



# SIMSBURY PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

Board of Selectmen



Monday, December 17, 2018 | 6:00 PM



FITZGERALD & HALLIDAY, INC.  
Innovative Planning, Better Communities

COGENT



# PLAN DEVELOPMENT

**Thomas J. Roy, PE - Director of Public Works**

**Marcy Miller – Senior Project Manager, Associate  
Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.**





# WHY DO THIS PLAN?



- Build upon existing efforts
- Promote walking and bicycling
- Develop recommendations
- Establish 3-, 5-, and 10-year goals



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND INPUT

- Advisory Committee
  - Provide insight on local conditions / issues
  - Brainstorm ideas with the project team
  - Review and comment on draft plan
  - Help raise awareness of the project
- Outreach materials
  - Project website
  - Business card
  - Brochure
- Pop up outreach events (3)
- Online survey





# VISION STATEMENT

The Town of Simsbury will have an **expanded and ADA-accessible network of sidewalks, greenways, trails, and on-street roadway connections** linking people to jobs, schools, destinations, adjacent communities, and each other.

Through improving upon the existing infrastructure, **residents will enjoy improved quality of life, public health, and economic opportunity.**



# GOALS



1. **Safety:** Improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety for all community members, regardless of age, ability, and experience



2. **Connections:** Improve connections to and between key destinations for employment, education, culture, recreation, and shopping within town and the overall region



3. **Education:** Educate all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists, on how to safely share the road



4. **Economics:** Capture the economic benefits for local businesses that result from accessibility and an active, mobile community, sparked by an increase of pedestrians and bicyclists



5. **Branding and Wayfinding:** Foster the development of a cohesive Town brand that promote the culture of active transportation through coordinated and consistent designs, including signage



6. **Maintenance:** Identify appropriate goals and standards for maintenance to provide comfortable, attractive, and safe amenities for pedestrian and bicycle use



# COMMUNITY FINDINGS & NEEDS ASSESSMENT







# FINDINGS & NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## Resident Issues Voiced at Pop Up Events

### Lack of sidewalks

“Lack of sidewalks or pathways or even adequately wide shoulders on any of the roads...”

“...many busy roadways outside town center lack sidewalks or marked shoulders.”

### No lighting

“Poor or inconsistent lighting makes me feel unsafe...especially at dusk or at night.”

“Lighting is terrible however one of the charms of Simsbury is that there are not street lights everywhere.”

### Conflicts with other modes

“Cars fly by...even along curvy, windy roads!...I always assume they are also distracted.”

“Bikes use sidewalks even when there are bike lanes.”





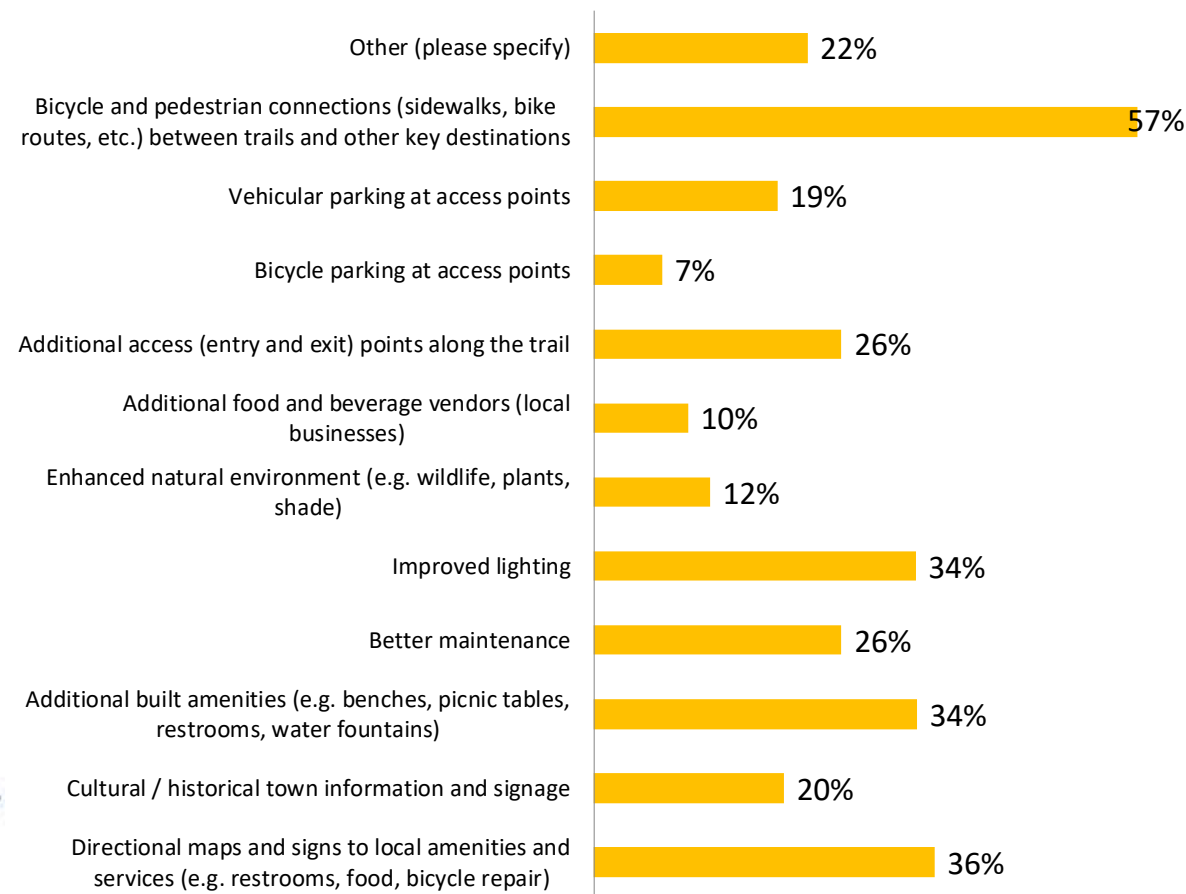
# FINDINGS & NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## Online Survey Highlights

