

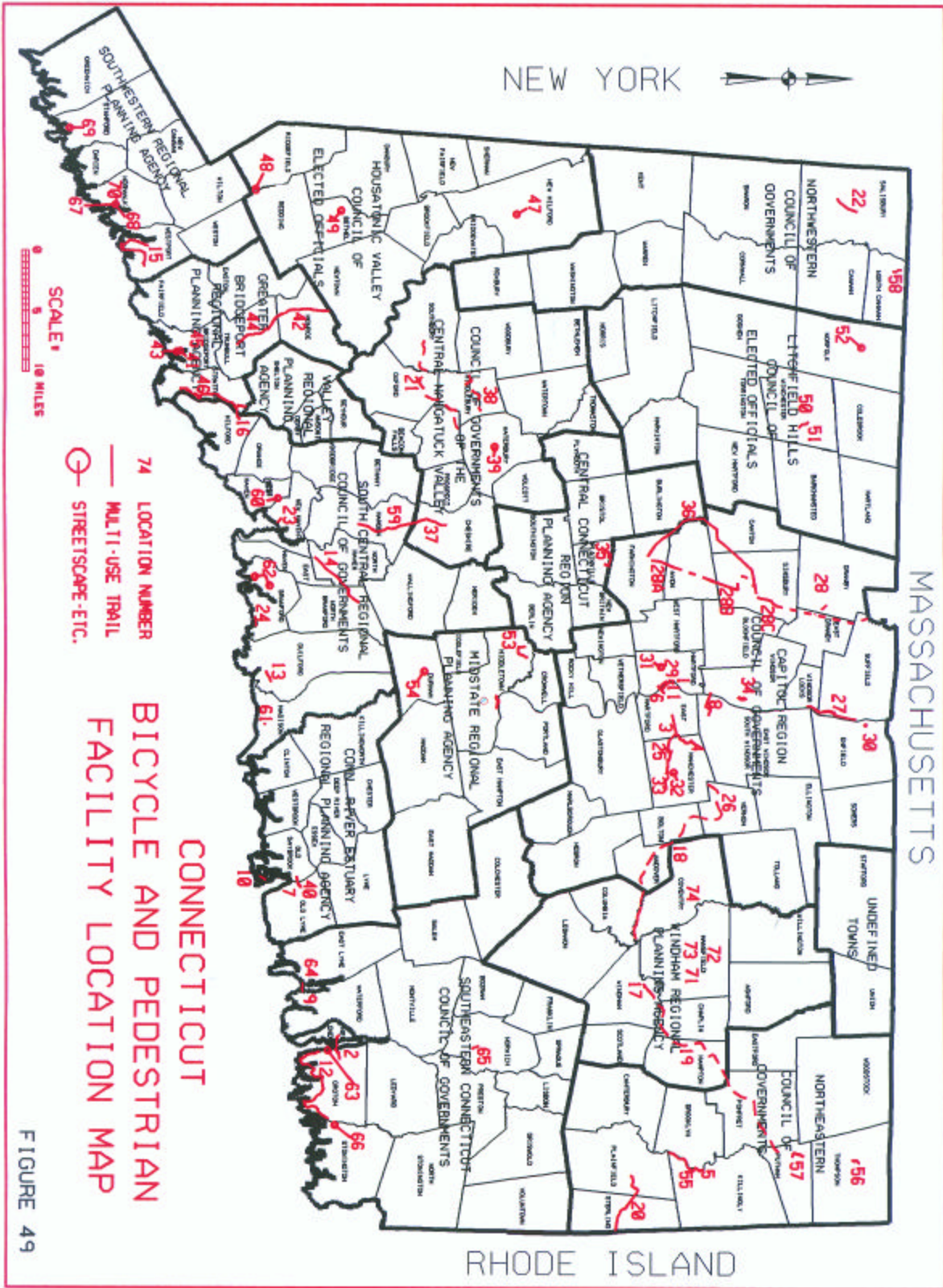
# CHAPTER 6

## BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES

This chapter is a compilation of all bicycle and pedestrian facilities in Connecticut. The maps shown in this chapter will give the reader a perspective of where Connecticut's program is today and a view of where it may go with respect to a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian system. Trails in Connecticut are designed with connectivity in mind, and are proposed with an interconnected system as the ultimate goal.

