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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 Hearthstone 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 tweens/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 Ely 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 sharrowed 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