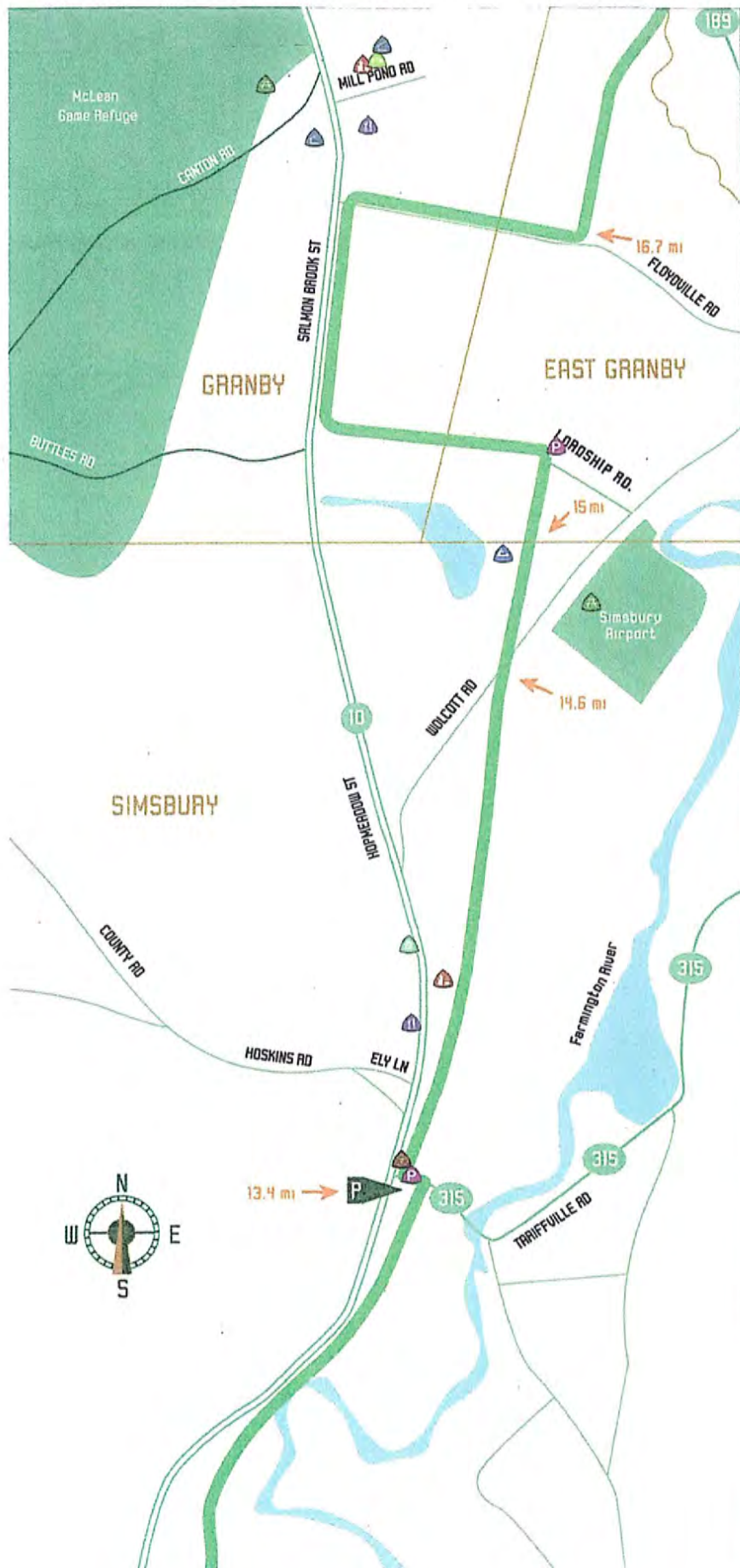
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Simsbury

