6.5 Promote Public Transit and Other Mobility Strategies

5 – 55 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 updated 2020)

Objective

Educate on, plan for, and implement projects to enhance use of biking, walking, public transit, and other sustainable mobility options.

Complementary Actions:

- Implement Sustainability into Plan of Conservation and Development
- Implement Complete Streets
- Promote Effective Parking Management
- Encourage Smart Commuting
- Design and Implement an Affordable Housing Plan

What to Do

The more you do, the more points you earn.

1. Educate residents via existing regional mobility managers, websites, and social media apps about alternative routes and transportation methods. Your community may also receive points for providing educational materials to residents directly about transportation options, including public transit, transportation network companies, transit districts, nonprofit transportation and other information relevant to use. **(5 points)**

   Submit: An overview of your outreach (5 sentences maximum) and examples of your outreach and educational materials, which could include flyers, articles, letters, newsletters, presentations, or digital communications. For websites, submit both a hyperlink and a screenshot of the relevant webpage(s).

   Timeframe for Credit: Eligible for new action credit and rolling credit. This action falls under the action type "Outreach, Education, Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding" (see "Timeframe for Credit" Guidance Document for submission requirements).

2. Conduct a bicycle education program that teaches participants how to safely operate their bicycles in varied settings and improve bicycle riding and handling skills. To receive credit, the program must go beyond being an informational event and include an experiential, on-bicycle component. **(5 points)**

   Submit: The name of the program, the dates during which it was held, the number of participants, and a list of the learning objectives for the program.

   Timeframe for Credit: Eligible for new action credit and rolling credit. This action falls under the action type "Outreach, Education, Programs, Campaigns, Recognition/Designation in External Program, and Funding" (see "Timeframe for Credit" Guidance Document for submission requirements).

3. Through a process of community engagement, conduct a bicycle and/or pedestrian audit. **(10 points)**

   a. Your community engagement process should work to recruit participants who represent a diverse

representation of town residents, including residents with various mobilities, races, ethnicities, and ages. Ideally, municipal leadership and/or staff would participate as well.

b. Prior to the audit, conduct a training event or orientation opportunity in which participants are given guidance on what an audit is, how it will work, and what to look for.

c. Using the AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit or a comparable guidance document, conduct your bicycle and/or pedestrian audit, inclusive of the availability and quality of sidewalks, curb ramps, crosswalks, crossing signals, and turning lanes; bicycle lanes, bicycle parking, and other bicycle infrastructure; traffic signals that support safe walkability, and any other additional components your municipality wishes to include. It is recommended that your audit follow a specific and intentional route that considers community connections, on which participants will take note of the above components. The audit should further include specific recommendations on opportunities to improve bikability and walkability.

Submit: Your bicycle and/or pedestrian audit report and a completed worksheet 1. At a minimum, your audit report must include a description of your audit route, your key observations and recommendations, and illustrative photographs. Recommendations should be specific.

Timeframe for Credit: Eligible for new action credit and rolling credit. This action falls under the action type "Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessments, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions" (see "Timeframe for Credit" Guidance Document for submission requirements).

4. Create and formally adopt a bicycle and/or pedestrian plan that includes a vision statement, goals and objectives; an existing conditions analysis; recommendations on policy changes; and an implementation strategy. **(10 points)**

   Submit: Your officially adopted Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Plan and a completed worksheet 2.

   Timeframe for Credit: Eligible for new action credit and rolling credit. This action falls under the action type "Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessments, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions" (see "Timeframe for Credit" Guidance Document for submission requirements).

5. With a robust process of community engagement and education, conduct a community mobility needs assessment. Identify study areas and evaluate: age and mobility demographics; economic information (projected job growth or loss and expected future income); community services (access to child care, access to health care, etc.); community access to all forms of transportation; and strategies to address first and last mile needs of transit and non-motorized transportation users. Also analyze: transportation gaps, based on existing transit options and demand estimates; zoning and transportation-related provisions, such as minimum net residential density within ½ mile of transit facilities (if any). Strategize to: address any problems revealed by the zoning analysis; diversify transportation options to meet the needs; and include recommended zoning changes. Consider coordinating this process with Sustainable CT Action Design and Implement an Affordable Housing Plan. **(10 points)**

   Submit: The transportation needs assessment, a completed worksheet 3, and evidence that the assessment was distributed to relevant municipal departments.

   Timeframe for Credit: Eligible for new action credit and rolling credit. This action falls under the action type "Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessments, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions" (see "Timeframe for Credit" Guidance Document for submission requirements).

6. Provide shared mobility services, such as by having your municipality partner with a bicycle-share service or an electric car-share service. Other shared mobility services will be considered if financially supported by the municipality. **(15 points)**

   Submit: A letter, contract or other written articulation of the collaboration between your municipality and your business or other community partner to establish shared mobility services, and the municipality's annual per capita spending level on those services.

   Timeframe for Credit: Eligible for new action credit and rolling credit. This action falls under the action type "Websites, Maps, Inventories, Checklists, Assessments, Plans, Ordinances, Policies, Regulations and Resolutions" (see "Timeframe for Credit" Guidance Document for submission requirements).

Timeframe for Credit

Actions can either be "New" or considered for "Rolling Credit."

New Action Credit. Any action completed within the past three years (from January 1 of the year seeking certification) is eligible for potential certification points. If you are applying for recertification in your year of expiration, you may not claim New Action Credit for items that previously received credit.

Rolling Credit. For any action older than three years (from January 1 of the year seeking certification), you must demonstrate ongoing, currently relevant, and meaningful impact in your community to be considered for certification points. If you are applying for recertification in your year of expiration, you must apply for Rolling Credit for any item that previously received credit, even if it was completed within the past three years.

View the "Timeframe for Credit" Guidance Document for detailed submission requirements.

Engaging Partners

Sustainable CT encourages regional collaboration and other forms of partnership. For every action, please complete the "Partners" box in your submission, indicating the name(s) of any municipalities and/or organizations you partnered with (if any) and a brief description of your municipality's role. If you collaborate with other municipalities, each community will receive points. For additional information, please see the "Partners Guidance Document".

Potential Municipal and Community Collaborators

Appropriate municipal and community stakeholders should be involved, with specific collaborators dependent upon the sub-actions selected.

Funding

If available, 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 Support for Your Town page for opportunities for technical assistance and other supports.

- CBDG Section 108
- Urban Act Grant Program
- Municipal Grant Program (MGP)
- 2021 Sustainable CT Community Match Fund

Resources

Toolkits, Calculators, Guidance Documents

- Buses Move Connecticut
- Transit for Connecticut: A Better Connecticut Through Improved Bus Transit
- CT Train Information
- CT Bus Information
- CTrides
- CTtransit
- AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit

Organizations and Relevant Programs

- BiCi Co. & The Center for Latino Progress
- Connecticut Association for Community Transportation
- Connecticut Fund for the Environment

Benefits

Integrated, connected, and efficient transportation systems ensure that all residents have access to economic and social opportunities, and facilitate a healthy environment through greater physical activity and a thriving municipality. By promoting public transit and overall mobility, you empower your communities to evaluate a better method of transportation for themselves and their unique town needs. Moving away from single-occupancy vehicles and focusing on shared modes of transit frees up congested roadways, fosters cleaner air and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. This Action will also help to reduce your residents' travel costs, giving them more money to spend in local businesses.

CT Success Stories

- Ashford - Oct 2019 Certification
- South Windsor - Oct 2019 Certification
- Westport - Oct 2018 Certification
- Bolton - Oct 2020 Certification
- Trumbull - Oct 2020 Certification