



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

Friday May 26, 2023 9 AM

This meeting will be held over TEAMS:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 860-840-2075,,852154497#](tel:+18608402075852154497) United States, Hartford

Phone Conference ID: 852 154 497#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

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1 Call to Order/Roll Call

Sandy Fry (Chair), Joe Balskus (Secretary), Rod Parlee, Al Sylvestre, Brian Kent, Mark Moriarty, Neil Pade, Sue Smith, Tom Branchaud, Francis Pickering

Kyle Consiglo, SCCOG
Kristen Levesque, CTDOT SafeRoutes to school coordinator
Bill Veronesi, Hartford resident
Kim Bradley, CTDEEP
Jennifer Carrier, FHWA
Dimitri Koutoumbas, OSTA
Craig Babowicz, CTDOT
Anna Bergeron, CTDOT
Charles Harlow, Fuss & O'Neill
Richard Donovan, NVCOG
Caitlin Palmer, CRCOG
Christopher Roberts, CTDOT
Martha Conneely, Riverfront Recapture
Jennifer Lacker, Bike Stonington
Bill Champagne, CTDOT
Doug Hausladen, Park New Haven

1.1 Minutes, **April 28** meeting

Approved with inclusion of Putnam Bridge inquiry

1.2 Update on **in-person meeting, June 23**

On line available as well. For GPS directions, use Riverside Park as the destination. The meeting will be upstairs in the Boathouse, but for attendees who come early, the Boathouse will be open, and you can take a look at the facility and boats. After the meeting, Riverfront Recapture staff will take anyone interested on a tour of the planned Marfuggi Riverwalk. There will be a virtual option for attendint this meeting also.

NOTE TO PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:

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2.0 Reports/Presentations

Kristen Levesque, Safe Routes to School Coordinator – gave a very thorough update on the program, see attached powerpoint.
Walk audits are included in the program

DOT Reports/Updates

Gold Star Bridge, Southside feasibility study
No update available, concern raised that it has been delayed for several months
Shuttle put in place to transport pedestrians/bicyclists across river.
Board to request meeting with Commissioner via letter

Chip seal pilot

Pilot work completed and decision to use emulsion chip seal to be installed in future paving projects on bike network shoulders only
Bike networks to be checked everywhere

Comprehensive Pedestrian Safety Strategy – any updates
Legislation enacted – speed, xwalks, intersections and streets
Speed limit setting, Ped safety zones to be created, no funding allocated
Xwalks, intersections and streets – upgrading equipment and road diets
Public awareness and training continuing
VZ council has proposal legislation that is pending

Legislative update

VZ council legislation discussion

3.0 Old Business

3.1 Final Report – Moving Recommendations Forward

- development of guidance regarding side path design – **is there a place for this in highway design manual update?**
- Bike design guide is separate from update from the highway design guide (refers to bike guide), to be confirmed next month. Side path design and suitability is addressed in this document
- establishment of a statewide five-year goal of top-ten Bicycle Friendly State status—from our current position of 20th – **Progress of Subcommittee**
Report card process different this year from past submissions, will be a very simple survey and update, not a full submission like last time.
- expansion of the Watch for Me CT campaign – **Kudos on the TV ads regarding Dooring**

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- **survey for local traffic authorities**

Discussion for next month, as the T2 center might be better able to get response from LTAs. Caitlin said that CRCOG and Bike Walk CT are planning to do a statewide survey (as part of CRCOG CDC work) that will seek input from town staff and the public. This might have synergy with what we have in mind.

3.2 Route 146 Corridor Management Plan project update

Strategies being developed, 13-mile scenic roadway CTBPAB is on the working group because the state senator who got the funding for the study requested that we be part of the working group. Sandy will try to attend the meetings, we have a small subcommittee interested in the project, anyone else on the Board wishing updates, let Sandy know.

4.0 New Business

5.0 Input

5.1 Input from COG's and Vision Zero Updates.

CRCOG: in the early stages of developing a Vision zero webinar as part of the CDC grant. Fall availability is likely. East Coast Greenway study: developing screening criteria, in September will likely have developed alternatives. Mark emphasized the importance of Vision zero for Safe Streets for All program. CRCOG is looking for strategies to move this forward.

SCCOG: a regional application for SS4A has been submitted which includes bike ped components: a planning study for a trail in Preston, a planning study will identify bike and ped improvements on Main street in Windham, planning, design and construction of a road diet on Route 1 in Waterford, implementation of the Shoreline Greenway in Stonington, and safety projects that will improve bike and ped safety in Colchester and New London. A TRIP application includes bike lanes on Matthewson Mills Road in Preston. The regional Open Space Plan public outreach has found significant support for bicycle and pedestrian access to open space. Kyle will check on the Gold Star Bridge shuttle service usage and report to the Board on this.