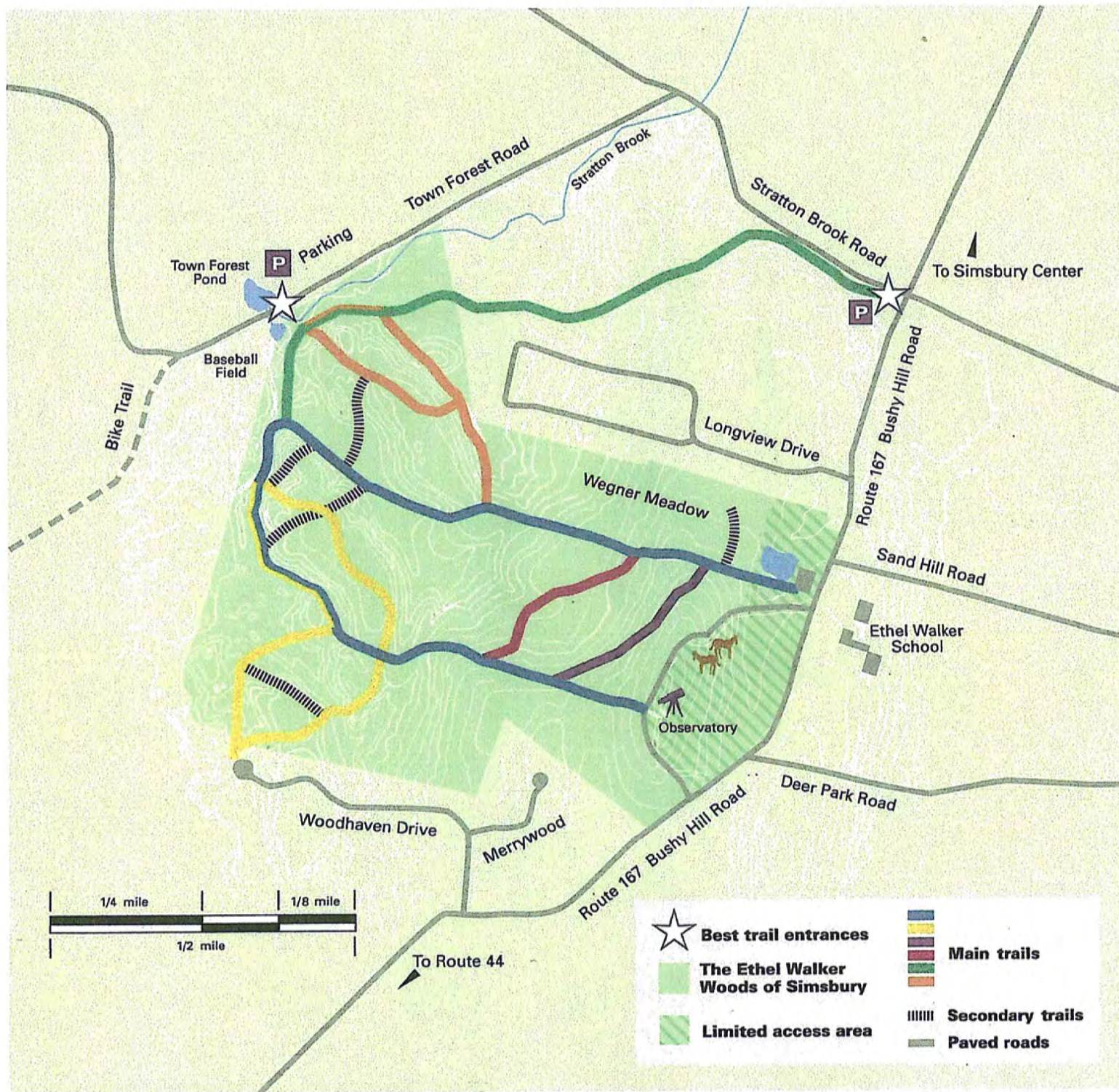


Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Map, Simsbury Center



Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Map, Simsbury North





The Ethel Walker Woods of Simsbury

Simsbury's Economic Development Cycling's Potential



Simsbury's Economic Development Cycling's Potential



Bicycles have fantastic potential.

Maybe not this fantastic.

But this presentation will demonstrate that a real economic contribution can be realized by fostering a safe, bike friendly culture within the community.

Summary

Cycling has a significant economic footprint

"Everybody rides"

It's an attractive lifestyle, a catalyst for growth and business generation



Simsbury's is one of two Bicycle Friendly Communities in Connecticut, and is looking to do more

Working to cultivate a bicycle friendly culture

Partnering with Simsbury businesses to promote a bike friendly business district and office environment

2

The key points are these.

Cycling has a surprisingly large economic impact.

Everybody rides. That's more than a two word declarative sentence. It's a mantra for advocates working to make cycling safe and accessible to everyone.

Cycling is part of a lifestyle that can attract young professionals; promote tourism, and day visits from nearby towns; increase shop visit rates for merchants; and enhance office productivity.

Simsbury has been certified as a Bronze level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. That's not a Nobel Prize, but it's still a big deal. And now, a small group of civic-minded enthusiasts are working in partnership with the town to achieve the next level of certification, which is Silver.