These maps are to be used, by ConnDOT, to evaluate the suitability of accommodating walkers and bicyclists and to integrate the consideration of sidewalks and multi - use paths into all planning, design, construction and maintenance activities.

This chapter is divided into four parts; existing and program facilities, proposed long range plans, greenways and the existing Bike Routes on the Connecticut Bicycle Map.



## EXISTING AND PROGRAMED BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES

The general location of the 74 major existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities and enhancement projects described in this section are shown in Figure 49. These facilities were developed by ConnDOT, ConnDEP and local communities. While the majority of these facilities are separate multi-use paths, several are signed bike lane routes that were developed along existing roads in the 1970's. Various funding sources were used in their construction including the use of Interstate funds in conjunction with major projects, local funds, National Recreational Trails funds, enhancement funds and state bond money. The following is a description of these facilities. A series of route maps showing several of these facilities is shown in Appendix A.

### ConnDOT Multi-use Facility Program

- 1- Hartford-East Hartford-** Sidewalk on the south side of the Bulkeley Bridge (I-84) between Morgan Street in Hartford and East River Drive in East Hartford. 0.5 miles. (See detailed map)
- 2- New London-Groton-** Walkway on the north side of the Gold Star Memorial Bridge (I-95) and approaches between Bailey Circle and Williams Street in New London and Bliven Street and Bridge Street in Groton. 2 miles. (See detailed map)
- 3- East Hartford-Manchester-** Paved path adjacent to Interstate 84 between Forbes Street in East Hartford and Burnside Avenue in Manchester, with a spur to Spencer Street. 1.9 miles (See detailed map)
- 4- Manchester-** Paved path adjacent to Interstate 291 between Burnside Avenue and Tolland Turnpike. 1.1 miles (See detailed map)
- 5- Killingly-** Paved path adjacent to Route 6 and the Quinebaug River in Danielson between Main Street and Waugrean Road. 0.5 miles
- 6- Hartford-East Hartford-** Paved sidewalk on the Charter Oak Bridge (Routes 15&5) over the Connecticut River between Reserve Road at Charter Oak Landing in Hartford and East River Drive Ext. in East Hartford. 1.2 miles (See detailed map)
- 7- Old Saybrook-Old Lyme-** Sidewalk on the Baldwin Bridge (Interstate 95) over the Connecticut River between Ferry Street in Old Saybrook and Route 156 in Old Lyme. 1.7 miles
- 8- Windsor-South Windsor-** Paved sidewalk on the Bissell Bridge (Interstate 291) over the Connecticut River between Deerfield Road in Windsor and Main Street in South Windsor. 1.8 miles (See detailed map)
- 9- East Lyme-Waterford-** Sidewalk along north side of the Route 156 bridge over Niantic Bay between East Lyme and Waterford. 0.5 miles.
- 10- Old Saybrook-** Bicycle and pedestrian path alongside the Route 154 causeway across South Cove. 0.5 miles.
- 11- Hartford-East Hartford-** Paved sidewalk on the Founders Bridge (Route 2) over the Connecticut River and Interstate 91 between Columbus Boulevard and East River Drive. 0.7 miles (Under Construction) (See detailed map)

**12- Groton-** Signed bicycle lanes beginning in the vicinity of the Groton-New London Airport to West Mystic via Routes 1 and 215. 5 miles.

**13- Guilford-** Signed bicycle lanes adjacent to Route 146 from U.S. Route 1 to the Guilford Green. 0.5 miles.

**14- North Haven-North Branford-** Signed bicycle lanes along Route 17 connecting Montewese in North Haven and Northford in North Branford. 5.5 miles.

**15- Westport-** Signed bicycle lanes on Route 136 from U.S. Route 1 to Greens Farm Road and passing by two town beaches. 6.5 miles.

