5.1 Implement Complete Streets

5 – 110 Points

Action Updates

This action has been revised for the **current certification cycle**. A version of this action from the prior program year is available for comparison. Edits are highlighted in yellow. (Last update 2020)

Objective

Commit to, plan for, and implement projects that provide inclusive and safer mobility and access for all roadway users--including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and motor vehicles-- regardless of age, ability, income, or ethnicity.

Complementary actions:

- Encourage Smart Commuting
- Promote Effective Parking Management
- Promote Public Transit and Other Mobility Strategies
- Integrate Sustainability into Plan of Conservation and Development and Zoning

What to Do

If you collaborate with other municipalities or other stakeholders to implement this Action, please describe the partnership in the "partners" box of your submission. Please also consult this guidance document to help your municipality earn points for actions pursued in partnership. Regional collaboration and other forms of partnership are highly encouraged.

The more you do, the more points you earn.

1. Build a Complete Streets Team that reflects the demographics of your town, including residents who experience barriers to transportation or mobility based on economic conditions, physical ability, age, or geographic location within your town. An existing bicycle and pedestrian or other committee could be used and potentially expanded. Organize at least one Complete Streets meeting, workshop or walkability audit with a broad group of stakeholders, beyond membership of the Complete Streets Team. Discuss both opportunities and barriers associated with adoption of a Complete Streets policy and/or Complete Streets implementation. **(5 points)**

   Submit: A list of members of the Complete Streets Team; date of the most recent Complete Streets Team meeting held; the date(s) of the Complete Streets stakeholder meeting(s) or workshop(s); and at least one additional piece of documentation related to the meetings of workshops, such as a promotional flyer, an agenda, minutes, presentations, sign-in sheets or photographs.
2. Have at least one municipal elected officials and/or staff member and/or members of relevant commissions participate in a Complete Streets training. Any training pursued here may not also count for points under Sustainable CT Action 7.3. **(5 points)**

   Submit: The names and contact information of the individuals who attended the training; and name of the training, date it occurred, and organization that provided the training.

3. By municipal resolution or ordinance, adopt a Complete Streets policy that states an intent to plan, design, build and maintain all roads to meet the needs of all users, and ideally:

   Specifies that "all users" include pedestrians, bicyclists, transit vehicle users and motorists of all ages and abilities; identifies current barriers to mobility and transportation for members of your community and potential solutions; commits to create a comprehensive, integrated, connected multi-modal transportation network within the community, recognizing each community's specific local context and resources; considers regional connections; recognizes the need for flexibility since all streets are different, and user needs vary in each community; applies to both new and retrofitted projects, including design, planning, construction, maintenance, and operations, for the entire right-of-way; makes exceptions to the policy when specific safety concerns exist and sets a clear procedure that requires high-level approval prior to granting exceptions; considers public health during planning and design program phases; requires all initial planning and design studies of complete streets infrastructure projects to consider opportunities to improve public health; and acknowledges the potential benefits of complete streets. **(20 points)**

   Submit: Your officially adopted Complete Streets Policy, as well as evidence that you distributed the adopted policy to relevant municipal departments (either via email, an in-person meeting, a staff newsletter, or other channels).
4. Inventory and review planning and design documents. Conduct an audit of existing plans, policies, ordinances, procedures, and other guidance documents to ensure consistency with Complete Streets Team meeting and workshop discussion outcomes, and ideally, an adopted Complete Streets policy. Such documents may include the Master Plan, Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan, Circulation Element, project selection criteria, and design guidelines. Reviewing guidance documents may be an ongoing process since some issues may not be identified until project development. **(10 points)**

   Submit: Your inventory of planning and design documents that require update to incorporate Complete Streets program objectives; a checklist of the changes that you need to make to each document listed in the inventory; and ideally, planning or design documents that have been updated as a result of the inventory and review process, with changes from the original highlighted or noted in some fashion.
5. Achieve at least bronze-level status in the League of American Bicyclists, Bicycle Friendly Community designation program. **(10 points)**

   Submit: A pdf of your most recent Bicycle Friendly Community report card.
6. Implement, repair and maintain specific projects that expand safe, connected, active transportation networks across all neighborhoods, such as: sidewalk widening, street furniture, crosswalks, tree belt enhancements, sidewalk and roadway surface treatments, pavement markings, speed bumps, refuge islands, bump-outs, chicanes, shared lane marking, bike parking, bike signage, bike sharing programs, connected bicycling infrastructure, roadway narrowing, roundabouts, transportation wayfinding, safe corridors for children under the Safe Routes to Schools program, improved bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure connectivity to transit stations and stops, adequate public transit signage, and improved bus stop facilities, including sheltered waiting spaces (where appropriate), and ensuring proper cleaning, snow removal, and access to transit stops.

   Each eligible project will be awarded **15 points, up to a maximum of 60 points** for four projects.