- **878 responses!**
  - 66% provided their zip code
  - Of these, 90% were Simsbury residents
  - 530 Simsbury responses
- 88% walk or bicycle on the trails in Simsbury
- 52% drive to the trails they are going to use



## Improvements that would encourage more trail use





# FINDINGS & NEEDS ASSESSMENT

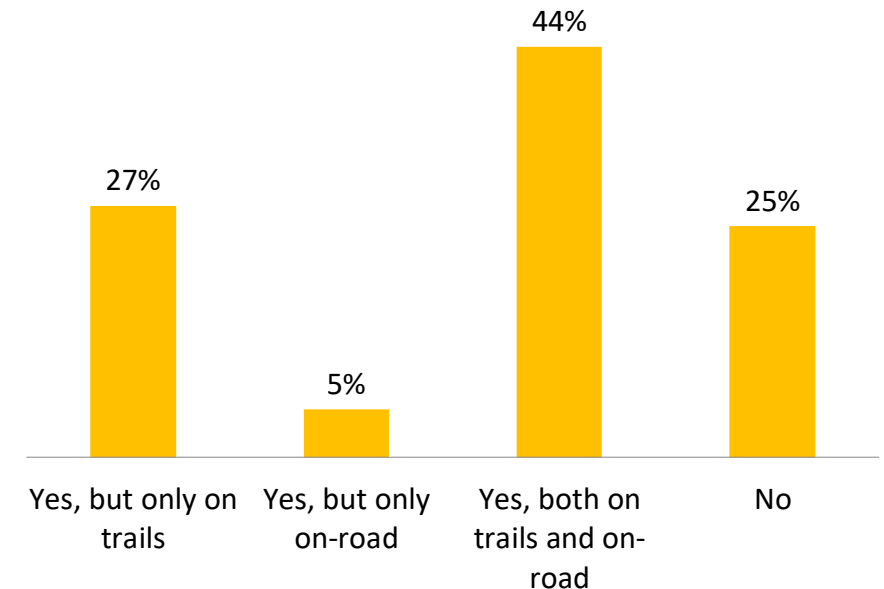
## Online Survey Highlights - Safety

- 47% do not feel safe walking and biking in Simsbury!?
- Reason why include:
  - Distracted drivers
  - High vehicular speeds
  - Narrow shoulders
  - No sidewalks
  - Inadequate lighting
  - Wildlife encounters
  - Crime

**Only 6% say Simsbury is less safe than in surrounding towns!**

- Reason why cyclists are not on the roads:

- Safety / security (52%)
- Too much traffic (36%)







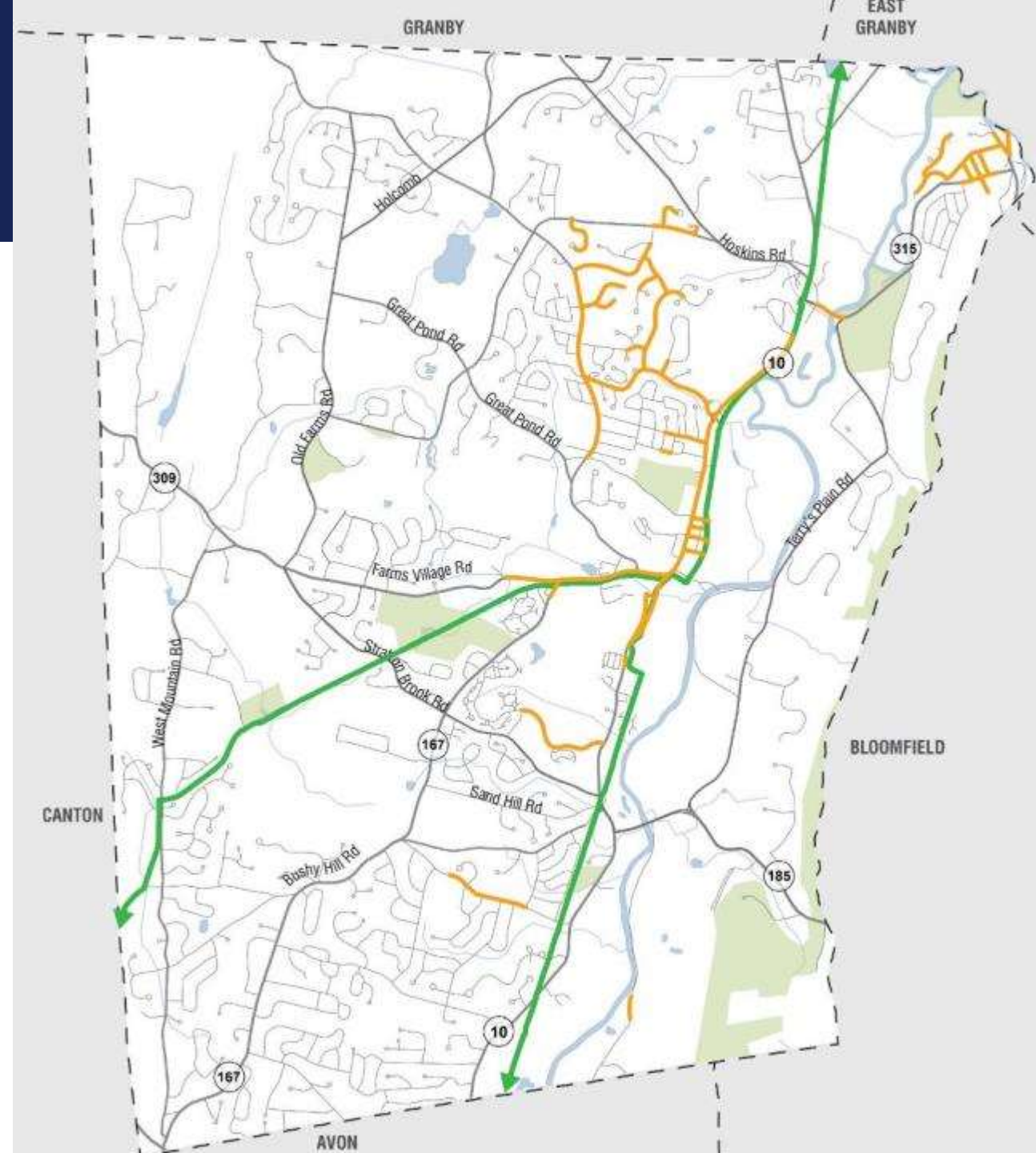
# NETWORK NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## Existing Network