In addition, several other major facilities are actively being designed:

**16- Stratford-Milford-** Sidewalk on the proposed reconstructed Sikorski Bridge (Route 15) over the Housatonic River between Route 110 and Wellington Road. (Under Design) 1.5 miles

**17-Windham-** Paved path adjacent to Route 6 from Route 66 at Tuckie Road to the Airline State Park Trail. (Under Design) 0.5 miles. (See #19)

### **Major ConnDEP Paths**

**18- Bolton-Andover-Coventry-Columbia-** Gravel path on Hop River State Park Trail, an abandoned rail line between Bolton Notch in Bolton to Kings Road and Flanders Road in Coventry. There is no bridge in place to cross the Hop River at this time. The trail can be re-entered on Hop River Road in Columbia and followed towards Windham. 12 miles. Trail proposed to be paved in conjunction with Route 6 Expressway project, with new bridge over Hop River. (See detailed map)

**19- Windham-Chaplin-Hampton-Pomfret-Putnam-** Gravel path on the Airline State Park Trail, an abandoned rail line, beginning near the Route 6 ramps in Windham and proceeding northeasterly to River Road in Putnam. 20 miles. A paved path connecting this trail to Route 66 in Windham is being designed by ConnDOT. (See #17).

**20- Plainfield-Sterling-** Gravel path on the Moosup Valley State Park Trail, an abandoned rail line between River Street in Plainfield to the Rhode Island State Line near Route 14 in Sterling. The trail connects with the trestle trail in neighboring Rhode Island. 5 miles.

**21- Southbury-Oxford-Middlebury-Naugatuck-** Unimproved path on the Larkin State Park Trail, an abandoned rail line, between Kettletown Road in Southbury and Route 63 in Naugatuck. This trail was originally designated as a bridle trail. 9 miles. (See detailed map)

### **Major Local Multi-use Trails**

**22- Salisbury-** unimproved path on an abandoned rail line, parallel to Route 44, between Route 41 in the Lakeville section and Route 44 east of the center of town. The path passes by the town's recreation field and Salisbury center. 2.5 miles. (See detailed map)

**23- New Haven-** Paved path linking the Harbor area with downtown New Haven. 0.5 miles.

**24- Branford-** Gravel path on abandoned trolley line between Totoket Road and West Point Road in the Stony Creek section of Branford. 1.1 miles

## **Enhancement Projects in Connecticut**

The following is a listing by Regional Planning Agency of bicycle/pedestrian related projects which were funded through the Transportation Enhancement program:

### **Capitol Region Council of Governments**

**25- Manchester-** Construction of multi-use trail along I-384. 3.9 miles (Comp.) (See detailed map)

**26- Vernon-** Hop River and Rockville Spur railroad beds Multi-use trail System. Project converts existing railroad beds to hard packed fine stone dust multi-use trail system. Includes 9.1 miles of the railroad bed in Vernon and installation of one bridge. (Completed) (See detailed map)

**27- Suffield-Windsor Locks-** Resurfacing of the Windsor Locks Canal multi-use trail. 4.5 miles (Under Construction) (See detailed map)

**28- Six Town Bikeway (Farmington-Avon-Simsbury-Granby-Suffield-East Granby)-** Construction of a 25 mile, Farmington Valley Greenway, a multi-use facility along an abandoned rail corridor between the Route 4 in Farmington and the State Line. 25 miles (Three sections are completed)

**28A- Farmington-Avon-** Paved path between the Route 4 overpass in Farmington and Thompson Road in Avon. A parking lot is located on Brickyard Road. 2 miles. (See detailed map)

**28B- Avon-Simsbury-** Paved path, parallel to Route 10, between Sperry Park on Route 10 in Avon and Stratton Brook Road in Simsbury. 3.5 miles. (See detailed map)

**28C - Simsbury-** Paved path, parallel to Route 10, between Simsbury center and Route 315, with parking lot at the Route 10 and 315 Intersection adjacent to the trail. 2 miles. (See detailed map)

**29- Hartford-** Pedestrian bridge and walkway over Columbus Boulevard Riverfront Plaza over Interstate 91. (Under Construction) (See detailed map)

**30- Enfield-** Streetscape improvements along Route 5 and North Main Street. Improvements include landscaping, decorative lighting and brick sidewalks. (Completed)

