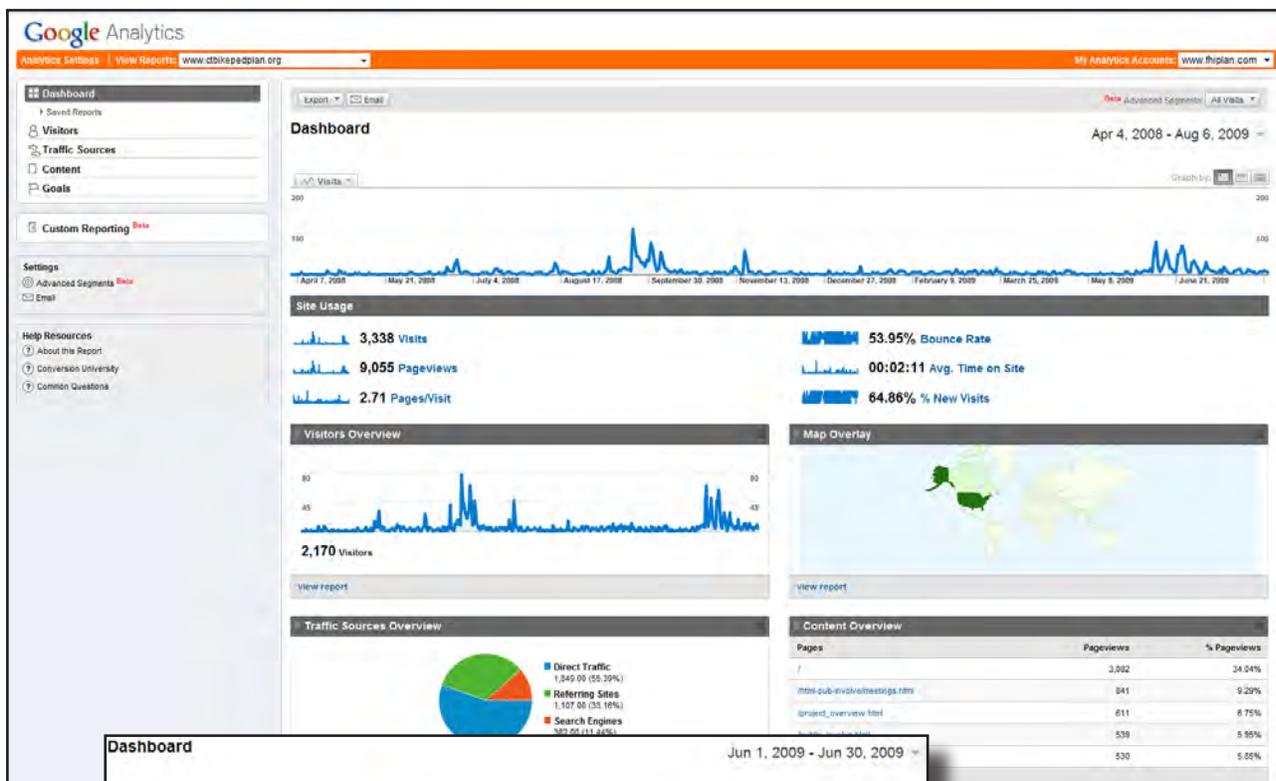


APPENDIX C: PUBLIC INFORMATION MATERIALS

Appendix C displays the Public Information materials, such as newsletters and press releases, generated in support of the project effort. Below is a chart developed from Google Analytics showing activity at the website from April 4, 2008 until August 6, 2009 (inset map reflects June 2009 activity).





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Purpose of the Plan and Map update

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How the public can get involved

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First meeting of the project Steering Committee

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Connecticut Statewide Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan and Map Update

Spring 2008

Connecticut Department
of Transportation

Plan Details

The final product of the Plan Update will be a document which presents policies, guidelines, and needs. It will be available in both printed and digital formats. The Plan Update will also include development of statewide bicycle and pedestrian vision and goals. The Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) bicycle and pedestrian policies will be updated based upon the vision and goals. The plan will include a bicycle and pedestrian benefit analysis as well as facility design guidelines. Finally, federal, state, and local funding opportunities will be considered in the Plan.