5.2 Input from Visitors (5 minutes)

Jennifer Carrier, FHWA – she posted in the chat a link to updated FHWA guidance on bike/ped project development <https://highways.dot.gov/newsroom/fhwa-highlights-efforts-improve-safety-people-walking-bicycling-and-rolling-made-possible> This is an update to 2019 guidance.

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5.3 CTDEEP Trails and Greenways:

Annual greenways designations award, only new one in Branford. Greenways designation is an important metric for Rec Trails Grant applications.

Trails day weekend, Hamonasset, 10am next weekend

Rec Trails Grant awards announced last week, 50 of 117 projects awarded. There is great coordination with DOT on this program.

She is following up with unsuccessful awardees

May be another fall rec trails grant awards

Trails symposium October 13, in Torrington

5.4 CT Greenways Council/ECGA

Awards next week

5.5 BikeWalk CT

No report

5.6 Watch for Me CT

No report

5.7 Transport Hartford

No report

5.8 CT Trails Program

No report

5.9 CT Rail Council

No report

Next Meeting – **June 23**, 2023, 9 AM,
In person (and online) at the Hartford Boathouse, Riverside Par,

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12 MONTH ACTION PLAN

April 28, 2023: Presentation by Erik Jackson, re UConn Crash data

May 26, 2023

Status of our recommendations – progress, need to reach out?

June 23, 2023 At Riverfront boathouse, Hartford;

Presentation by Donna Shea of the T2 Center, T2 activities in BP

Presentation by Riverfront Recapture re their BP activities

July 28, 2023

Possible update from OPM on CT Conservation and Development Policies Plan for 2025-30 (check with Bruce, Rebecca to see if they are able to do this)

August 25, 2023

Election of officers

Presentation on CT HSIP Implementation plan which should be approved by local FHWA office by now

September 22, 2023, in New Haven

Layout legislative asks for following year. After meeting, request meeting with Anne Kleza

October 27, 2023

Layout recommendations for 2023 report, begin compilation of data for tables in report

November 17, 2023 (not the 4th Friday)

Initial draft of report

December 15, 2023 (not the 4th Friday)

Draft final report

January 2024

Finalize annual report and distribute

February 2024

Strategize how to move recommendations forward

March 2024

NOTE: we may want presentations from other groups to be sure our Annual Report includes their work:

Watch for Me CT; CT Age Well Collaborative; OTHERS?

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Connecticut Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Program



Kristen Levesque • June 2023
Safe Routes to School Coordinator
Kristen.Levesque@ct.gov

Connecticut Department of Transportation •
Bureau of Policy and Planning •
Office of Strategic Planning and Projects •
Project Coordination Unit



SafeRoutes

Connecticut Safe Routes to School



Connecticut Department of Transportation

Program Status

- Purpose and Need
- Framework
- Legislation
- Programs and Projects
- Alignment with Vision Zero
 - Education: Bike/Ped Safety Working Group



SafeRoutes

Connecticut Safe Routes to School



Connecticut Department of Transportation

Purpose

- The purpose of Safe Routes to School as established in 2005 and revised in November 2021 in accordance with the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is:

Safety:

to make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age

Accessibility:

to enable and encourage all children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school

Sustainability:

to facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools



Photo Credit: CT DOT – South Windsor CT

SafeRoutes

Connecticut Safe Routes to School

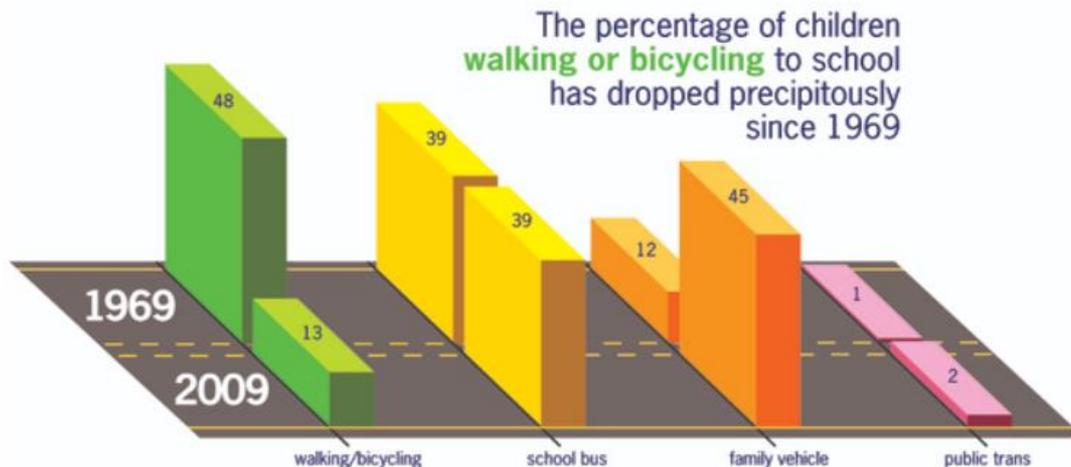


Connecticut Department of Transportation

Need

Support for Safe Routes to School is needed in order to implement **programs** and **projects** to:

- **INCREASE WALKING AND BICYCLING TO SCHOOL**



The Safe Routes partnership research indicates that increased walking and bicycling to school results in:

- Healthier and safer students
- Reduced traffic congestion
- Reduced student absences and tardiness
- Cleaner air
- Even improved academic performance

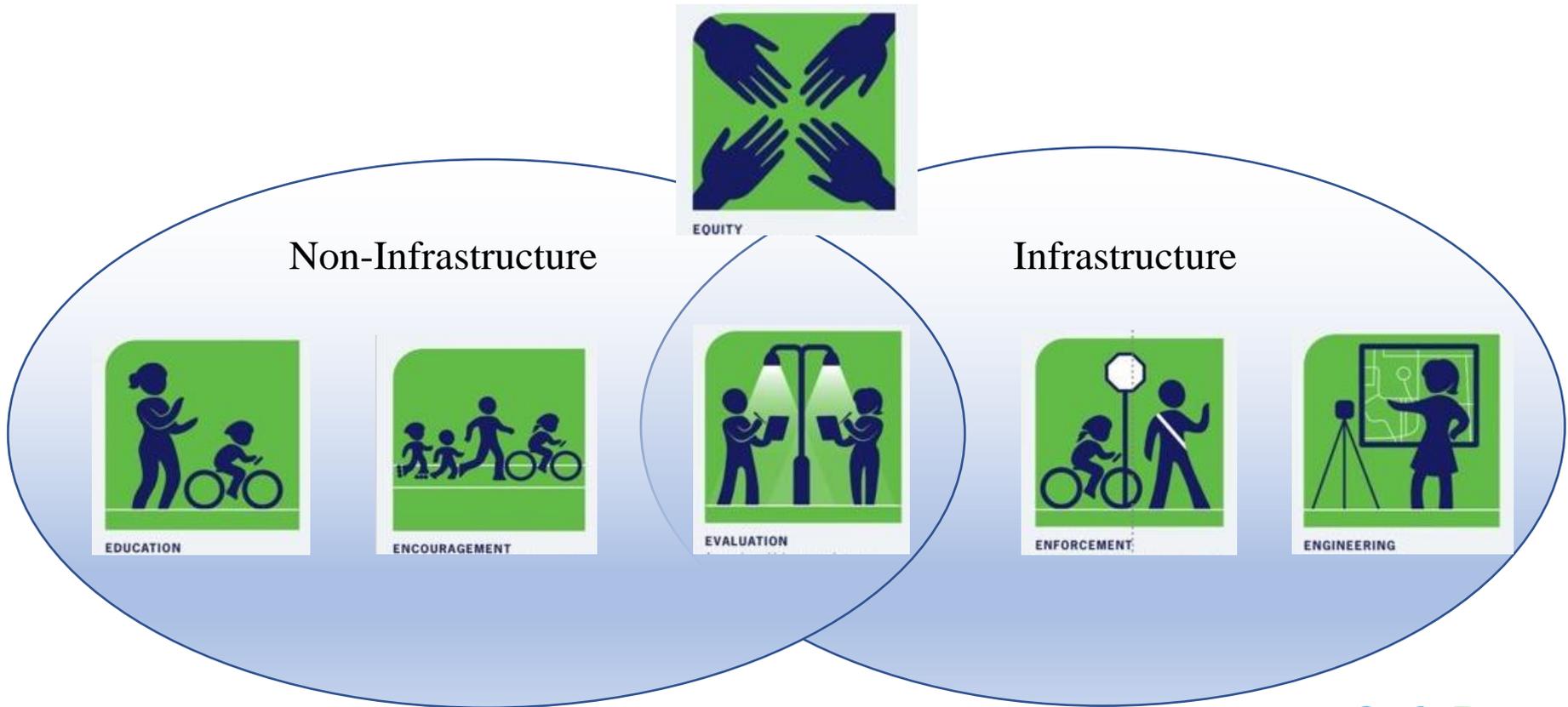
SafeRoutes

Connecticut Safe Routes to School



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Framework



Framework:

The six E's to ensure a comprehensive approach to both non infrastructure activities as well as safety projects.

SafeRoutes

Connecticut Safe Routes to School



Connecticut Department of Transportation

Legislation

One Hundred Seventeenth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Sunday,
the third day of January, two thousand and twenty-one*

An Act

To authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of
the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act”.