**31- Hartford-** Streetscape improvements within Southside neighborhood in the vicinity of Washington Street. Improvements include planting, signing, brick sidewalks, decorative fencing and lighting. (Under Construction)

**32- Manchester-** Streetscape improvements along Main Street. Improvements include landscaping, sidewalks, signing and decorative lighting. (Completed)

**33- Manchester-** Construction of a 1 mile multi-use trail from Charter Oak (Route 83) to Gardner Street. (Being Designed)

**34- Windsor-** Construction of a multi-use trail along the Connecticut River in the vicinity of Pleasant Street. (Completed) (See detailed map)

### **Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency**

**35- Plainville-** Construction of bicycle travelway along Northwest Drive and Route 10. Project provides a segregated non-motorized transportation link between residential sections adjacent to Farmington Avenue and Northwest Drive and several mass transit routes. (Completed)

**36- Burlington-Canton-Simsbury-Farmington-** Farmington Valley Greenway. 16-mile multi-use trail system. (Being designed)

### **Council of Governments of Central Naugatuck Valley**

**37- Cheshire-** Conversion of abandoned Canal Line rail line adjacent to the historic Farmington Canal to a pedestrian/bikeway facility from Hamden to Cornwall Avenue. 2.8 miles (Completed) (See detailed map)

**38- Middlebury-** Conversion of an old trolley line adjacent to Route 64 to a multi-use trail. 4.3 miles (Completed) (See detailed map)

**39- Waterbury-** Streetscape improvements along Meadow Street, South Main Street and Bank Street. Improvements include sidewalks, landscaping, decorative lighting and signing. (Being designed)

### **Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency**

**40- Old Lyme-** Construction of a pedestrian/bicycle facility along Route 156 and commuter parking lot with a scenic overlook at the Connecticut River. (Under Construction)

### **Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency**

**41- Bridgeport-** Union Square Dock and Rail Station Area Rehabilitation. Project includes the construction of a pedestrian walkway from Union Square Dock to nearby parking lots.

**42- Monroe-** Housatonic Railroad Rail-to-Trail Conservation Project. Project to develop a Pequonnock River Greenway extending from Bridgeport Harbor to Newtown. Phase 1 includes implementation of a stone dust bicycle/pedestrian trail in Monroe, Purdy Hill Road to the Monroe/Newtown town line. 4.5 miles (Completed) (See detailed map)

**43- Bridgeport-** Construction of streetscape improvements and pedestrian access in the Transportation Center area. (Under Construction)

**44- Trumbull-** Construction of a 3.7 mile pedestrian/bicycle facility from Purdy Hill Road to Route 111 along the abandoned Housatonic Railway corridor. (Being designed)

**45- Bridgeport-** Multi-use trail along Housatonic Avenue and Water Street. (Being designed)

**46- Stratford-** Construction of a pedestrian/bicycle facility from Short Beach Park to Dock Plaza. (Being designed)

### **Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials**

**47- New Milford-** Construct an at-grade pedestrian crossing at the New Milford Railroad Station. (Under Construction)

**48- Ridgefield-** Construction of a pedestrian access way from the Branchville Railroad Station parking lot to the newly constructed passenger rail platform. (Being designed)

**49- Bethel-** Streetscape improvements along Durant Avenue, Depot Place, School Street and Route 302. Project includes sidewalks, landscaping, special curbing and decorative lighting.

### **Litchfield Hills Council of Elected Officials**

**50- Winchester-** Riverfront Recapture and Memorial Park: Project provides a pedestrian walkway and cycling path along the railroad bed, which is adjacent to the Mad River. Project also includes the rehabilitation of a footbridge and provisions for a scenic outlook. (Being designed)

**51- Winchester-** Construction of a pedestrian/bicycle facility along Route 44 and the Mad River. (Completed)

**52- Norfolk-** Town Center Streetscape treatment and sidewalks. (Under Construction)

### **Midstate Regional Planning Agency**

**53- Middletown-** Construction of a pedestrian/bicycle facility between Westlake and Aetna Insurance complex. (Completed) (See detailed map)

**54- Durham-** Streetscape improvements along Main Street. Project provides sidewalks, landscaping, benches, special curbing and decorative lighting. (Design complete, construction spring 1999.)

