



Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board

Volunteer board members advising agencies of the state on policies, programs, and facilities for bicycles and pedestrians.



2800 Berlin Turnpike • Newington, CT 06111-4113
ctbikepedboard@gmail.com

REGULAR MEETING NOTES

Friday February 26, 2021 9 AM
This meeting was held over TEAMS:

Sandy Fry (Chair), Brian Kent (Vice Chair), Francis Pickering, Ken Messier, Sue Smith, Al Sylvestre (9:50 am), Joe Balskus (Secretary, 10:20 am)

Guests

Amy Watkins, Watch for Me CT
Kim Bradley, CT Trail Census Coordinator
Bruce Donald, Greenways Council
Melanie Zimyeski, CTDOT
Bill Veronesi, Hartford
Marlon Pena, CTDOT
William Champagne, CTDOT
Robert Bell, CTDOT
Dave Elder, CTDOT
Kate Rattan, SCCOG
Laura Baum, Interested citizen, Middletown Pedestrian committee
Jennifer Carrier, FHWA
Bob Dickinson, South Windsor

1.1 Call to Order/Roll Call

1.2 **Minutes** Minutes were considered at the end of the meeting when a quorum was in place. On a motion by Brian Kent, seconded by Joseph Balskus, and with Francis Pickering abstaining, the minutes were approved.

2.0 Reports/Presentations

2.1 DOT Projects and News

The Community Connectivity Program has a new web page now that is within the CTDOT page:

https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/PP_Intermodal/CTConnectivity/CT-Connectivity-CCGP

Regarding an update to the active transportation plan map, DOT has received some bike route data from COGS and DOT is doing more outreach to understand changes as compared to the ATP map.

The agreement with CT Trail Finder has been executed this week.

Comprehensive Pedestrian Safety Strategy -this new document was

NOTE TO PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or other accommodation at a meeting must notify the Connecticut Department of Transportation in advance of the meeting as soon as they are able.



Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board

Volunteer board members advising agencies of the state on policies, programs, and facilities for bicycles and pedestrians.



2800 Berlin Turnpike • Newington, CT 06111-4113
ctbikepedboard@gmail.com

developed mostly for public consumption to show how several programs already underway come together to promote safety. It illustrates the comprehensive approach that dOT is taking to safety. It has 4 components: speed management, infrastructure, education, integrated program. The plan and a related brochure are available on the website:

https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/PP_Policy/Documents/Pedestrian-Safety-Strategy

The webpage will be populated with more information and dOT plans to focus upon 5 to 10 locations regarding speed.

A question was asked – how is strategy disseminated to districts? Answer – districts are involved mostly on a project or program basis.

Putnam Bridge: environmental permits have been received. There are a couple of issues that need to be resolved before construction begins: budget, and DEEP requirement for information signs.

Brian Kent noted that the new Complete Street/ Bike Ped web page is very well done:

https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/PP_Policy/Documents/BikePed_Dashboard

Brian suggested that we might want the CTBPAB web presence to be entirely on this page at some point.

Rob Bell asked that folks look at the website and pass along any suggestions for improving user friendliness. He noted that there is a link from the page to all the presentations made at the Complete Streets Information Exchange are available from the website (click on Complete Streets Central on the BikePed dashboard.)

2.2 East Coast greenway Alliance, Bruce Donald, 2021 Plans

Bruce Donald discussed plans underway for completing the ECG in CT. Currently about 51% is complete and all the pieces in design, when complete, will bring the total to 62%. A big need now is additional funding to keep the projects moving forward. See the attached presentation for more information.

3.0 Old Business

3.1 Annual Report distribution and update: Sandy sent the reports to Mark Carlino and Rob Bell, as the co-chairs of the DOT Complete Streets Committee; and to Pam Sucato for distribution to Governor, commissioner and Transportation committee. She is awaiting confirmation that this final distribution has been made before we distribute the report more widely. Melanie will check status with Pam.

