

6.1 Implement Complete Streets

5 – 80 Points

Action Updates

This action was last updated in 2024. The previous version of this action is [available for comparison](#). Edits are highlighted in yellow.

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](#)

What to Do

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 or workshop 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. The committee must be active and meet at least annually. **(5 points)**

Submit: A list of names and titles of the Complete Streets Team members; 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 or workshops, such as a promotional flier, an agenda, minutes, presentations, or photographs.

2. Have at least one municipal elected official and/or staff member and/or members of relevant commissions participate in a Complete Streets training. The training must have taken place in the last three years. **(5 points)**

Submit: The names and titles of the individuals who attended the training, date of attendance, the organization that provided the training, and an agenda or brief description of the content covered.

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, documentation that the policy has been adopted (such as meeting minutes, a copy of the municipal zoning regulations with relevant portions highlighted, a link to municipal ordinances, or similar verification), and a completed [worksheet 1](#). This subaction is included in the Sustainable CT [Climate Leader Designation](#).

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. If your inventory was completed more than three years ago, also include a brief description of how it is still relevant and used by your municipality.

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 current and valid Bicycle Friendly Community report card. This subaction is included in the Sustainable CT [Climate Leader Designation](#).

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, improved bus stop facilities, including sheltered waiting spaces (where appropriate), and ensuring proper cleaning, snow removal, and access to transit stops. Projects implemented as a requirement of compliance with the American Disabilities Act or other legally mandated improvements are not eligible for points.

Eligible spot improvement projects (e.g. crosswalks) will be awarded 5 points for 1-3 projects, 10 points for 4-6 projects, and 15 points for 7-10 projects. Corridor or area-wide improvements (e.g. traffic-calming on a corridor, sidewalk installations), in which an eligible improvement would consist of either a project that is district-wide or one that covers a stretch that is one-quarter of a mile or longer stretch, will receive 15 points. You may receive up to 30 points for projects. Projects must have been completed in the last three years.

Submit: A completed [worksheet 2](#). Specific projects on state roads or other non-municipal roads may receive credit if the municipality's role in actualizing the project can be described in the "partners" box of your submission. This subaction is included in the Sustainable CT [Climate Leader Designation](#).

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

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

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.

- [Urban Act Grant Program](#)
- [Sustainable CT Community Match Fund](#)
- [State Funding Readiness Project](#)
- [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\)](#)
- [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](#)
- CT Training and Technical Assistance Center, [Complete Streets Information Exchange](#)
- [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](#)
- [National Association of City Transportation Officials](#)
- [National Complete Streets Coalition](#)
- [Watch for Me CT](#)

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

- [Guilford - May 2022 Certification](#)
- [Bolton - Sep 2023 Certification](#)
- [Middletown - Sep 2023 Certification](#)
- [New Haven - Sep 2023 Certification](#)
- [Durham - May 2024 Certification](#)
- [Old Saybrook - May 2024 Certification](#)
- [Bristol - Oct 2024 Certification](#)
- [Glastonbury - Oct 2024 Certification](#)
- [Greenwich - Oct 2024 Certification](#)
- [Croton - Oct 2024 Certification](#)
- [Milford - Oct 2024 Certification](#)
- [West Hartford - Oct 2024 Certification](#)
- [Stamford - May 2025 Certification](#)
- [Vernon - May 2025 Certification](#)