### **Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments**

**55- Killingly-** Funding being provided for the preliminary engineering of the Quinebaug River Valley Multi-Purpose Trail. Trail to be located on east bank of Quinebaug River west of Route 12.

**56- Thompson-** Riverside Park Pedestrian Bridge: Funding to purchase and install a wooden pedestrian footbridge to span the French River. Project includes connecting walkways to nearby Riverside Park on the east side, residential neighborhood sidewalks on the west side. (Completed)

**57- Putnam-** Construction of a multi-use trail over and along the Quinebaug River. 4.1 Miles (Completed) (See detailed map)

### **Northwestern Connecticut Council of Governments**

**58- North Canaan-** Construction of a pedestrian/bikeway facility along a ConnDOT right-of-way from Granger Road to Clayton Road. (Completed)

### **South Central Regional Council of Governments**

**59- Hamden-** Farmington Canal Rail-to-Trail: Funding was provided to construct a 13.6 mile multi-use trail from the Cheshire town line to Todd Street and Hamden Hills Drive. (See detailed map)

**60- West Haven-** Allingtown Gateway: Project will provide pedestrian improvements per the City's gateway plan, intended to improve principle approaches to the city. The project will extend current city funded design concepts along a 2300-foot length of U.S. Route 1. (Completed)

**61- Madison-** Construction of a 1600' pedestrian/bicycle facility along U.S. 1 to Bradley Road. (Completed)

**62- Branford-** Streetscape improvements along Routes 142 and 740. Project includes installation of sidewalks and landscaping. (Under Construction)

### **Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments**

**63- Groton-** Streetscape improvements to Thames Street to enhance appearance and pedestrian access to this waterfront street. Projects will provide streetscape improvements and amenities including signs, curbing, benches, lighting, special paving, landscaping, and pedestrian facilities. (Some sections completed, others under construction)

**64- East Lyme** - Niantic Public Access Corridor/Scenic Outlook: The project consists of the construction of a bicycle/walkway in the form of a striped bikepath from Smith Street to the causeway, construction of a boardwalk with a striped bikepath on pilings, from the beginning of the causeway to a point 500 feet along the causeway where the land widens, and the construction of a sidewalk and bikepath along the widened area of land adjacent to Route 156. (Completed) (See #9)

**65- Norwich**- Heritage Park-Funding provides for improvements along the Yantic River beginning at the Upper Yantic Falls, connecting to Historic Yantic Village and the lower falls area, continuing north along the westerly bank of the Shetucket River re-using the abandoned railroad bed for a pedestrian walkway and bicycle path, connecting into the downtown and the old railroad station. Improvements include construction of a pedestrian/bikeway, installation of signage, fencing, and improvement of scenic overlook areas, archaeological research, landscaping and drainage improvements. (2.5 miles section completed, others under construction)

**66- Stonington**- Streetscape improvements along Route 27 for approximately 2 miles. Project includes plantings, sidewalks, decorative lighting and signing. (Being designed)

### **South Western Regional Planning Agency**

**67- Norwalk**- Provide scenic beautification and pedestrian access enhancements to the South Norwalk Railroad Station. (Completed)

**68- Norwalk**- Construction of a pedestrian/bicycle facility between South Norwalk and the Maritime Center. (Being designed)

**69- Stamford**- Pedestrian and streetscape improvements in downtown and Stamford Station. These projects provide a pedestrian access between train station and downtown Stamford. (Some sections completed, others under construction)

**70- Norwalk**- Streetscape improvements along West Avenue. Improvements include sidewalks with brick pavers, and landscaping. (Completed)

### **Windham Region Council of Governments**

**71- Mansfield**- Greater East Brook Mall Transportation Enhancement: Project includes improvement of WRTD bus stop at East Brook Mall, marking and signing of proposed bikeways along town and State roads in the greater East Brook Mall area and the construction of bicycle path/pedestrian walk from "Big-Y" shopping area to the town line with Windham. (Under Construction)