A key part of that effort is to promote and engrain a bike friendly culture.

To do that, we're introducing Simsbury's merchants and offices to the benefits they can realize by joining our efforts and adopting bike friendly practices.

U.S. Cycling Industry Stats

Annual sales: \$7.3 billion
Family bike shop share: 88%
Riders 39.1 million
Avid riders: 5.3 million
Household Income >\$75k: 42%



Cycling's importance for Simsbury's economic development: High

3

Interest in cycling is rapidly growing globally. UCI sanctioned races were recently introduced in Dubai, Oman, and China. . . . But who cares about them, we live in the USA.

In the U.S., the annual sales of bicycles, accessories, and clothing totals \$7.3 billion. That's just the direct economic impact. We'll look at the far greater, indirect effects in a moment.

Most of those sales occur within small, family owned bike shops. That means it's really a main street, hometown type industry.

There are 39 million riders in the U.S. 5 million ride more than 110 days a year.

42% are from households earning more than \$75 thousand. Commercially, that's a pretty appealing group.

Who rides?

Professional racers, of course



So, who are these cyclists?

These guys of course.



So do

Women



And women with children

5

Women ride.

And women with kids.

Also

Men



And men with children



6

Also Men.

And men with kids.

There's

Whole families



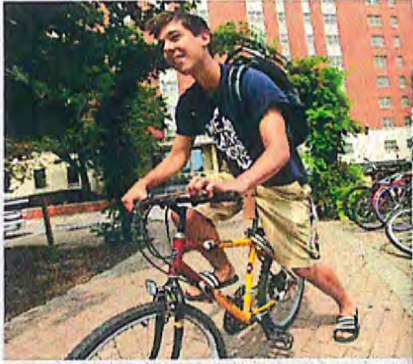
And just kids



There's whole families on bikes.

And just kids.

Some ride to Class



8

Some people ride to class . . .

Others just have it



9

Others just have it.

For those of you too young to know Audrey Hepburn. Just think of the person that Anne Hathaway used to be.

For those of you who don't know Anne Hathaway . . . you should get out more.

Everybody rides

Young and less young



And those with special challenges



10

Everybody rides.

Everybody rides is a newly established event sponsored by Project Mobility whose mission is to provide adaptive bikes to those with emotional and physical challenges.

It can also be the theme phrase for every effort to build a community with safe accessible bike transportation.

It's a lifestyle that attracts



New residents and guests

New friends and neighbors



11

A bicycle friendly community offers an attractive lifestyle.

Attractive can mean appealing. But more to the point here, it also means having the power to attract.

And A Key To Economic Development



**Kip Bergstrom, Deputy
Commissioner, CT Department
of Economic and Community
Development**

The values of most 25-34-year olds these days are very green, including a **strong preference for places that are bikeable and walkable**, ... and which they can help make more bikeable and walkable through their own direct action.

Connecticut and its **cities and towns are in a competition with other regions for this young, mobile talent**, who are the fuel for the growth of the next economy. **It is essential that we win this competition in order for us to succeed economically.**

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This now is first key message of this presentation regarding economic development.

Kip Bergstrom of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development believes that Connecticut and its towns are in a competition for young, mobile talent, who are the fuel for growth.

And most of these 25 to 34 year olds are very green, with a strong preference for places that are bikeable and walkable, ... and places they can help make more so through their own direct action.

A Key To Simsbury's Development

Town of Simsbury, CT
Economic Implementation &
Marketing Action Study
October, 2013

Development opportunities –
“capitalizing on Simsbury’s
recreational assets (the rail trail
and Farmington river) to create a
sports complex, and/or retail
stores that cater to fishing, hiking,
and **biking**.”

Fostering household formation



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There's a similar message within an economic development study commissioned by the town of Simsbury.

Opportunities were noted therein to capitalize on Simsbury's recreational assets via a sports complex and a retail orientation toward fishing, hiking, and biking.

These efforts at the state and local level are important for the continuing economic development and long-term viability of our town.

There are also more immediate financial benefits accruing to the Bicycle Friendly Community.

“Bike Friendly” Attracts Benjamin\$



Cyclists spend \$46.9B annually
including meals, transportation, lodging, gifts and
entertainment
\$133B of spill-over effects to all related activities
Supporting 1.1 million jobs
Generating \$17.7B in federal, state and local taxes.

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“Bike Friendly” means business.