The final product of the Map Update will be a hard copy as well as electronic version accessible online. The Bicycle Map Update will include information to assist bicyclists traveling in and through Connecticut.

update underway

The Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan and Map Update has begun! This project has two components: updating the 1999 Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan and updating the Statewide Bicycle Map.

Updating the 1999 Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan will involve reviewing the 1999 plan and policies and updating them as needed to be current with new regulations, infrastructure, and Connecticut residents' needs. The final product of the Plan Update will be a report available in both printed and digital formats.



The second part of the project is updating the Statewide Bicycle Map. The existing map was completed in 2002 and will be revised to display changes in Connecticut's bicycling infrastructure. The final product of the Map Update will be a hard copy as well as electronic version accessible on-line. The updated map will include information to assist bicyclists traveling in and through Connecticut.

The process began in January 2008 and will take approximately 18 months.

Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan and Map Update

why now?

The existing Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan and Map were last updated in 1999 and 2002, respectively.

Since then, a new federal transportation law was enacted in 2005. Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users has a number of revised guidelines and funding sources. These should be reflected in a new updated Plan and Map.

In addition, ConnDOT would like to ensure that the Plan and Map stay current with the needs and desires of Connecticut residents who travel by foot and bicycle.

project schedule

TASK	2008				2009		
	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Data Collection	→						
Policy Development			→			→	
Plan Update				→			→
Bike Map Update	→					→	
Steering Committee Meetings (6)	*		*	*	*	*	*
Public Meetings (2 rounds of four)			**	**		**	**
Fact Sheets / Newsletters	■		■		■		■

Who is working on the update?

consultant team

The consultant team is lead by Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. (FHI) of Hartford, Connecticut. Other members of the consultant team include Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB), Alta Transportation Consulting, and Didona Associates. The specific areas of focus of each of the team members include:

- FHI – General team oversight, data collection, mapping, public outreach, plan assembly
- VHB – Facility design guidelines
- Alta Transportation Consulting – Benchmarking review, bicycle and pedestrian benefit analysis
- Didona Associates – Data collection, public outreach



getting involved

One of the main goals of the Plan and Map Update is to involve the public at the highest level and make the process as transparent as possible.

Throughout the study process, there will be a number of efforts made to ensure that the final products represent the needs and desires of Connecticut residents, corresponding agencies, and ConnDOT.

Members of the public are encouraged to review project happenings on the project website at:

www.ctbikepedplan.org.

There, one can submit a comment by filling out the comments form on "Contact Us."

Members of the public can also contact David Balzer, ConnDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator via email at:

david.balzer@po.state.ct.us

or phone at (860) 462-1062. In addition, all are encouraged to participate in one or more of the project's eight planned public meetings, scheduled in Fall 2008 and Spring 2009.



Steering Committee Meeting, April 2008

What's out there?

One of the first tasks of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan Update is to determine the contents to include in the update. Are the topics that ConnDOT covered in the 1999 Plan sufficient? Are some of these topics irrelevant? Should other issues be explored? ConnDOT wanted to explore what some of the other states who have Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans have covered in their efforts. The results may surprise you, or not, but

you can go to the project website to see what others around the country are doing... Check out a comparison of the inclusions of various statewide bicycle and pedestrian plans at **http://ctbikepedplan.org/documents/Plan_comparison_table.pdf**.

steering committee

The Steering Committee was established to advise ConnDOT and the consultant team on preparing the Plan and Map Updates. The committee meets at periodic intervals during the project and will provide expertise on local and regional issues, deficiencies in the statewide bicycle and pedestrian network, and an assessment of improvement and enhancement alternatives. All major elements to be included in the Plan and Map will be reviewed and commented on by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee consists of representatives from the state's regional planning agencies and bicycle and pedestrian advocacy groups as well as the state Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Public Health.

The committee's first meeting was held in April 2008. At this meeting, the members not only learned the basics of the project scope and schedule, but also provided valuable input on the existing vision in the 1999 Plan and what the new vision should include. In addition, a number of the Steering Committee members volunteered to spend additional time guiding the CT Statewide Bicycle Map Update over the coming months. Thanks to the Steering Committee or all your time and effort!