Sidewalks 

FVHT / Farmington  
Valley Greenway 

*Where are the needs?*

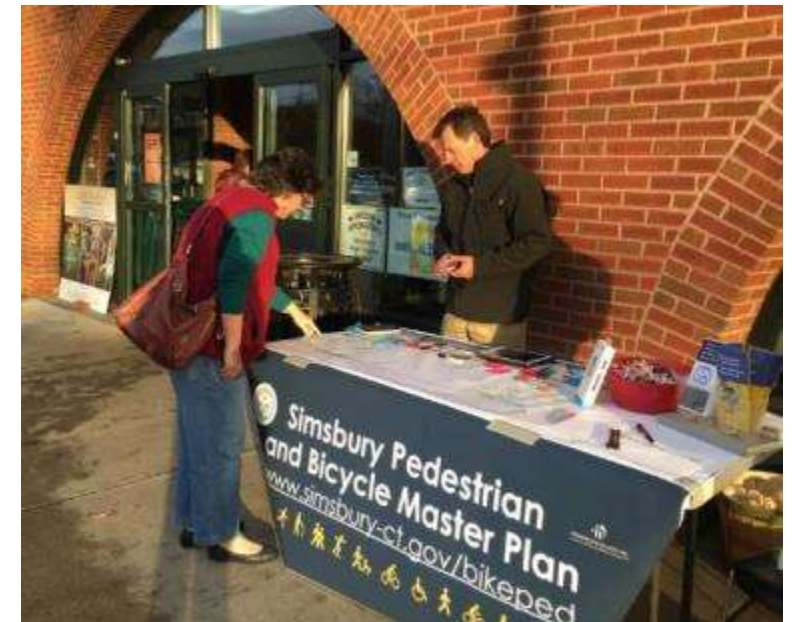




# NETWORK NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## Methodology

- Step 1: Inventory of input
- Step 2: Community engagement score based on number of listings
- Step 3: Other considerations
  - Identified in other studies
  - Connections to destinations
  - Crashes
  - High usage







# NETWORK NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Top 10 network needs



State-maintained facility



# RECOMMENDATIONS







# RECOMMENDATIONS

Top need may not be top recommendation!

Considerations:

- Cost
- Timeframe
- Ease of implementation
- State-maintained facility





# RECOMMENDATIONS

## Example: Lighting

### Considerations:

- Community feedback
- Prior commitments
- POCD





# RECOMMENDATIONS



1

## **POLICIES & PROGRAMS**

High, Medium and  
Low Priorities



2

## **NETWORK & FACILITIES**

High, Medium and  
Low Priorities



3

## **SIGNAGE & WAYFINDING**

High, Medium and  
Low Priorities







# HIGH PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1

## POLICIES & PROGRAMS



- School bicycle program expansion
- Bicycle Friendly Business program
- Safety / crash monitoring
- Trail user count program



# HIGH PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

2

## NETWORK & FACILITIES



- Bloomfield to Tariffville Multi-use Path connection (3 segments)
- Hopmeadow Street signalized intersections existing crosswalk upgrades
- Firetown Rd sidewalk installation
- Targeted elderly and disabled intersection treatments
- ADA-compliant crossings



# HIGH PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

## Concept Plans

2

### NETWORK & FACILITIES

#### N12 - Latimer Lane at Mountain View Drive: Sidewalk Installation and Crossing Improvements

There is an existing sidewalk along Latimer Lane west of Latimer Lane School. This concept recommends extending the sidewalk east to the intersection with Hopmeadow Street. Recommendations also include the removal of the centerline pavement marking along Latimer Lane to calm traffic, which would be compliant with MUTCD standards since the road had an ADT of 2,100 according to 2013 traffic counts. This is a strategy that has been successfully utilized by nearby towns such as West Hartford.

An additional sidewalk along Mountainview Road would further strengthen the pedestrian connection to surrounding neighborhoods. Unique pavement markings, such as chevron or transverse, are recommended to alert motorists that they are approaching a school zone and to slow down.