Cyclists spend \$47 billion annually. That's Billions with a B.

Also, the value of spillover effects, jobs created, and taxes paid are astounding.

Significant Economic Contribution



Wisconsin (2010) – Bicycle recreation and tourism **contributes \$924m** to the state's economy and estimates that the health benefits total \$409m.

Iowa (2011) – Commuter and recreational cycling generates more than **\$400m in economic activity**, resulting in health savings of \$87m.



Minnesota (2009) – Goods and services produced in the state attributed to bicycle **riders' spending came to \$261m**. This supported more than 5,000 jobs and generated \$35m in taxes.

Colorado (2000) – Bicycling **contributed \$1B** to the economy from manufacturing, retail, tourism and bike races.



Vermont (2009) – Biking and walking **created at least 1,400 jobs, \$41m in wages and \$83m in revenue**. Health and property value benefits were more than \$400m.

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Here are some additional stats we collected demonstrating the contribution made by cycling.

\$900 million contributed in Wisconsin.

\$400 million in Iowa.

Minnesota attributes to cycling \$260 million of spending, supporting more than 5,000 jobs.

Colorado says \$1 Billion came from cycling. But who knows what their smokin'.

Vermont combined the data for walking and biking and put the revenue figure at \$83 million.

“Bike Friendly” Attracts Tourism



Maine – Bicycling tourism generated **\$66m a year** in bicycle tourism as of 2001.

North Carolina – The Outer Banks generates **\$60m in economic activity** through bicycle tourism.



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Bike friendly also attracts tourism.

Get your town on the adventure cycling maps and these guys will show up.

It's an older number, but Maine estimated that bike tourism was generating \$66 million a year.

Bike tourists in North Carolina's Outer Banks accounted for \$60 million.

We'd like to put Simsbury on those maps.

Simsbury Free Bike Guest List

Home town and guest count of those Simsbury visitors using
Simsbury Free Bikes during the period May through September 2013

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Total guests from other towns | 368 |
| CT towns | 168 |
| Other US States | 188 |
| Other countries | 12 |



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We also have some stats reflecting the cycling interests of visitors to our area.

Last year, there were 368 visitors from other towns who borrowed a bike from Simsbury Free Bike. Each borrowing results from an entrance into one of our local businesses.

46% of these visitors were from other Connecticut towns. 51% were from other U.S. states.

We also had visitors from Canada, France, Italy and England who enjoyed riding about Simsbury on a bicycle.

Cyclists Bring Pictures\$



San Francisco's Valencia Street – Two-thirds of merchants said that **new bike lanes had a positive overall impact** on their business.

Toronto's Bloor Street – **People who biked** and walked to the area **spent more money** in the area per month than those who drove there.



Portland, Oregon – Customers who arrive by automobile spend the most per visit across all of the establishments, but **cyclists spend the most per month.**



Broad Avenue Memphis, TN – **"Bike lanes slowed down traffic** and people started noticing the businesses more," said Pat Brown, The Clifton Gallery. **"Our business revenues have grown on average 30 percent per year."**

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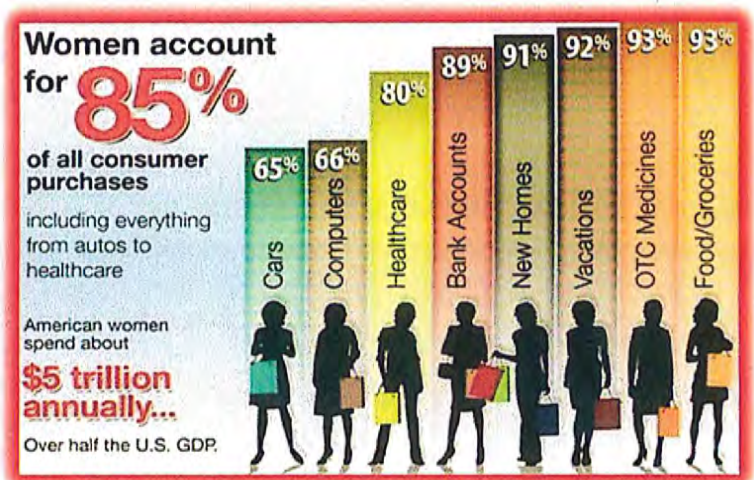
Good things happen on Main Street when it becomes Bike Friendly.

Listed here are testimonials from the Streets of San Francisco . . . and Toronto Portland and Memphis.

One key takeaway here is that cyclists visit more and spend more than those arriving by car.