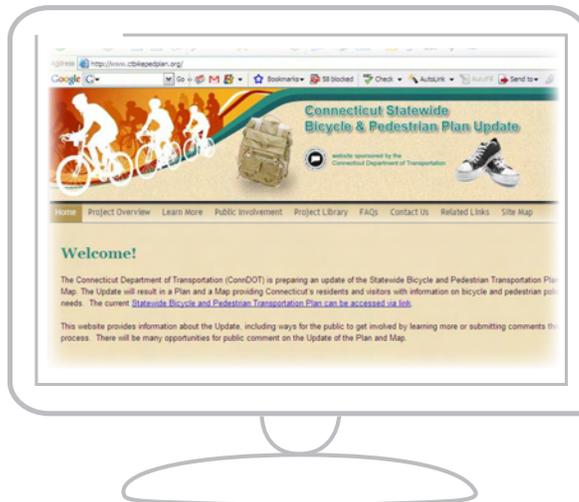


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Bicycle suitability analysis & mapping	2nd meeting of the project Steering Committee	Review of benchmarks from other states
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Connecticut Statewide Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan and Map Update

Fall 2008
Connecticut Department
of Transportation

Project update

The Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan and Map Update is well underway! Work began first on the Plan Update, with the Steering Committee providing a substantial contribution on the components to be included in the 2009 Plan. The Map Update work began shortly thereafter, in June 2008. At that time, a dedicated group of Steering Committee members met for the first time to discuss the needs and desires for the Statewide Bicycle Map Update.

Over the summer, ConnDOT and the consultant team, led by Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. of Hartford, CT, has been collecting data and conducting analyses for the Plan and Map Update. The results of these will be presented to the public at the October public meetings.

get involved!

Four public meetings are scheduled in October 2008 to introduce the update process and showcase preliminary data and findings. The meetings will be an opportunity for the public to obtain information and provide input on the 2009 Plan and Map development early in the process. The meetings are scheduled for:

- Wednesday, October 1, 2008 from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM at Bristol Public Library, 5 High Street, Bristol, CT
- Thursday, October 2, 2008 from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM at J. Eugene Smith Library, Johnson Community Room, Second Floor, Eastern CT State University, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, CT
- Monday, October 6, 2008 from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at New Haven Free Public Library, 133 Elm Street, New Haven, CT
- Tuesday, October 7, 2008 from 5:30 -8:30 PM at Stamford Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT



All meetings will have the same content and format. Each will begin at 5:30 PM with an informal interactive open house session. A brief presentation will begin at 6:30 PM, followed by a question and answer period. We hope to see you at one of the meetings!

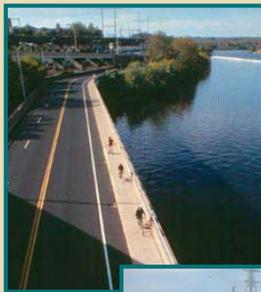
Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan and Map Update

bicycle suitability analysis

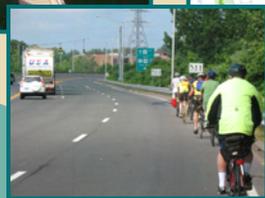
One comment that we have repeatedly heard during our outreach is that the existing Bicycle Map simply does not provide enough information on the designated routes. Bicyclists want to know more about a roadway facility before riding it. For example, users would like to know more about shoulder and/or lane width, grade, traffic volumes, choke points, and other roadway conditions.