3.2 Board initiatives for 2021

Last month we suggested Limited access roadways, US Bike Route 1A, and Pedestrian fatalities. As to limited access roadways, Marlon indicated that we

NOTE TO PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or other accommodation at a meeting must notify the Connecticut Department of Transportation in advance of the meeting as soon as they are able.



Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board

Volunteer board members advising agencies of the state on policies, programs, and facilities for bicycles and pedestrians.



2800 Berlin Turnpike • Newington, CT 06111-4113
ctbikepedboard@gmail.com

do not need to rush to give him the feedback on this. Changing the governing regulation will take 2 to 3 months. He indicated they will be most interested in roadways where there is no alternate route.

New suggestions: Francis brought up the idea that a lot of work to date has missed the urban areas where investments in bike and ped facilities can have the largest impact upon mode choice. To this point we have not created viable networks for regular transportation by bike. Rob Bell thanked Francis for this input. Brian suggested that the priority in urban areas should be rapid network implementation and that network needs to be low stress. Like what has happened in NYC, Boston, and Portland (OR). The approach probably needs to be multi pronged, consider health, federal programs. Rob suggested that the Transportation Climate Initiative could provide some funds to move this kind of idea forward. And the TCI will need support. The Board needs to give more thought as to how we could have impact with these ideas – supporting the development of bike ped infrastructure in urban areas, and supporting the TCI. The Board invited DOT to provide any ideas they might have regarding how we can work together on this idea.

3.3 Powerpoint - Tom will work on revisions. We may want to incorporate some of the above thinking into the powerpoint.

3.4 HB 5429 update: nothing new has been posted about this bill. The CTDOT bike ped proposals will be introduced as part of the governor's bill, which has not been introduced yet. Francis provided a copy of the testimony provided by his COG (attached). They are concerned about speed limit setting not being coordinated between towns.

4.0 New Business

4.1 Comprehensive Pedestrian safety strategy – any role for the Board? The Board asked DOT to consider how we might be helpful in supporting this strategy.

4.2 FHWA Safe System Program (see attached brochure) Jennifer Carrier of FHWA explained that there will be more materials coming out of this program and she will share them as they do. FHWA is beginning to look at how it can support Vision zero communities and Jennifer is working with the division's safety planner who is working with dOT on safety programs. Good things are expected for complete streets and bike ped issues with the new secretary of USDOT. Equity is also likely to be emphasized.

5.0 Input

5.1 Input from Visitors - none

5.2 CT Greenways Council/ECGA
The CT Greenways Council is pushing for 2 things now – re-establishing the

NOTE TO PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or other accommodation at a meeting must notify the Connecticut Department of Transportation in advance of the meeting as soon as they are able.



Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board

Volunteer board members advising agencies of the state on policies, programs, and facilities for bicycles and pedestrians.



2800 Berlin Turnpike • Newington, CT 06111-4113
ctbikepedboard@gmail.com

Greenways license plate account (goes into general fund now) and getting funding for the Recreational Trails program.

5.3 CT Trail census, Kim Bradley – the trail census has updated the 2020 counts and is wrapping up the 2020 reports (survey and counts) The CT Trail finder website is coming along and they are beginning to enter data with launch planned for June.

5.4 Watch for Me CT Update – Amy Watkins
Starting focus groups for ped safety for older people. Amy will be participating as a presenter for a T2 center coffee update program on pedestrian safety.

5.5 Bike Walk CT Update - none

Next Meeting – March 26, 2021, 9 AM

NOTE TO PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or other accommodation at a meeting must notify the Connecticut Department of Transportation in advance of the meeting as soon as they are able.

Western Connecticut COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



January 26, 2021

Esteemed Chair Lemar, Vice Chairs Cassano and Simms,
Members of the Transportation Committee:

The Western Connecticut Council of Government (WestCOG) appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 5429, *An Act Concerning Pedestrian Safety, Vision Zero Council, Speed Limits in Municipalities, Fines and Charges for Certain Violations, the Greenways Commemorative Account and Maintenance Work Zone and School Zone Safety Enforcement*.