SafeRoutes

Connecticut Safe Routes to School



Connecticut Department of Transportation

Legislation

Areas of the state "in the vicinity of schools" as defined by IIJA



SEC. 11119. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL. (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 2 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 207 th following: “§ 208. Safe routes to school

- “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section: “(1) **IN THE VICINITY OF SCHOOLS.**—The term ‘in the vicinity of schools’, with respect to a school, means the **approximately 2-mile area** within bicycling and walking distance of the school. “(2) **PRIMARY, MIDDLE, AND HIGH SCHOOLS.**—The term ‘primary, middle, and high schools’ means schools providing education from **kindergarten through 12th grade.**



0 13.75 27.5 55 Miles

● SRTS_CTSchools
■ SRTS_CTSchools Buffer2mi

SafeRoutes

Connecticut Safe Routes to School



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Infrastructure

- “(1) INFRASTRUCTURE-RELATED PROJECTS.—“(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts apportioned to a State under this section may be used for the
 - planning,
 - design, and
 - construction
- of infrastructure-related projects that will substantially improve the ability of students to walk and bicycle to school, including
 - sidewalk improvements,
 - traffic calming and speed reduction improvements,
 - pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements,
 - on-street bicycle facilities,
 - off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities,
 - secure bicycle parking facilities, and
 - traffic diversion improvements in the vicinity of schools.
- “(B) LOCATION OF PROJECTS.—Infrastructure-related
 - projects under subparagraph (A) may be carried out on
 - any public road or any bicycle or pedestrian pathway or
 - trail in the vicinity of schools.
- [BILLS-117hr3684enr.pdf \(congress.gov\)](#)

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Connecticut Safe Routes to School



Connecticut Department of Transportation

Non Infrastructure

- “(2) NONINFRASTRUCTURE-RELATED ACTIVITIES.— “(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to projects described in paragraph (1), amounts apportioned to a State under this section may be used for noninfrastructure-related activities to encourage walking and bicycling to school, including:
 - public awareness campaigns and outreach to press and community leaders,
 - traffic education and enforcement in the vicinity of schools,
 - student sessions on bicycle and pedestrian safety, health, and environment, and
 - funding for training, volunteers, and managers of safe routes to school programs.
- [BILLS-117hr3684enr.pdf \(congress.gov\)](#)

SafeRoutes

Connecticut Safe Routes to School



Connecticut Department of Transportation

Programs



Equity

EQUITY



Education

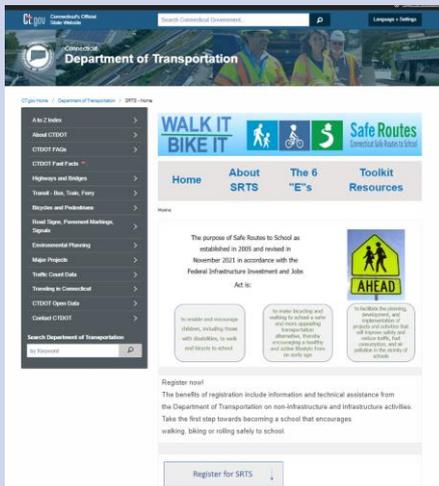
EDUCATION



Encouragement

ENCOURAGEMENT

- Updated framework to include Equity
- Updated Website including Accessibility



- Include all students:
 - with and without disabilities,
 - High School students
 - tribal agencies

- SRTS Bike/Ped Safety Working Group



- Observations of existing bike ed curriculum
- Collaboration with other states on best practices

- Walk, Bike and Roll to School Day
- Bring your Child to Work Day



- Participation in other events and outreach

Projects



Evaluation

- Toolkit and Checklists
- Technical Assistance
- Walk Audits
- SRTS Plans c
- Story map
- Coordinated Active Transportation



Enforcement

Programmatic Safety Projects

- Safety Countermeasures in the vicinity of schools
- Establishment of School Zones
- Dynamic Speed Feedback Signs



Engineering

Quick build -

- Crosswalks
- Raised Crosswalks
- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRF Bs)
- Bicycle Parking Facilities

Infrastructure -

- Since 2006, 21 infrastructure projects
 - sidewalks
 - Pathways
 - Bicycle and pedestrian facilities



Alignment with Vision Zero

Advancing Safe Routes to School Through Vision Zero



- [Safe Routes Partnership](#)
- [National Safe Routes to School](#)
- [Vision Zero for Youth](#)

SafeRoutes

Connecticut Safe Routes to School



Connecticut Department of Transportation

Education Working Group



- SRTS Bike/Ped Safety Education Working Group
- Current in-school bicycle education
 - South Windsor
 - Simsbury
 - Berlin
 - Avon
 - Cheshire
- Collaboration with other states on best practices
 - MA, MN, FL

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Connecticut Safe Routes to School



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THANK YOU!

SafeRoutes

Connecticut Safe Routes to School



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Presentation photo credits: CT DOT and T2 Center