   Submit: A photo of each completed project or design for projects in the design phase, and where possible a "before" photo, as well as a 1-2 sentence description of the project implemented. Specific projects on state roads or other non-municipal roads may receive credit if the municipality's role in actualizing the project can be documented in a letter from the municipality.

Credit for Past Action

For spring certification, count back from February 1st of the current year. For fall certification, count back from August 1st of the current year. For further clarification on determining if your prior work is eligible to earn points, click here.

- Regardless of when it was created, your Complete Streets Team will receive points as long as its most recent meeting occurred within the past year.
- Your broader stakeholder meeting, workshop or walkability audit will receive points as long as it occurred within the past 5 years.
- The Complete Streets training must have occurred within the past 3 years.
- The Complete Streets policy will be considered for points as long as it meets the requirements, regardless of when it was adopted, and distribution occurred within the past 5 years.
- Inventories and reviews must have occurred within the past 3 years.
- Bicycle Friendly Community status must have been conferred within the past 5 years.
- Eligible implementation projects must have been completed within the past 3 years and can include projects that are currently in the design phase.

Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

Include local elected officials and other representatives from your municipality's governing body in implementing this Action, as well as environmental commission members, public health professionals, planners, engineering staff, public works staff, transportation and housing agencies, any redevelopment agencies, businesses, zoning officials, and municipal police, fire, recreation, parks and finance departments, the Legal Traffic Authority and local advocates for bicycle and pedestrian friendly streets. Involve local stakeholders, such as businesses and residents impacted by the specific project(s) and stakeholders who can ensure that the Complete Streets Policy is implemented, once adopted.

Funding

Below are potential funding sources specific to this Action. For a complete listing of potential funding opportunities to assist with implementing Sustainable CT Actions, please visit the Sustainable CT Grants Portal, which is searchable by Action. Please also visit the Sustainable CT Resources for Certification page for opportunities for technical assistance and other supports.

- Urban Act Grant Program
- Municipal Grant Program (MGP)
- 2020 Sustainable CT Community Match Fund
- Section 5310 Grant Program

- Community Connectivity Grant Program
- Local Capital Improvement Program
- Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery
- Fuss & O'Neil Complete Streets Funding Sources
- Federal Transit Administration Grant Programs

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents

- Connecticut Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Board's Draft Sample Complete Street Ordinance/Policy for Connecticut Municipalities
- ChangeLab Solutions' Model Complete Street Laws and Resolutions
- Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, "Complete Streets for Connecticut Municipalities: What, Why, and How?"
- Connecticut Complete Streets Policy

- Making Local and Rural Roads Safer for Pedestrians and Bicycles
- Active Transportation Alliance Complete Streets Design Guides
- Connecticut Bike & Pedestrian Transportation Plan
- Walkability Checklist
- Sharing the Road for Motorists, Pedestrians and Cyclists
- If Your Favorite Street Disappeared, Could It Be Rebuilt Somewhere Else?
- Can Children Safely Walk and Bike in Your Town?
- How to Improve Your Town's Bike Network on a Budget
- The Stroad

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- Bike Walk Connecticut
- Connecticut Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Board
- Complete the Streets for Smart Growth
- Connecticut Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Board
- National Association of City Transportation Officials
- National Complete Streets Coalition

Benefits

Complete Streets have numerous environmental, health and wellness, economic well-being, community building and equity-related benefits. A robust process of community engagement and education will increase legitimacy and support for a Complete Streets policy, result in greater community ownership and greater likelihood of successful implementation, and promote equity by increasing the likelihood that potential racial, ethnic and socioeconomic inequities can be addressed in the Complete Streets policy and its ongoing implementation. Building a Complete Streets Team and organizing a broader stakeholder event can strengthen relationships between departments within the municipality, clarify municipal policies and procedures as they relate to Complete Streets, and save money by identifying local thought leaders and innovators with expertise in municipal planning and design.

Designing roadways that include all appropriate forms of transportation can reduce serious injuries and fatalities by lowering the number of speeding drivers and providing access and accommodation for all potential travelers. Safer roadways encourage residents to walk and bike more often, which can greatly improve their health. Increased walking, biking and transit use also cuts carbon dioxide emissions, reduces reliance on fossil fuels, promotes resilience and increases local economic vitality. Complete Streets provide appropriate transportation options to the approximately 30 percent of residents that cannot or choose not to drive. The implementation of a Complete Streets policy institutionalizes the commitment to providing a transportation network that accommodates all users, improving livability and quality of life for the entire community.

CT Success Stories

- 2018 Hartford - Thorough Submission
- 2018 New Haven - Thorough Submission
- 2018 Woodbridge - Complete Documentation
- Andover Complete Streets Master Plan
- Mansfield Complete Streets Policy
- Middletown Complete Streets Master Plan
- Complete Streets Master Plan for Downtown New Britain

- City of New Haven Complete Street Design Manual
- Norwalk Bicycling Improvements: U.S. DOT Mayors' Challenge Winner
- South Windsor Complete Streets Policy
- West Hartford Complete Streets Policy