**72- Mansfield**- Greater UConn Area Transportation Enhancement: Project includes improvement of existing WRTD bus stops on Route 195 near the town hall including the construction of paved pull-offs, erection of a shelter, furnishing of bike lockers, bike racks, lighting and other appurtenances, marking and signing of proposed bikeways along town and State roads. (Under Construction)

**73- Mansfield**- Construction of a pedestrian/bicycle facility along Route 195. (Being designed)

**74- Coventry**- Multi-use trail and Streetscape treatments within South Coventry Village. (Being designed)

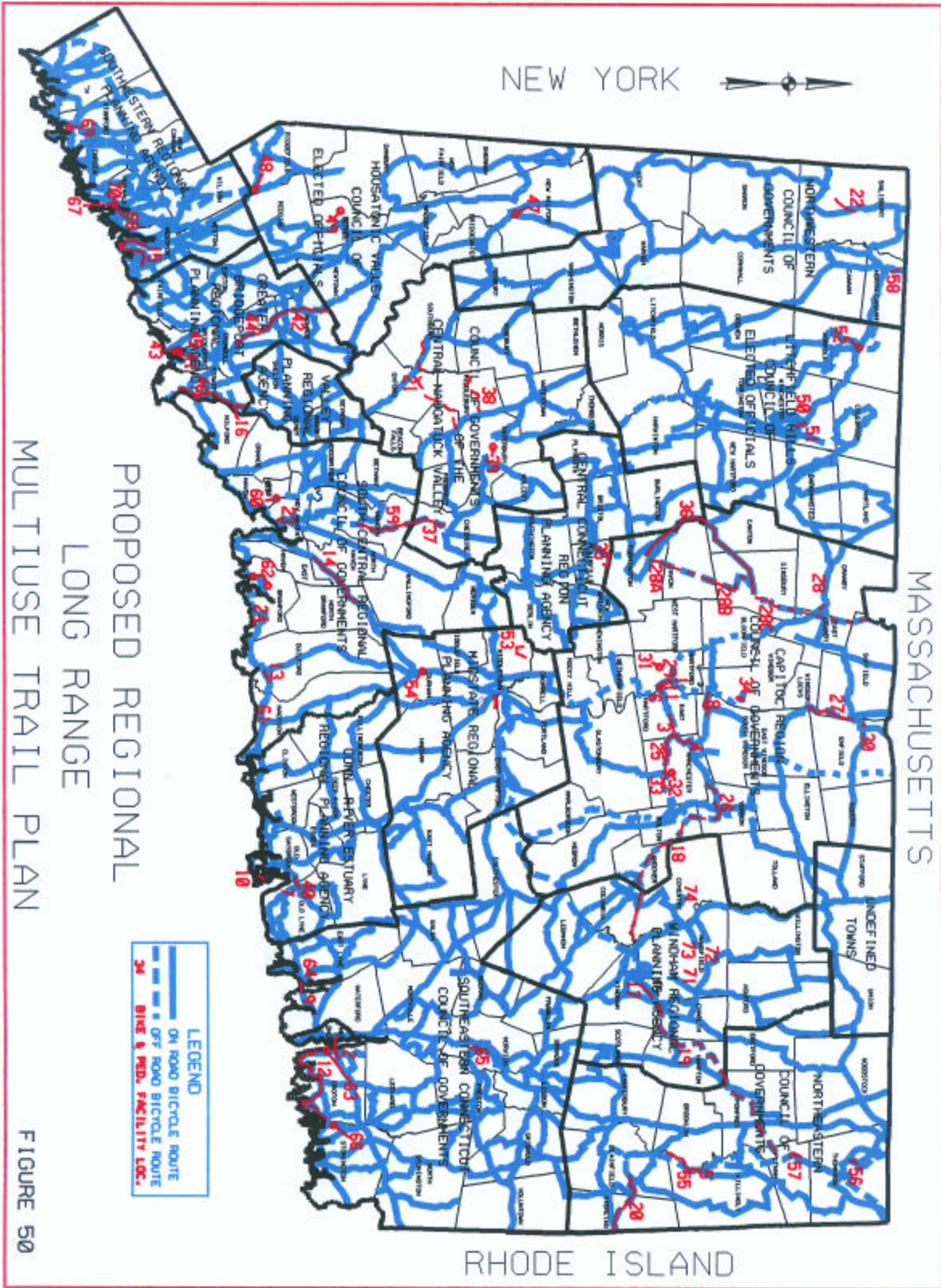


## **PROPOSED LONG RANGE BICYCLE ROUTES**

The passage of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Act of 1991 (ISTEA) signaled a renewed interest in providing facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians in Connecticut. ISTEA regulations recognize bicycling and walking as integral elements of the multi-modal approach to transportation and required states to develop bicycle and pedestrian elements which must be incorporated into the transportation plans for the state.

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's) were also required to develop transportation plans and programs for their long range plans in cooperation with the state. These transportation plans and programs must provide for the development of transportation facilities including bicycle transportation facilities and pedestrian walkways. Rural Planning Agencies were not required to submit bicycle and pedestrian plans but cooperated with the state and developed plans for their regions.

The proposed on road bicycle routes, off-road trails, and paths submitted by the Planning Regions in Connecticut are shown in Figure 50. This map is a result of the Regions' efforts in developing bicycle routes and multi-use trails and is a compilation of the maps of the individual planning regions which are shown in Appendix B. These maps are being used by ConnDOT as a planning tool to evaluate the connectivity of the regions individual maps and associated plans. They are also to be used by ConnDOT to determine design and maintenance requirements on State roads.



## CONNECTICUT GREENWAYS

In 1992, the Connecticut Greenway Committee was established by the Governor. This committee, made up of citizens from every part of Connecticut was directed to develop a detailed proposal for a permanent Greenway program, which would provide assistance to municipalities and private organizations. The Greenway Committee defines greenways as follows:

*“Greenway: A corridor of open space that may protect natural resources, preserve scenic landscapes and historical resources, offer recreational opportunities, and provide a place for people to walk, bicycle and move from place to place. Greenways can be located along a waterway or other defining natural feature, such as a ridgeline, or along a man-made corridor such as an unused right-of-way, abandoned town road, woods road, or historic barge canal. A greenway can be a greenspace along a highway or around a village. Greenways can provide the “missing links” to connect existing protected areas, and to give people convenient accesses to the outdoors. A greenway can be as wide as a river valley or as narrow as an abandoned rail bed.*

*Greenways can serve many purposes. Rural greenways can preserve natural habitats and wildlife migration routes, encourage restoration of environmentally valuable landscapes, and support both recreational and educational programs. In our cities and suburbs, greenways can encompass both natural and man-made features, and they are a way for communities to create convenient access to local attractions, fresh air and green lands.”*

As this definition is quite broad, almost all of the existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian facilities can be called greenways. The major greenways involving this activity are the Farmington Canal Trail, Farmington Valley Trail, Charter Oak Greenway and the Captain John Bissell Greenway.

For additional information about Greenways, please contact:

The Greenway Committee  
c/o The Council on Environmental Quality  
79 Elm Street,  
Hartford, CT 06106  
(860) 424-4000.

## **CONNECTICUT BICYCLE MAP**

The Connecticut Bicycle Map was first created in 1980 through a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Bicycle Program Grant. This program was designed to promote the use of bicycles for transportation purposes, including work trips, trips to commuter lots and rail stations. The program also included the production and distribution of a map of evaluated bicycle routes leading to major employment centers, commuter lots, and rail stations. The routes shown on the map were initially selected by the Connecticut Coalition of Bicyclists and ConnDOT, and represent what is considered to be the best route to use for transportation and recreational purposes. The Bicycle Map was printed and released in 1984 and subsequently reprinted in 1987. In 1991, funding was secured from the Stripper Well Restitution Program and in 1993 an all new updated map was produced. This new version added a wealth of information, including state camping areas, state parks, major bridge access, basic bicycle rules of the road, and ferry service. By early 1996, the 50,000 maps that were printed initially had been depleted and an additional 20,000 maps were printed. This new supply of maps is currently being distributed to the public free of charge.