



# Middletown A Bicycle Friendly Community

Prepared By: Planning,  
Conservation and  
Development





# Overall Vision

Making Middletown a Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Transit Friendly Community by incorporating Complete Street policies and striving for Bicycle Friendly Designation from the American League of Bicyclists

**“Complete Streets = Safer Streets for All Users”**



# Recent Bike Discussions in City

- 2010 Plan of Conservation and Development & 2009 Parking and Traffic Study
  - Plan for Bicycle and Pedestrian Uses
  - Establish a Bicycle Committee
  - Goal to connect 80% of People to a Bike Network to Downtown
- Pedal Power Bike Group
  - Goal to make Middletown a “Bicycle Friendly Community”
- Other Discussion
  - Multiple Constituents requesting the City look into “Complete Streets” and “Bicycle Friendly” policies



# National Programs

- Complete Streets Policy
  - Program that encourages communities to create Complete Street policies that accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians in all developments and road design
    - “Share the Roads”
    - Bike Lanes
    - Road Signage
  
- League of Bicyclists Community Designation
  - National Organization that encourages communities to create an environment where Bicycling is an integral part of the community
  - Simsbury has a Bronze Designation
  - Goal to make Middletown a “Bicycle Friendly Community”
  
- Safe Streets to School
  - Program that encourages students to ride to school by providing safe roads to school



# Benefits

- Creating Bike Paths and Lanes integrated with bus routes will:
  - Connect 80% of population to the downtown which provides access to employment, shopping, entertainment, and recreation
  - Promotes Economic Growth and Development
  - Makes Middletown an “Attractive, Viable, and Sustainable Community”
  - Connects Parks, Open Space, and Brownfield Redevelopment Areas



# Benefits

- Eco-Friendly – It is good for the environment and gives people an option rather than the use of automobiles.
  - Less dependency on cars
- Cost Efficient- Less costly to integrate safe streets in road bonds and design than it is to maintain a larger bus network
- Health Benefits-
  - Promotes Middletown as a “Healthy Community”
- Education- Leading by example: promotes students to ride to school



# Steps to Achieve League of Bicyclist Friendly Community Designation

- 1. Establish a Bike Committee
- 2. Create a Bike Plan (In process)

Bike Plan Goal:

“To Make Middletown the most Bicycle Friendly Community in Connecticut and to achieve League of American Bicyclists recognition as a Bicycle Friendly Community”

# Bike Plan Objectives

- Establish a Bikeway Network
  - Beginning Rider
  - Intermediate/Recreational Rider
  - Advanced Rider/Utility Rider
- Adopt Bicycle Friendly Streets
  - Complete Streets Policy/Ordinance
    - Road Design
    - Bike Lanes/Paths
    - Signage





# Bike Plan Objectives

- Promote a Transit – Bicyclist Relationship
- Designate Bike Parking and Storage
  - Bike Racks
  - Bike Lockers
- Educate and Enforce
  - Share the Roads
  - Safe Streets to School
  - Police Awareness and Enforcement





# Benefits of a Bike Plan and Bike Committee

- Focus – Keeps the City on Track with achieving its Goals and to be successful:
  - Downtown Business Plan
  - Open Space Plan
- Credibility – Opens doors for State and Federal Funding Opportunities
- Awareness – Builds concern among Elected Officials and City Departments



# Middletown Today

- People are NOT Biking or Walking to work
  - Approx. 92% Commuted to work by automobile (2000 Census)
- Safety concerns with Major arterial roads
- Roads are not “Complete”
- No Connectivity
- No Bike Storage or Facility



# Positive Steps to Date

- Draft Bike Path Plan
- Current Bike Paths – Westlake
- Approximately \$5 Million undesignated Transit Funds
- Pedal Power Bike Club
- “Middletown in Motion”



# Bike Resources

- MAT Transit
- Wesleyan University
  - Rent a Bike Program
- Middlesex Community College
- Middletown Board of Education
  - Neighborhood Redistricted School System
- Green Street Arts / Arts and Culture
- Middletown Health Department
- Middletown Park and Rec Department
- Pedal Power Bike Club
- Public Works
- Planning Department



# Overall Vision

Making Middletown a Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Transit Friendly Community by incorporating Complete Street policies and striving for Bicycle Friendly Designation from the American League of Bicyclists

**“Complete Streets = Safer Streets for All Users”**