Existing Conditions



1. **Tariffville Road:** Crossing improvements at Hopmeadow Street and FCHT / Multi-Use Path
2. **Tariffville Center:** Access management, sidewalk installation and placemaking improvements
3. **Massaco Street and Fairview Street:** Sidewalk installation and crossing improvements at Firetown Road
4. **Hoskins Road:** Sidewalk installation and crossing improvements at Clifdon Drive and Firetown Road
5. **Stratton Brook Road:** Traffic calming strategies and trail crossing improvement
6. **Latimer Lane:** Sidewalk installation and crossing improvements at Firetown Road
7. **West Mountain Rd:** Traffic calming strategies
8. **West Simsbury neighborhood to Simsbury High School:** Shared use path





# HIGH PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

## Sample Concept Plan

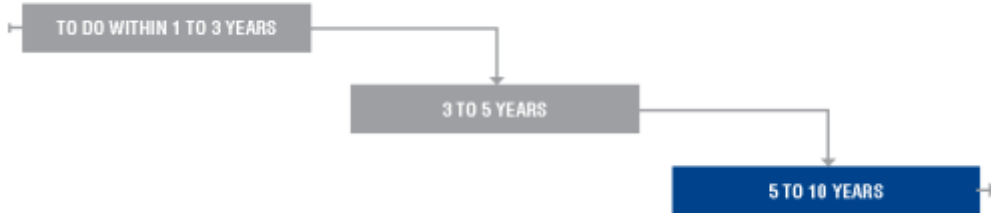
2

### NETWORK & FACILITIES

Goals Achieved Through This Recommendation

✓	✓				

Timeframe



N14- West Simsbury (Fox Den / Cedar Hill)  
Neighborhood to Simsbury High School:  
Shared Use Path Connection







# TRAFFIC CALMING TOOLBOX

**Buffered Shoulder**



**Traffic circle**



**Curb Bump-out**



**Chicane**



**High-visibility Crosswalk**



**Raised Crosswalk**



**Raised Median**



**Speed Hump**







# HIGH PRIORITY RECOMMENDATION

3

## SIGNAGE & WAYFINDING

- Signage removal





# IMPLEMENTATION







# Implementation

**3 Year**  
GOALS  
High  
Medium & Low Priorities



**10 Year**  
GOALS  
High  
Medium & Low Priorities



**5 Year**  
GOALS  
High  
Medium & Low Priorities



- Identifies:
- Priority
  - Timeframe
  - Lead organization / partners

A photograph of a dirt path in a forest. The path is made of brown soil and leads into the distance. On the left side of the path, there is a large tree trunk and a dense patch of tall, green grass. On the right side, there is a dense patch of green ferns. The background shows more trees and greenery.

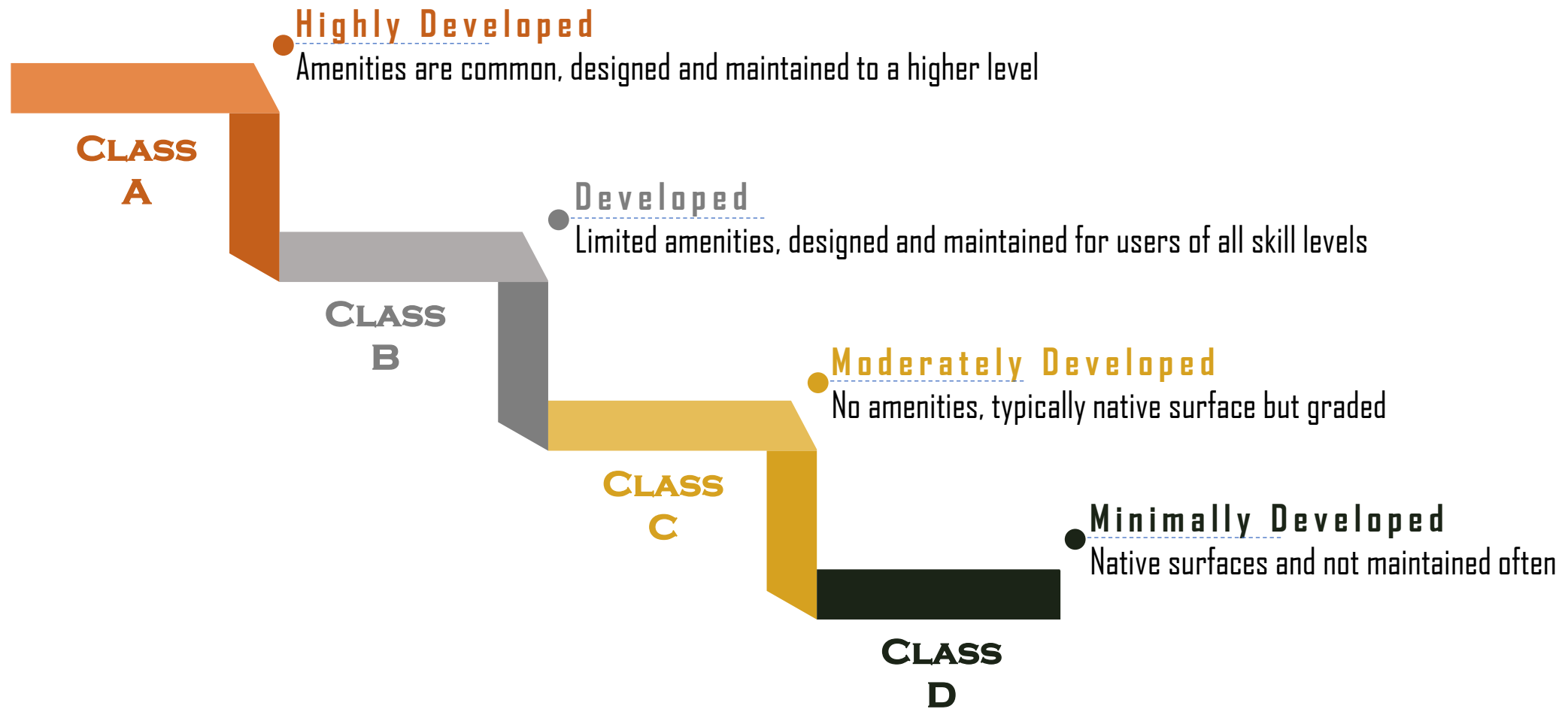
# **FACILITIES MAINTENANCE**





# MAINTENANCE

## Trail Classes







# MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

## Trail Classes Examples

**MORE**

***SURFACE  
AMENITIES  
MAINTENANCE***

**LESS**

**CLASS A  
LINEAR PARK**



**CLASS B  
GREENWAY**



**CLASS C  
FUNCTION**



**CLASS D  
NATURAL SURFACE /**







# HIGH PRIORITY RECOMMENDATION

- Maintenance Policies and Procedures Manual development
  - Set appropriate expectations
  - Fund accordingly







