

Simsbury Connecticut Bicycle Account 2018



Connecticut's First Silver Bicycle Friendly Community 2014 - 2018

Connecticut's First Bicycle Friendly Community

Prepared by:
Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

What is a Bicycle Account?

A Bicycle Account is a tool used to monitor the development of bicycling activity in a community. Its primary use is to assess how well a community is achieving its cycling objectives.



The League of American Bicyclists, the national organization for bicycling advocacy in the United States, recognizes that maintaining a Bicycle Account is an important monitoring, evaluation and planning initiative that can be used by communities to track their progress in becoming bicycle friendly.

The Simsbury Bicycle Account, in concert with the Simsbury Master Bicycle Plan, provides the Town of Simsbury a method to systematically review town cycling activity, infrastructure projects, and trends as a guide for prioritizing future bicycle projects and investments.

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Simsbury Free Bike - Multi-town Bike Share

Ridership and Reach

Simsbury Free Bike (SFB) is a multi-town bike share, headquartered in Simsbury and established in 2011. This all volunteer, 501c3, not for profit organization, places and maintains bikes at businesses in proximity to the town trails. Residents and visitors, 18 and over can borrow bikes at no charge for use primarily on the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail/Farmington River Trail and local communities for up to 24 hours. Currently SFB is the only multi-town bike share in the state of Connecticut. Funding sources include grants, distribution center fees and local business sponsors. The program maintains a fleet of about 60 bicycles. Bike share locations are now active in 6 towns along the Farmington Valley trail system. Ridership has grown consistently over these years attracting and serving riders from all over the state, country and many visitors from outside the US.



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Fleet Size	6	35	51	55	50	50	50	58
Number of Towns	1	3	5	6	6	6	5	6
Number of Locations	1	8	12	14	12	9	9	10
Number of Riders Served	150	650	1196	1600	1684	1462	1504	Estimate 1850

Two notable enhancements to our bike share program over the past 3 years include:

1) the addition of three Simsbury Free Bike share locations in the town of Cheshire, Connecticut. This is trailside town at the southern end of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail. Until 2018, the Free Bike program was a Farmington Valley Town program along the northern end of the trail.

2) the placement of Simsbury Free Bikes at two Simsbury apartment complexes for use by residents and guests.

Usage may be impacted by inclement weather.



Simsbury Bicycle Challenge

Commuter and Recreational Ridership

The National Bike Challenge (NBC) is a free, nationwide bicycle advocacy and wellness program to encourage people to bike for transportation, fitness and recreation. Participants log the miles they bicycle and compete for prizes and awards in an online community. In Simsbury, the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Simsbury Free Bike co-host a local challenge, the Simsbury Bike Challenge (SBC), within the NBC. Local riders compete in the NBC and the local challenge simultaneously, thereby supporting bike advocacy efforts at the national and local levels.



The Simsbury Bike Challenge was introduced to the community in 2015 as a local wellness and bike advocacy initiative for individuals who lived in Simsbury. Riders of all levels were encouraged to “make their rides count” for a bike friendly Simsbury. Since 2015, the NBC has undergone annual programmatic changes that have affected the format of the NBC and SBC, but the objectives of the SBC remain the same:

- Encourage biking for recreation, transportation, and fitness
- Collect data on ridership including commuter data to support our advocacy work
- Grow the bike community, build relationships, recruit volunteers



2017 Simsbury Challenge Winners



2018 Simsbury Challenge Winners

Local feedback reports show that the SBC motivates a local riders to ride more during the challenge, including riding for transportation. Participants' awareness of other bike commuters appears to encourage others. The other objectives have been easily met, making the SBC/NBC an effective advocacy tool. Simsbury's first place finishes in the NBC in 2016 and 2018, a top 10 team finish in the 2018 Team Challenge, and our continued success in the NBC, is a testament to the strength of our bicycling community.

Simsbury Bike Challenge Results

Simsbury Bike Challenge	2015	2016	2017	2018 May Only
National Sponsor	PFB	PFB	LOAB	LOAB
Total Riders Registered	103	202	101	109
Number of Participants logging Miles	93	137	101	102
% Female Riders	52%	47%	43%	34%
Active Days	2446	4097	3874	>1000
Number of Miles Ridden	64,182	105,800	101,412	33,753
National Challenge Rank/Category	5th Advocacy	1st Advocacy	27th (97%ile) Team	1st Community (Pop. 25-75K)
Percent of Recreation Miles	86%	87%	Unavailable	<89%
Percent of Commuter /Transportation Miles	14% (Transportation)	13% (Transportation)	Unavailable	11% (Work Commute)
Simsbury Rank (Participating Communities)	98th%ile (3320 Communities)	98th%ile (4619 Communities)	98%ile (3668 Communities)	67%ile (55 Communities)

* PFB - People For Bikes

* LOAB - League of American Bicyclists

Simsbury Bike Trail (Farmington Canal Heritage Trail)

Usage

The Farmington Valley Trails Council (FVTC) funded the purchase of three trail counters in 2013. The counters were installed in 3 towns - Farmington, Canton and Suffield. CT. Simsbury is located between the towns with counters. The data therefore reflect only *estimated* trail usage in the Town of Simsbury. The actual Simsbury trail traffic is likely higher than what is reflected in this trend report due to the very high traffic on Iron Horse Boulevard. This section of the Simsbury trail is in adjacent to the Simsbury Performing Arts Center, the Simsbury Dog Park, Rotary Children's Park, abundant free parking and the Riverwalk Trail. Thank you to the FVTC organization for managing the collection of data each season for use by local communities.