This type of information can be clearly displayed on a Bicycle Map, and the study team is exploring what would be most useful and the tools to do this. One tool that is being explored is a bicycle suitability analysis. Bicycle suitability is a measurement of perceived comfort that bicyclists may feel on a particular roadway. It can incorporate a variety of such factors as traffic speeds, traffic volumes, lane width, shoulder width, pavement conditions, and others. For instance, a roadway with an eight foot shoulder and 300 vehicle trips per day may be more suitable for bicyclists than a roadway with a two foot shoulder and 1,000 vehicle trips per day. Some define suitability as a level of service, A – F, with A being the best score and F being the worst score. Suitability can also be defined more

simply, as a range of Most Suitable to Least Suitable. The study team is in the process of developing a preliminary suitability analysis on its statewide roadways. At this time, the analysis incorporates shoulder width and traffic volumes. Other suitability factors may be incorporated as necessary. This analysis will be presented to the Bicycle Map Subcommittee, the Steering Committee, and at the public meetings in early-Fall. We look forward to a lively discussion and a greatly improved Statewide Bicycle Map.



sample suitability map



steering committee update

The Steering Committee was established to advise ConnDOT and the consultant team on preparing the Plan and Map Updates.

The committee provides expertise on local and regional issues, deficiencies in the statewide bicycle and pedestrian network, and an assessment of improvement and enhancement alternatives.



Steering Committee meeting and group bike ride, June 2008

All major elements to be included in the Plan and Map are reviewed and commented on by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee consists of representatives from the state's regional planning agencies and bicycle and pedestrian advocacy groups as well as the state Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Public Health.

The committee's second meeting was held in June 2008. At this meeting, the members provided valuable input on the goals and objectives for the 2009 Plan. As a result, there will be goals

and action strategies, with general implementation timeframes, in the Plan Update. In addition, a number of the Steering Committee members met at a designated location and biked to the Hartford Union Station meeting location. Check out the following link, <http://ctbikepedplan.org/html-proj-lib/bikeride.html>, for more information and pictures from the ride. Thanks to the Steering Committee for all your time and effort. We look forward to working with you again at our third meeting, scheduled in September 2008.

Benchmarking Review

Part of the Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update includes conducting a benchmarking review of comparable states to assess bicycle and pedestrian planning efforts of other states.

The review recently concluded with ConnDOT and the consultant team participating in interviews with state staff from Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wisconsin, and Oregon during the month of August. The interviews were with the bicycle and pedestrian coordinators within the state departments of transportation.

Three of the states, Oregon, Wisconsin, and New Jersey, are considered to be leaders in bicycle and pedestrian planning. The other four states, New York, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Rhode Island, are neighboring states.

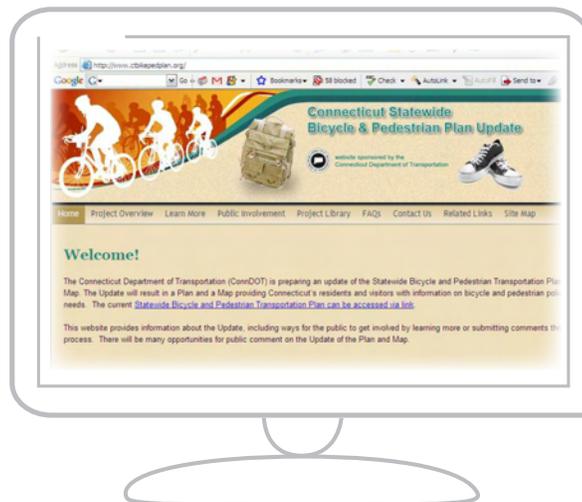


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in this issue:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update	Sample Bicycle Map Graphics	Website Update
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Connecticut Statewide Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan and Map Update

Spring 2009
Connecticut Department
of Transportation

Project Review

Work began on the Plan Update in early 2008, with the Steering Committee providing a substantial contribution on the goals and action strategies to be included in the 2009 Plan. The Statewide Bicycle Map Update work began shortly thereafter, in June 2008. At that time, a dedicated group of Steering Committee members met for the first time to discuss the needs and desires for the Statewide Bicycle Map Update. Throughout the summer and fall of 2008, CTDOT and the consultant team, led by Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. of Hartford, CT, collected data and conducted analyses for the updates. The results of these were presented to the public at the October public meetings.

Since the fall public meetings, the study team has combined its early data collection and utilized the input from the committees and public to construct a Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan and a Draft Statewide Bicycle Map. The Draft Plan and Map can be viewed at www.ctbikepedplan.org.

get involved!

The Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan and Map Update is moving along with a goal of completing the Plan and Map updates early this summer. We are excited to announce the DRAFT Plan and Map are now available for review and comment at www.ctbikepedplan.org.