THANK YOU





# EXTRA SLIDES

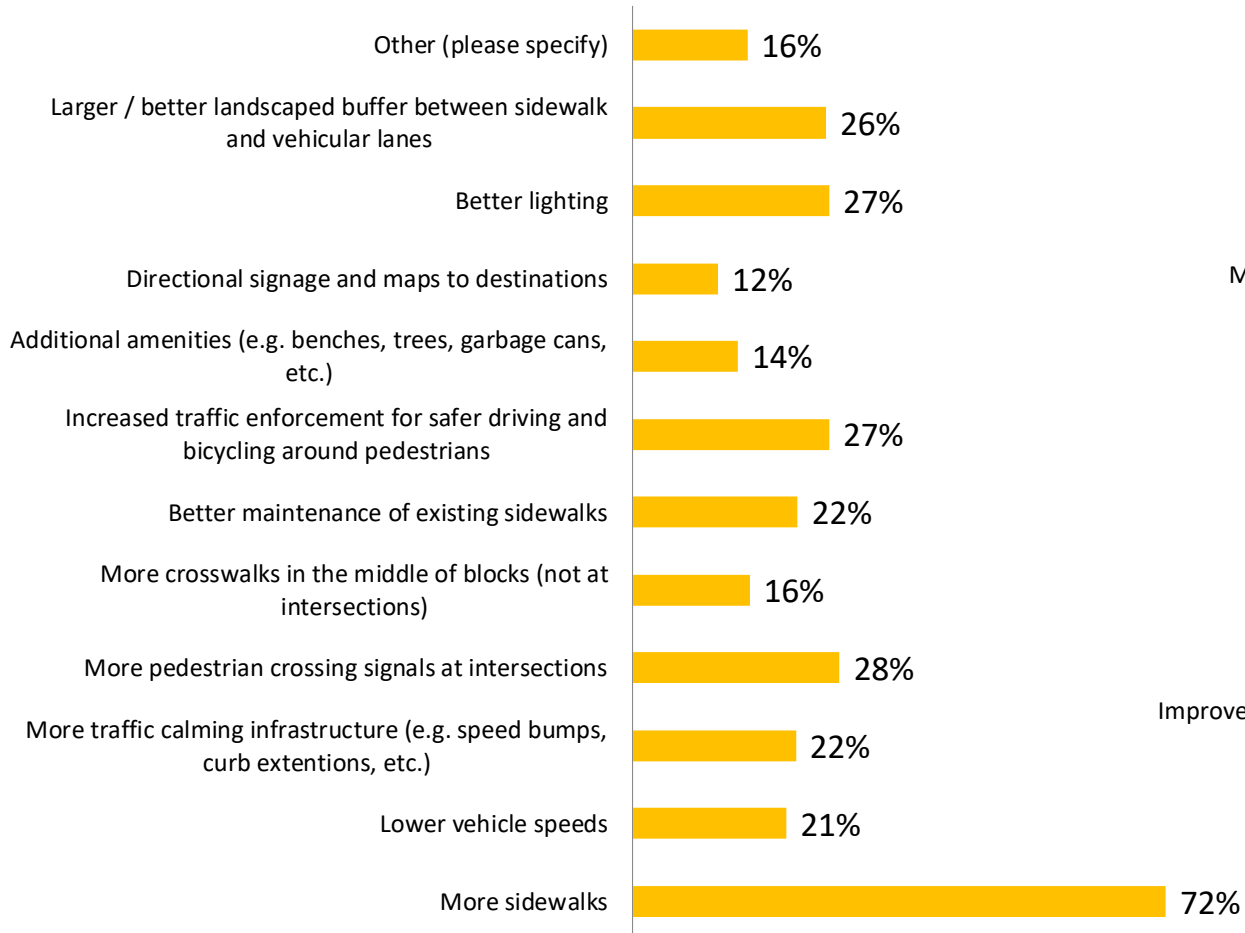




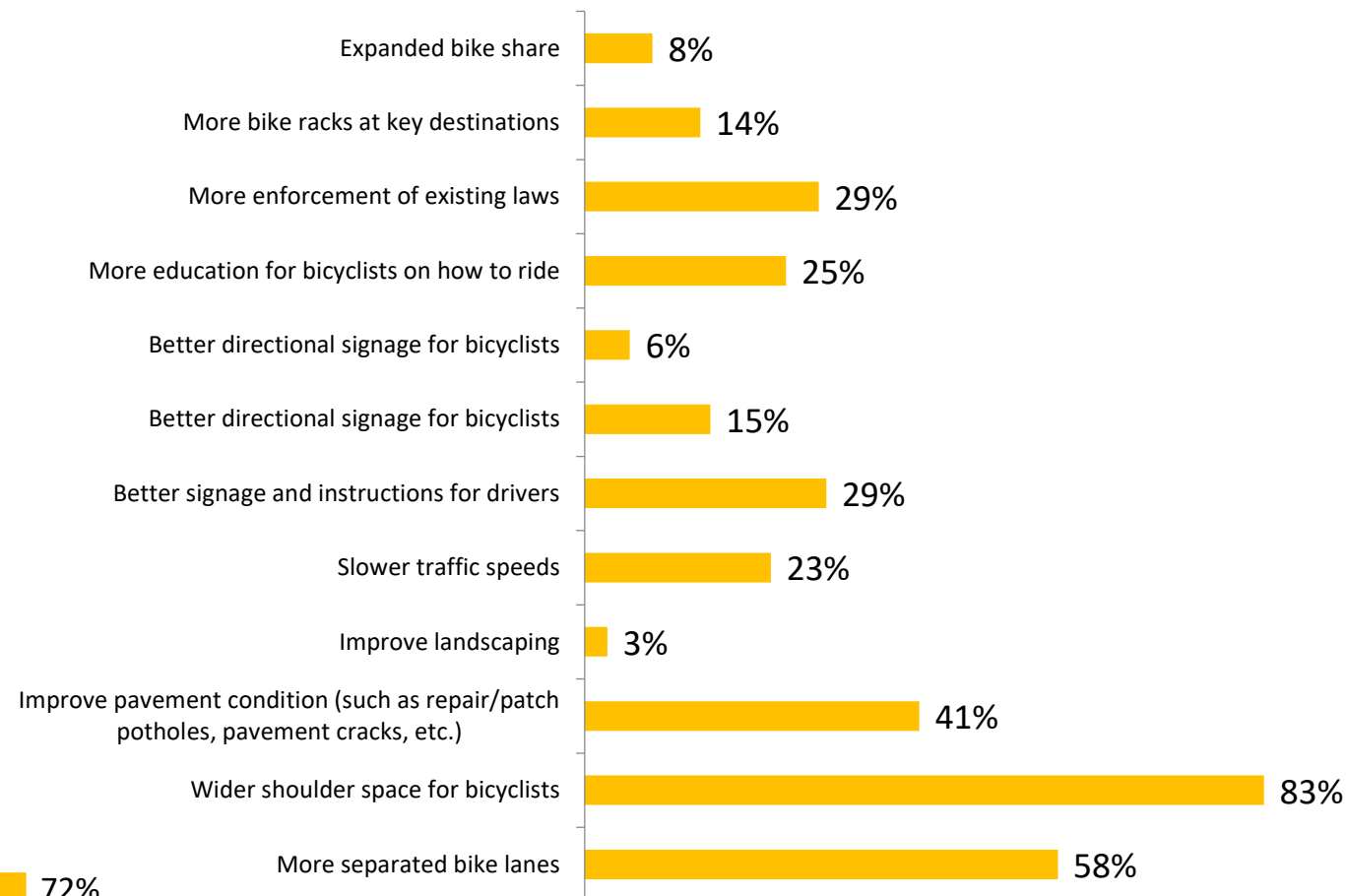
# FINDINGS & NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## Online Survey Highlights - Improvements

### Improvements that would encourage more walking alongside Simsbury's roads



### Improvements that would encourage more bicycling on Simsbury's roads





# EXISTING CONDITIONS – Simsbury's Accomplishments

## Policies, Ordinances, and Programs

### Policies and Ordinances

- Zoning Regulations (2018)
- Complete Streets Resolution (2016)
- Simsbury Center Code (Adopted 2011, Amended 2017)
- Hartford-Simsbury Form-Based Code (2014)
- Guidelines for Community Design (2012)
- Scenic Road Ordinance (1991)

### Programs

- AARP Network of Communities App
- Bicycle Friendly C
- Preserve America
- Simsbury Free Bik
- National Bike Cha
- Safe Routes to Sch
- Simsbury Police D
- Educational Progr







# EXISTING CONDITIONS– Simsbury's Accomplishments

## State and Local Planning Efforts

### State Legislation

- Improving Bicycle and Pedestrian Access  
*Public Act 09-154*
- Vulnerable User Law - *Public Act 14-31*
- Bicycle Safety Bill – *Public Act 15-41*

### CT DOT Policies and Practices

- Complete Streets Policy (No. Ex. O.-31)
- 11-Foot Lane Restriping

### Simsbury/Regional Efforts



- Capitol Region Complete Streets Plan
- 2015 CROCOG Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan Addendum
- Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Count & Active Transportation Audit
- Simsbury 2017 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD)
- Community Connectivity Program Grants
- Route 10 Corridor Study
- Simsbury Town Center Charrette Report
- Sidewalk and Curb Ramp Assessment Services Project