One of WestCOG's primary responsibilities is transportation planning. Under federal law, these planning activities must take place on a regional basis – that is, addressing transportation as a network that transcends municipal (and regional and state) boundaries and not as an assemblage of eighteen separate municipal systems.

As we work with our members and neighbors to advance safe, efficient transportation in Connecticut and in the Northeast megaregion, it is important to be cognizant that local actions can have regional consequences. With this in mind, we are concerned about provisions that could bring inconsistency to the setting of speed limits.

While many roads may be owned locally, they are used regionally. Our analysis indicates that only 30% of employed Connecticut residents work in the same municipality as they live. Most workers cross city and town lines as they commute, not to mention as they access services, run errands, and engage in commerce. Local roads often function as vital corridors for these needs.

While speed limits in some places may benefit from revisitation, any proposal that increases inconsistency in the system risks violating public expectations of a uniform experience, potentially creating safety concerns, impeding the efficient flow of people and goods, and displacing traffic to other locations. Not every road can (or should be) a cul-de-sac or a slow zone.

WestCOG therefore asks that any proposal to adjust speed limits promote consistency among comparable highway facilities statewide and recognize the role and regional significance of each road link in a coherent, safe and efficient transportation network.

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

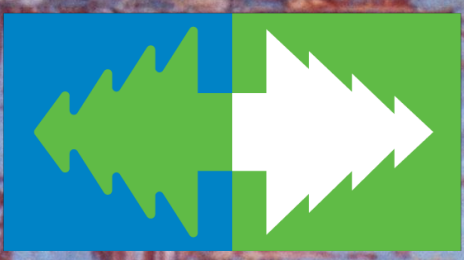
Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francis Pickering". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Francis R. Pickering
Executive Director