Let's repeat that for emphasis. Cyclists visit more and spend more than those arriving by car.

America's Consumer . . . She Bikes



Women took 980+ million bicycle trips in 2009

Safety and comfort are key concerns

Bike lanes increased female ridership 276% in Philadelphia, 115% in New Orleans, 100% in L.A.



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Of course, women are America's most important customer . . . and she bikes.

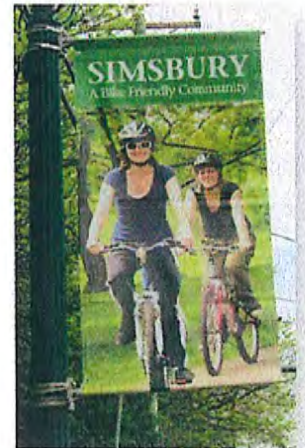
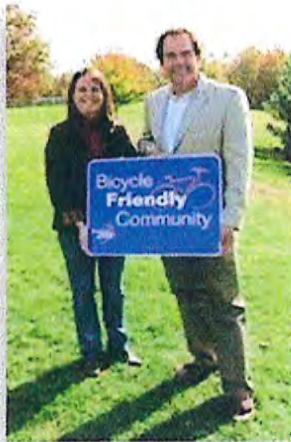
Women account for 85% of consumer purchases, spending \$5 trillion annually. Yikes!

The key concern of female riders is feeling safe and at ease on the road.

Enhancing the cycling infrastructure to provide a sense of safety and comfort boosts ridership, and helps delivery America's favorite consumer to the merchant's door step.

This is an investment that increases local travel, benefitting local businesses.

Simsbury's Bike Friendly ...



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There are about 280 communities in the U.S. that hold a Bicycle Friendly certification from the League of American Bicyclists. Only two are in Connecticut, South Windsor and Simsbury.

The League is a national bike advocacy group that was established in 1880.

Simsbury holds the League's Bronze level certification . . .

... But Aiming Higher

Next step: Silver Certification

Simsbury Bicycling Advisory Committee

Leading the effort (herding the cats)

Essential certification elements (the 5 Es):

Engineering - Safety and convenience

Education - Skills and confidence

Encouragement - Creating a strong bike culture

Enforcement - Safe roads for all

Evaluation & Planning - Planning a viable transportation option

Cultivating Simsbury's cycling friendly culture



Bicycle Friendly Business District

Bicycle Friendly Offices



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... And is now pursuing Silver.

The certification criteria are built around the elements listed here, and known as the 5 Es.

Creating a strong bike culture, the third item on the list, is an element to which Simsbury's businesses can contribute.

That contribution is made by furthering the evolution toward bike friendly merchants and bike friendly offices.

Bicycle Friendly Business District

BENEFITS MERCHANTS AND CUSTOMERS



Increased Sales

- Shop closer to home
- Shop more often
- More connected

Parking made simpler

- Easy hop off and park
- Closer to destination shops
- Free, ample space



CONVENIENT AND INTERPERSONAL

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The cycling shopper shops closer to home and more often. The convenience of local shopping and the increased interaction with merchants lead to greater customer loyalty.

That convenience and personal interaction benefits both the merchant and the cycling shopper.

Bicycle Friendly Office



Greater productivity
Fewer sick days
Higher task accuracy
Better teamwork



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Bike friendly can also benefit your office environment.

Cycling can be a shared, social activity.

The exercise and fresh air have obvious health benefits. But also, a shared interest in cycling improves teamwork. Improved health and teamwork results in increased productivity.

How Can I Help?

Support Simsbury's Bicycle Friendly Community certification efforts

- Support / organize community cycling events
- Provide / advocate cycling infrastructure
 - Bike racks and corrals
 - Bike paths, lanes and signage
 - Attractive trail frontage
- Promote a "Bike Local-Shop Local" message
 - Targeted marketing - Specials / incentives for cyclists
- Include "Bike Friendly Simsbury" in visitor outreach advertising
- Stay informed
 - Like Simsbury Free Bike on Facebook
 - Visit www.Simsbury.bike



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So what can Simsbury's businesses do to help? What can we do to help our town's efforts to build and reinforce a bike friendly culture?

We can help organize and support the cycling events that increase community awareness and participation.

Provide fixtures like bike racks near shopping; and covered, secure bike storage for employees. Become advocates for the infrastructure that can improve bike safety and neighborhood linkages to Main Street. Make your bike trail frontage attractive and welcoming.