# EXISTING CONDITIONS – Simsbury's Accomplishments

## Network & Facilities

### Bicycle Routes and Multi-Use Trails

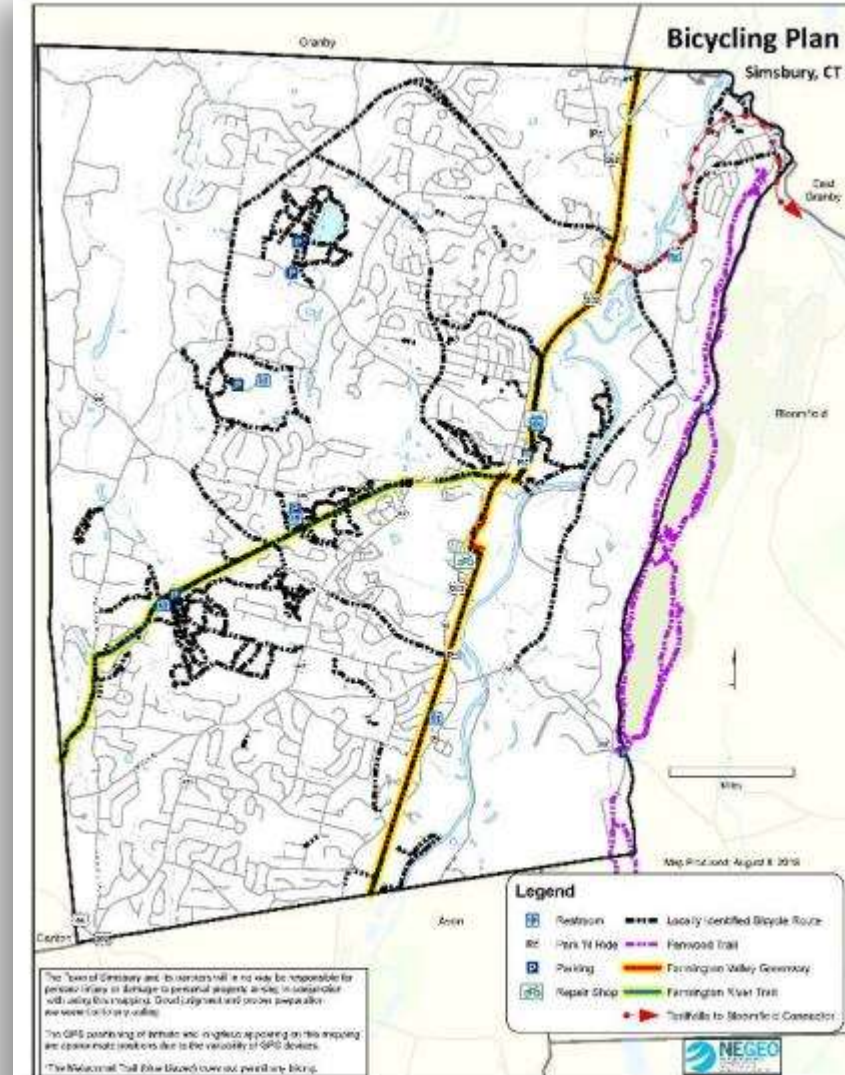
- Sharrowed Loop
- Farmington Canal Heritage Trail
- Farmington River Trail
- Neighborhood Connector Trails

### Bike Parking & Repair Stations

### Public Transportation



Paving 2.8 miles of FCHT







# PLAN DEVELOPMENT

## Existing Conditions – Community Profile

- Suburb of Hartford population of about 23,000
- Open space and farmland protection
- Expecting a steady decrease in population through 2040 if previous demographic trends continue



Sources: \*2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; \*\* 2012 Survey of Business Owners



# PLAN DEVELOPMENT

## Existing Conditions – Signage & Wayfinding

- Shared Lane Markings
- Compliance with MUTCD
  - Signage Inventory
  - D1-3c - provides destination name, direction to that destination, and distance to the destination
- Local Sign Ordinance

*D1-3c Signage*



*Sign Inventory and MUTCD Compliance Database*







# NETWORK NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## Chart

#	Network Connection	Total Engagement Score	Weighted Engagement Score	Other Considerations (e.g. proximity to schools)	Total Assessment Score
1	Hopmeadow Street	125	12	19	27
2	Farms Village Road	32	3	16	20
3	Bushy Hill Road	48	4	11	14
4	Firetown Road	52	5	7	12
5	Tariffville Road	44	4	7	12
6	West Mountain Road	39	3	7	11
7	West Street	26	2	9	11
8	Hoskins Road	27	2	8	10
9	County Road	12	1	7	8
10	Owens Brook Boulevard	12	1	7	8

#	Network Connection	Total Engagement Score	Weighted Engagement Score	Other Considerations (e.g. proximity to schools)	Total Assessment Score
11	Town Forest Road	5	0	8	8
12	Drake Hill Road	10	1	6	7
13	Old Farms Road	26	2	5	7
14	Plank Hill Road	13	1	6	7
15	Seminary Road	20	2	5	7
16	Stratton Brook Road	33	3	4	7
17	Massaco Street	12	1	5	6
18	Latimer Lane	20	2	3	5
19	Musket Trail	12	1	5	6
20	Iron Horse Boulevard	7	0	5	5



# RECOMMENDATIONS

When thinking about recommendations...

## 1) WHERE should facilities go? → Network Recommendations

- Fill in the gaps
- Make connections



## 2) WHAT should go there? → Facilities Recommendations

- Best practices
- New sidewalk or improved sidewalk?
- Bike parking, streetscape amenities, water fountains, etc.







# MEDIUM & LOW PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1

## POLICIES & PROGRAMS



- Road safety campaign for all users
- Walk Friendly Community designation
- School bicycle and pedestrian promotion program
- Bicycle tour that showcases Simsbury
- Bicycle parking guidelines
- Complete Streets policy
- Town road safety audit program



# MEDIUM & LOW PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

2

## NETWORK & FACILITIES



- Hopmeadow St at Drake Hill Rd crossing
- Hopmeadow St at Fitzgerald's Market / Simsbury Public Library crossing
- Lane narrowing program
- Hopmeadow St at the Quad Hill Rd trail entrance crossing