Connecticut
Greenway
Update
CRCOG

East Coast

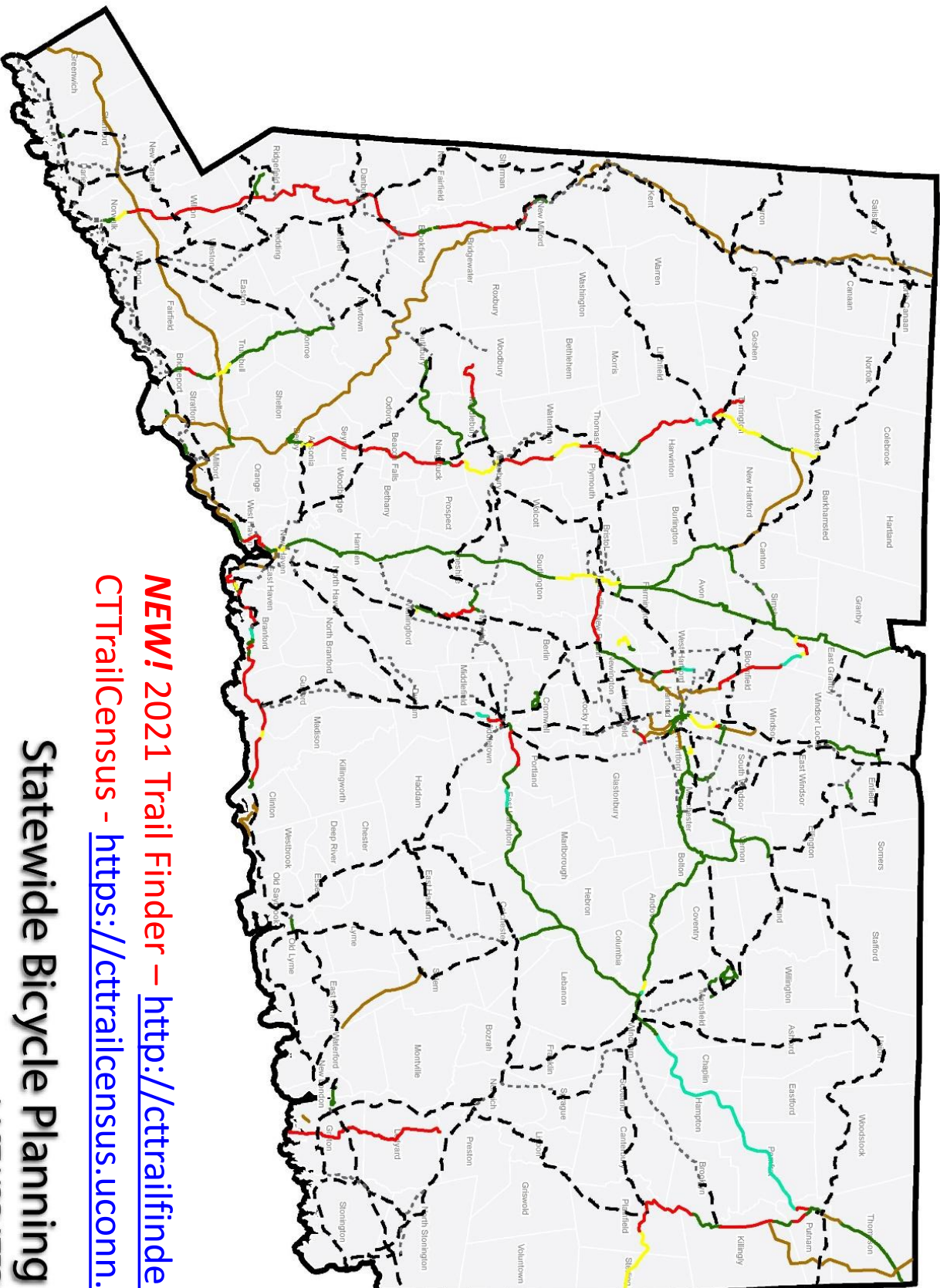


Greenway®
ALLIANCE



CTDOT's State Mapping

Connecticut Trail Census Statewide multi-use trail user study



On-Road Bike Network
 - - - State Maintained Road
 Municipal Maintained Road

Trail Status
 — Constructed
 — In Construction
 — In Design
 — Planned
 — Conceptual

Disclaimer:
 The data presented here is for informational purposes only. The data is not to be used in legal documents or proceedings. The Connecticut Department of Transportation makes every effort to ensure the data is current and accurate. Neither the State of Connecticut, nor the Connecticut Department of Transportation, nor any of its employees, makes any warranty, expressed or implied, including the warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of the data. Reliance on the data is at the user's own risk.

NEW! 2021 Trail Finder – <http://ctrailfinder.com>
 CTTrailCensus - <https://ctrailcensus.uconn.edu/>

Statewide Bicycle Planning Network

LAST UPDATED: MAY 14, 2019



Ongoing Central CT Projects

- ✓ Bee Line Trail
- ✓ Central CT Loop Trail (proposed)
- ✓ CT River Trail North – E/W Connections
- ✓ Charter Oak Trail
- ✓ Hop River Trail
- ✓ Bloomfield/Hartford Connector
- ✓ Farmington Canal Heritage Trail