Target your advertising or other messaging to cyclists, using channels familiar to cyclists.

Use the web based resources to stay informed about Simsbury's cycling efforts and activities.

Action Ready Ideas



Merchants – “Think Bikes” and be creative
Offer healthy, packaged, ready-to-eat food
Sport drinks, Bottled water
Display bike route maps and know the trail
Provide a public rest room for cyclists

Offices – Foster a “Ride to work” culture
Bike storage, showers, group rides,
lunch rides, miles ridden displays

Inns – provide secure, dry storage and
laundry service

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There are some simple things that can be done right away. Offer products and services that cyclists need, or information that supports the activity.

In the office, support those who ride to work, or want to ride during work hours. Reward the activity with perks, available lunch time, and promotional messaging; for example, miles ridden charts on message boards.

Hospitality businesses can arrange to provide secure, dry storage and laundry services.

These are just a few ideas. In the appendix there are longer lists of bike friendly business services. Please have a look and see if you can implement some that might apply to your business.

Bike Month Event Calendar

- May 1 Mary Glassman, Board of Selectman Ride, 5 PM
- May 4 Valley Cycling Annual Meeting, 3 to 5 PM, Simsbury Library
- May 7 Latimer Lane Safe Routes to School, Nat'l Bike to School
- May 11 National Bike Week Begins
- May 14 Tootin Hills Safe Routes to School
- May 15 Squadron Lane Safe Routes to School
- May 16 Bike to Work Day, Reception 6 to 8 AM Iron Horse Blvd.
Bike to Work Day, Happy Hour 5 PM, Red Stone Pub
- May 17 Farmington Valley Trails Council 30 Mile Ride, 10 AM Iron Horse Blvd.
Red Stone Pub Guest Bartender, 12 Noon, Benefits Simsbury Free Bike
- May 18 Try Simsbury Triathlon, Run-Bike-Paddle, 11 AM Drake Hill Rd.
- May 20 Adult Bike Maintenance, 6 to 7:30 PM, Simsbury Library
- May 26 Simsbury Memorial Day Parade, Thanks to our Veterans
- May 31 Bike to Simsbury Library with your children, All day event
- June 1 Simsbury Parks & Recreation, Bike Safety/Traffic Skills 101 course



Let's Roll!

For more information go to www.simsbury.bike

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Lastly, listed here are upcoming cycling and cycling related events.

Please contact us using the contact information listed below if you'd like to know more about how you can participate, or support these events.

Appendix



Creating a Bike Friendly Simsbury

Welcome cyclists with accommodations

- Add a bike rack
- Make your trailside welcoming
- Sell maps and know the trail
- Know your location on the trail (mile marker)
- Market to cyclists: themed menus, "we ship" signs, advertise your distance from the trail
- Advocate for safe, well connected routes from neighborhoods to shops
- Understand the meaning of the Bicycle Friendly Community designation
- Be familiar with www.bikeleague.org
- Review and support the League's 5 E's
- Use www.Simsbury.bike

As community leaders you can:

- Lead by example, e.g., bike to work
- Be able to explain the trail map and interesting bike routes
- Add "Bike Friendly" to your Facebook page
- Sponsor bike events and participate in Bike Month activities
- Be a Simsbury "Bike Friendly Business"
- Advertise the Simsbury Free Bike locations
- Advocate signage and safe pathways to your business
- Like Simsbury Free Bike on Facebook to stay informed about local bike friendly news
- Support trail maintenance and the East Coast Greenway extension
- Help Simsbury achieve CT's first Silver Bicycle Friendly community designation

Thank you Pattie Smith Jacobus of Simsbury Free Bike for this listing

Bike Friendly Business Services

Bike mechanic on-site
Bike parts, supplies and tools for sale
Bike rentals
Bike tire floor pump
Bike tours
Bike-specific informational materials
and/or staff knowledge
Camping on-site
Complimentary bike locks
Complimentary bike parts, supplies and
tools for use
Complimentary bikes for visitor use
Complimentary drinking water
Complimentary product shipping

Designated bike cleaning area
Dining
First aid
Groceries
Healthy packaged ready-to-eat food
Laundry on-site
Lodging
Long-term car parking
Public restroom
Self-serve bike repair station
Shipping on-site
Short-term bike parking on-site
Shuttle service
Wi-Fi



Hat tip to the source of this information:
Travel Oregon's Bike Friendly Business Program

<http://industry.traveloregon.com/industry-resources/product-development/bike-friendly-business-program/>