# MEDIUM & LOW PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

3

## SIGNAGE & WAYFINDING

- Update trailside kiosks
- Farmington River Trail signage

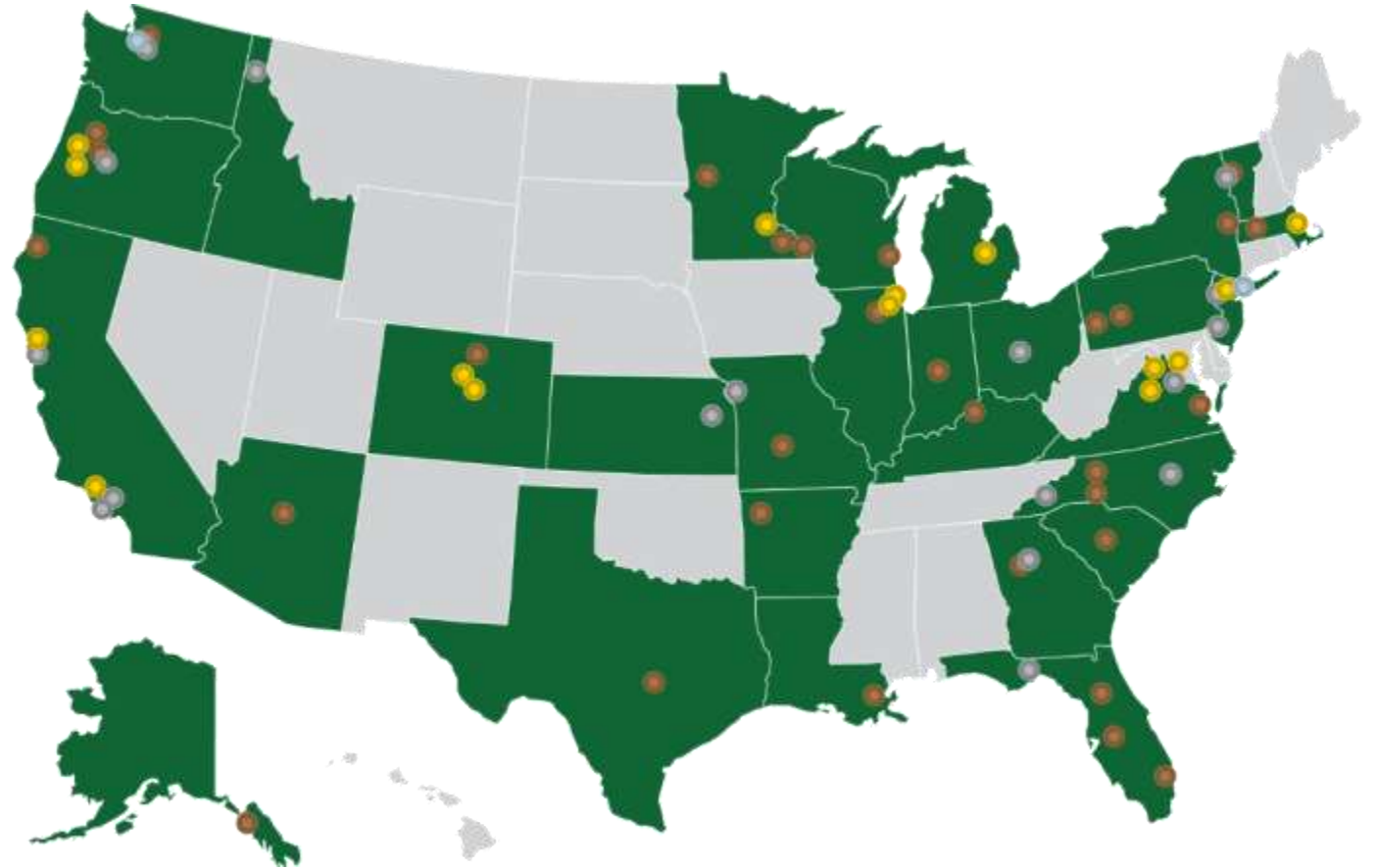




# WALK FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

## The Details

- Program began in 2011
- Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum designation
- A number of cities have achieved gold and silver status
- No CT communities designated







# WALK FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

## What they look for

1. Community information, data, and evaluation
2. Planning and policy
3. Education and encouragement
4. Engineering and design
5. Law enforcement





# WALK FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

## Self Assessment Tool

- **COMMUNITY INFORMATION, DATA, AND EVALUATION**
  - Pedestrian coordination / dedicated staff
  - Guiding policy statement or strategy (e.g. Vision zero)
  - Nonmotorized count program
  - **Analysis of safety data**
- **PLANNING AND POLICY**
  - **Pedestrian plan with routine implementation tracking and review**
  - Targets for increased mode share and safety
  - Complete streets policy
- **EDUCATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT**
  - **Safe Routes to School Programs**
  - Public education or safety campaigns
  - Open Streets and other events

- **ENGINEERING AND DESIGN**
  - Sidewalk design and network coverage
  - Comprehensive design guidance
  - Formal traffic calming & speed management program
- **LAW ENFORCEMENT**
  - Dedicated traffic safety unit
  - Targeted pedestrian safety enforcement operations
  - Interdepartmental collaboration and cooperation

**WALK FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES SELF-ASSESSMENT**

Many cities and towns are already developing and implementing the initiatives, policies, and programs recommended by the Walk Friendly Communities program. Using this checklist will help your community document existing activities, identify those areas where you can grow your programs, and put you on the path to develop a Walk Friendly Communities application. The items in the checklist represent some of the key components of a Walk Friendly Community, but they do not include all of the items in the full Community Assessment Tool.

To learn more and submit a full application, visit [www.walkfriendly.org](http://www.walkfriendly.org).

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*"Our city takes pride in recognition of the work that we do by organizations such as Walk Friendly Communities. Being our city in the national conversation of multimodal planning played a role in City Council choosing to continue formalize pedestrian projects at a high level."*

*— Walk Friendly Community: Charlotte, North Carolina*







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**SIMSBURY**

**There!**



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## SIMSBURY

There!  
Almost there





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### SIMSBURY

There!

Almost there

Needs consideration



# WALK FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

Example: Northampton, MA

- [Sustainable Northampton Comprehensive Plan](#) set walkability goals
- 2017 [Walk/Bike Northampton](#) plan expanded goals
- Two existing roundabouts, two in design
- Curb extensions, bicycle lanes, road narrowing, wider shoulders
- Pedestrian count program
- Accessory dwelling / density bonuses policies
- Police foot and bike patrols
- Paid / trained crossing guards at all elementary / middle schools
- 22.6 miles of linked trails, 12 miles planned

Population: **28,549**

Population Density: **836/sq. mi.**







# WALK FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

## More Information

- Applications accepted 2X per year (June, December)
- <http://walkfriendly.org/apply/>