Four public meetings are scheduled in June 2009 to provide information on the Plan and Map development process. The meetings will be an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan and Draft Statewide Bicycle Map. All meetings will have the same content and format. Each will begin at 6:00 PM with an informal interactive open house session. A brief presentation will begin at 6:30 PM, followed by a question and answer period. We hope to see you at one of the meetings!



Public meeting Fall 2008

The meetings are scheduled for:

- **Wednesday, June 24, 2009** from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Southeastern CT Council of Governments, 5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, CT
- **Thursday, June 25, 2009** from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Litchfield County Cooperative Extension Center, 843 University Drive, Torrington, CT
- **Monday, June 29, 2009** from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Elmwood Community Center, Auditorium, 1106 New Britain Ave, West Hartford, CT
- **Tuesday, June 30, 2009** from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Fairfield Public Library, Rotary Room, 1080 Old Post Road, Fairfield, CT

After the public meetings, the Plan will be finalized and presented to CTDOT for adoption in Summer 2009.

Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan and Map Update

bicycle and pedestrian plan recommendations

One of the initial tasks in the Plan development was to capture the overall vision for biking and walking in Connecticut. After the Plan vision was developed in 2008, CTDOT and the Steering Committee worked closely to identify goals and action strategies that could best implement that vision. In addition, potential implementation options were identified for each action strategy.

example

Plan Vision:

To encourage and promote bicycling and walking throughout Connecticut by providing for the safe, convenient, and enjoyable use of these modes of transportation.

Any person will be able to walk, bicycle, or use other types of nonmotorized transportation modes safely and conveniently throughout the State. A network of on-road facilities and multiuse trails will connect towns, regions, and Connecticut to neighboring states. Specifically, residential areas, employment centers, shopping areas, transit centers, recreation and cultural attractions, and schools will accommodate the walking and bicycling needs of users, both within the development and to nearby destinations.

Sample Goal:

Encourage and support pedestrian and bicycle safety.

Sample Action Strategy:

Develop and implement improvements and mitigation strategies to reduce vehicle-bicycle crashes and vehicle-pedestrian crashes on state roads.

Sample Implementation Options (2):

1. Educate bicyclists and pedestrians on reporting of all crashes, and their locations and causes – During the outreach process, the study team learned that it would be beneficial if all bicycle and pedestrian

The implementation options are specific courses of action, or recommendations, that CTDOT and others can take to achieve the action strategies, goals, and vision.

Any number and/or combination of the implementation options could be utilized to build toward the overall vision of the Plan. The implementation options, or recommendations, identified in the Draft Plan are not meant to be all inclusive, as other mechanisms that are not listed may be used to achieve the vision of the Plan. In addition, programs and practices may currently be underway, at CTDOT and at other agencies, which meet the vision and goals of the Plan.

crashes (not just ones that involve motor vehicles) were reported and kept in a central database. This could allow CTDOT to design the most effective countermeasures at the most needed locations to improve safety. One way to educate cyclists to do this could be through advertising and media. For example, future versions of the Statewide Bicycle Map could promote the "Report an Issue" website, where bicyclists and pedestrians can report these crashes.

2. Developing a "Report and Issue" page on the bicycle and pedestrian website – This page would be a location where bicyclists and pedestrians could report crashes that do not involve motor vehicles as well as other unsafe biking and walking locations.

statewide bicycle map update

The second project newsletter (Fall 2008) described the new approach that is being taken on the front of the bicycle map. Instead of recommending a variety of routes for bicycling, the 2009 Map includes a suitability analysis of all state maintained roadways.

Bicycle suitability is a measurement of perceived comfort that bicyclists may feel on a particular roadway. Suitability analyses can include a variety of factors, and this analysis incorporates shoulder width and traffic volumes.



Sample suitability map

The back of the Statewide Bicycle Map will include a variety of new information and approaches to displaying information as well. One comment that we have repeatedly heard during our outreach is that the back of the map does not provide enough information that bicyclists need to ride in Connecticut. Much of the previous map's information, such as airport information, was not beneficial to a potential cyclist or a cyclist out riding. The new back side of the map includes such information as commuter tips, transit rules and restrictions for bicyclists, and tips when encountering horses on trails and roads.