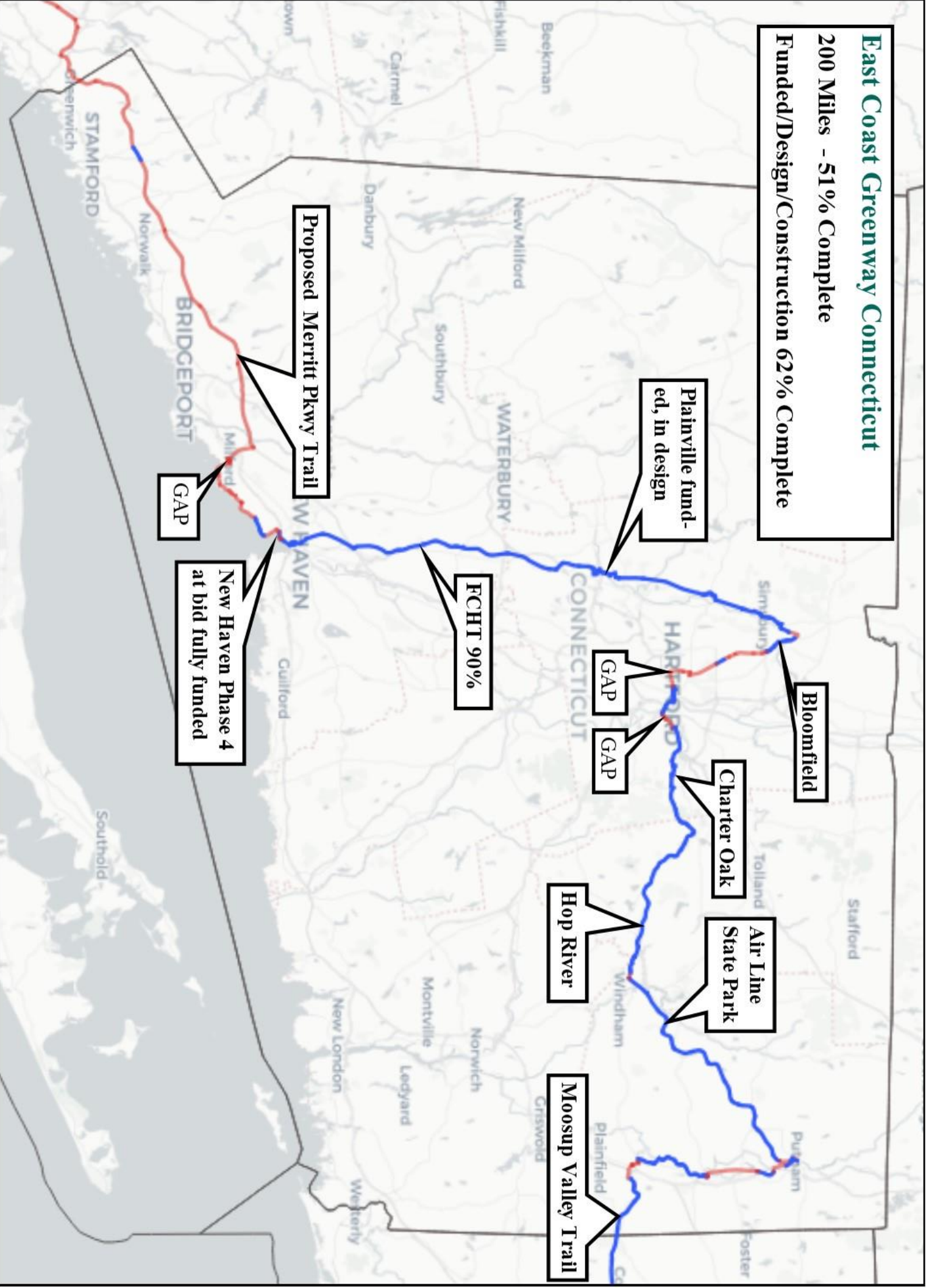
CT's ECG Project

CT ECGA Funded Projects 2021-2025				Jan-21	
<u>Trail Name</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Description/Note</u>	<u>MS Funded</u>	<u>Consultant/Project/\$\$</u>	
2021					
Air Line Crossings Pomfret & Putnam	2.89	7; 5 under/over road; 2 at grade	5.10	DOT 111-124 TAP	
	2.89		5.10		
2022					
Tariffville Connector 1	0.60	RT 315 at FCHT to Curtiss/Pattison Park	1.58	DEEP Rec Trails	
FCHT - New Haven	1.60	Phase IV, Temple to Grove St.	10.90	DOT 92-621 Earmarks/TAP	
Quinebaug River Trail Killingly	0.50	Gloria Ave to End of Pond Outfall - V	0.396	DEEP Rec Trails/Connectivity	
Quinebaug River Trail Killingly	0.75	Pond Outfall to Plainfield Line Phase VI	2.40	DEEP Rec Trails/LOTICIP	
Tariffville Connector 2	0.82	Main St to RT 189 Trailhead Bloomfield	1.16	DOT CT LOTCIP	
	4.27		16.436		
2023					
FCHT - Southington	2.35	Lazy Lane to Town Line Rd.	1.80	BL/DOT 131-203 TAP	
FCHT - Plainville 1	1.30	Townline Rd to Norton Park	3.90	DOT 109-173 Let'sGoCT!	
Moosup Valley State Park Trail	5.50	Plainfield, Moosup Center to Sterling	2.10	BL/DOT 108-189/Let'sGoCT!	
	9.15		7.80		
2024					
FCHT - Plainville 2	2.10	Town Center to Northwest Drive Lot	6.80	DOT 109-173	
Hop River Columbia	0.83	King's Rd to new Willimantic River Bridge	4.00	BL/DOT 30-97/Let'sGoCT!	
	0.83		10.80		
2025					
FCHT - Plainville 3	1.90	Norton Park to Town Center	5.40	DOT 109-173	
	1.9		5.40		
12 Projects Funded	19.04	62% Complete in state	45.54		
Hartford/Windsor Riverwalk 1	2.6	Boathouse to just south of Meadow Brook	3.40	DOT 63-721 TAP	