In addition, the representation of information is quite different in the 2009 Map. For example, the "Rules of the Road" information now includes graphics; hopefully, readers will read and retain this crucial information first!

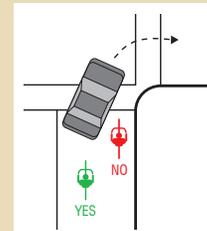
Sample Map Graphics

Riding with traffic



Wearing a helmet

Approaching intersections



Bicycle maintenance



Yielding to pedestrians





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website update!

Based on evaluation of the existing webpage and the expected changes in the 2009 Plan and Map, CTDOT has identified the need to develop a website to provide a on-line access to an interactive statewide bicycle map and current information on bicycle and walking in Connecticut. The new website will include such information as:

- On-line bike map
- "Report an Issue" page
- Library of biking and walking information such as:
 - » PDF version bike map and statewide bicycle plan,
 - » Cue sheets of statewide routes
 - » GPS coordinate information of state routes
- Links to related biking and walking information

Press Release - July 29, 2008

Public Meetings Scheduled Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and Map Update

Newington, CT – The Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) will conduct four public meetings to present information and gather input on the Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and Map Update. The purpose of these meetings is to introduce the public to the update process as well as showcase data and preliminary findings.

This is an opportunity for the general public to obtain information and share their thoughts on the Plan and Map development early in the process. The study team will be available to gather resident and traveler input on desired components of the 2009 Plan and Map.

The public meetings will be held on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, October 1, 2008** from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at Bristol Public Library, 5 High Street, Bristol, Connecticut
- **Thursday, October 2, 2008** from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at J. Eugene Smith Library, Johnson Community Room, Second Floor, Eastern CT State University, 83 Windham Street, Willimantic, Connecticut
- **Monday, October 6, 2008** from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at New Haven Free Public Library, 133 Elm Street, New Haven, CT
- **Tuesday, October 7, 2008** from 5:30 -8:30 PM at Stamford Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

All meetings will have the same content and format. Each will begin at 5:30 PM with an informal interactive open house session. A brief presentation will begin at 6:30 PM, followed by a discussion period. ConnDOT and members of the study team, led by Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. of Hartford, Connecticut, will be available at each meeting to discuss the Update and answer questions.

Directions and parking information for the four public meeting locations are available at <http://ctbikepedplan.org/html-pub-involve/meetings.html>. Additional information on the Plan and Map Update can be obtained on the project website at <http://ctbikepedplan.org>. Other questions or comments may be directed to Mr. **David Balzer**, ConnDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, via email at david.balzer@po.state.ct.us or phone at (860) 462-1062.

Press Release - May 21, 2009**Public Meetings Scheduled Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and Map Update**

Newington, CT – The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) will conduct four public meetings to present information and gather input on the Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and Map Update. The meetings will be an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the Draft Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan and Draft Statewide Bicycle Map. The study team will be available at all meetings to gather resident and traveler input on the components of the 2009 Plan and Map. After the public meetings, the Plan will be finalized and presented to CTDOT for adoption in the summer of 2009.

The public meetings will be held on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, June 24, 2009** from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Southeastern CT Council of Governments, 5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, CT
- **Thursday, June 25, 2009** from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Litchfield County Cooperative Extension Center, 843 University Drive, Torrington, CT
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All meetings will have the same content and format. Each will begin at 6:00 PM with an informal interactive open house session. A brief presentation will begin at 6:45 PM, followed by a discussion period. CTDOT and members of the study team, led by Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. of Hartford, Connecticut, will be available at each meeting to discuss the Update and answer questions.

Directions and parking information for the four public meeting locations are available at <http://ctbikepedplan.org/html-pub-involve/meetings.html>.

Additional information and the DRAFT Plan and Map are now available for review and comment at www.ctbikepedplan.org. Other questions or comments may be directed to **Mr. David Balzer**, CTDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, via email at david.balzer@po.state.ct.us or phone at (860) 594-2141.