East Coast Greenway Connecticut

200 Miles - 51% Complete

Funded/Design/Construction 62% Complete



Plainville funded, in design

Proposed Merritt Pkwy Trail

GAP

New Haven Phase 4 at bid fully funded

FCHT 90%

GAP

GAP

Bloomfield

Charter Oak

Air Line State Park

Hop River

Moosup Valley Trail

Tariffville Connector Phase 1

.82 miles
RT 189 to Main Street
\$1.16 M. LOTCIP
Bids this spring
Construction '21+
1.8 miles of
Bloomfield Complete



Figure 1: Proposed Bloomfield-Tariffville Trail

FCHT: New Haven Phase 4

1.6 miles, Yale to Water Street
\$8.1/10.9 million est.

2nd Round of bids all too high
Hope to start construction '21



FCHT: Southington Phase 3

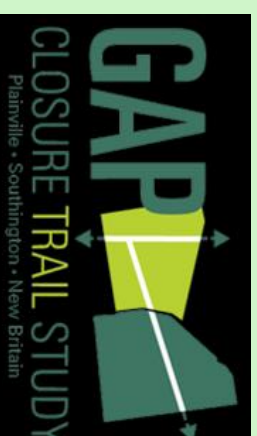
- 2.4 miles, Lazy Lane to Town Line Rd
- \$1.8 million est.
- BL Companies Design (4 years)
- Will go to bid this year
- For completion 2023



FCHT: Plainville Phase 1



- 1.3 miles
- Town Line Rd. to Norton Park
- Follows route of historic canal tow path
- \$3.9 Million est.
- CTDOT internal design (35%)
- To bid late 2022
- Completion 2023/4



Important Things

- ✓ Gaps – Statewide urban/suburban/rural connectivity
- ✓ Funding – state bonding, Other strategies
 - LetsGoCT!, LOTCIP?
- ✓ Statewide mapping and user data!
- ✓ Potential for bike/ped federal stimulus
- ✓ Local advocacy
- ✓ Integral role of CRCOG





R. Bruce Donald, APBP

**Tri-State Coordinator, ECCGA
Chair, Connecticut Greenways Council**

bruce@greenway.org
860.707.2888

Connecting people to places, Maine to Florida • greenway.org