In 2018, the Farmington Valley Trails Council voted to place a counter in the Town of Simsbury. The installation of our own town trail counter will provide town-specific usage data. Thanks to the FVTC!

No usage data collection on our mountain biking trails is planned.

Est. Annual Trail Usage Provide by the Farmington Valley Trails Council (May-October)	2013-4	2014-5	2015-6	2016-7	August 2018 Simsbury Trail Counter installed
Farmington Usage Total	97,482	80,451	121,584	Unavailable	Unavailable
Canton Usage Total	71,688	156,297	124,429	Damaged data	
Suffield Usage Total	159,442	89,639	161,550		
Average Town Total	107,451	108,995	135,854		
Weekend Peak Day Volume	1066	950	940		
Weekday Peak Day Volume	565	610	698		
Month Highest Usage	August	July	August		
Month Lowest Usage	January	January	February		-
Annual Regional Trails System Total	262,874	261,110	326,050		

National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project has developed a method to estimate annual trail usage from raw counter data.

Simsbury Bicycle Events

Simsbury advocates plan and promote bicycle events throughout the year. During May, National Bike Month, Simsbury's Bike Month Calendar is filled with activities to help kick off the cycling season and to encourage residents, schools, businesses and clubs to participate in more cycling and walking. The major events in May include the Selectmen's Community Ride, Club rides, Bike to Work Day, multiple Safe Routes to School events, the TriSimsbury Run-Bike- Paddle triathlon, Simsbury Bike Challenge Kickoff ride and bike maintenance workshops for targeted audiences.

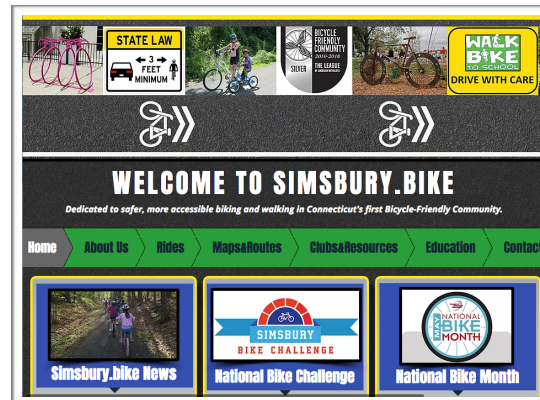


Adaptive cycle rides/events are hosted by Iron Horse Trike and E-Bike, a Simsbury based bike shop. Most of their rides are collaborations with hospitals or veterans groups both inside and outside of Simsbury.

Outside of Bike Month events include: The Farmington Valley Trails Council rides, the Farm Ride, Kids Bike at the Park, end of season celebrations.

Event Promotion - Social Media

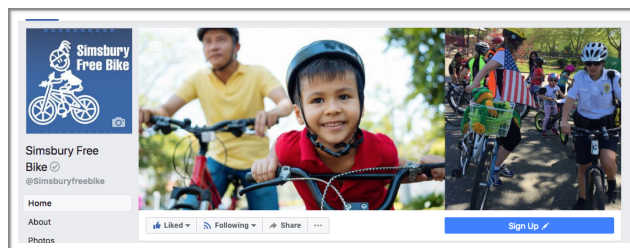
Www.Simsbury.bike is the advocacy website for all things cycling in Simsbury - events, public education safety/maintenance training, club rides, school programs, May Bike Month calendar and advocacy initiatives. This site has grown into a robust resource for cyclists.



The Simsbury Free Bike Facebook page reflects both Simsbury Free Bike program details and Simsbury and Farmington Valley bike advocacy efforts. The number of Facebook followers grew to over 1293 from 650 in 2014.

Traffic to all social media sites has grown over the past 4 years. Simsbury advocates also manage active Instagram and Twitter accounts.

The Town of Simsbury devotes a section of their website to walking and cycling in Simsbury and can be found under the Culture, Parks and Recreation tab. See Simsbury-CT.gov, cycling.



Simsbury Cycling - Premier Events

Event	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Bike/Walk 2 School* #Schools	1	2	3	6	6	5	5	3 YTD
Selectmen's Ride	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
May Bike2Work Day	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bike Month Celebration	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bike Ped Public Meetings*	10	10	10	11	10	10	10	15*
Bike Maintenance	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1
Adaptive Cycling Rides*	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	4
EasternBlock Rides	3/ week	3/ week	3/ week	3/ week	3/ week	3/ week	3/ week	3/ week
Simsbury Library Children's Event				Yes	Yes	0	Yes	Yes
Simsbury Triathlon	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Simsbury Bike Challenge					Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

* 2011-2017 - No Bike/Ped Advisory Meetings during May, National Bike Month, or in December

* 2018 - Includes Public gatherings for collection of input for Simsbury Master Bike Ped Plan

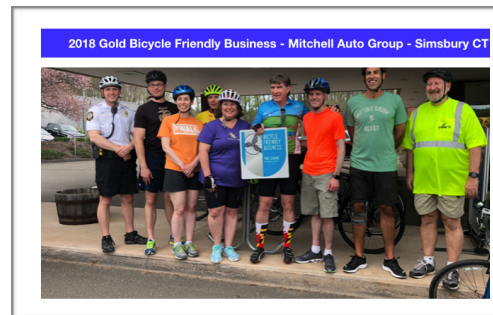
* Sponsored by a Simsbury-Based business - CT Adaptive Cycling/Ti-Trikes

Simsbury Bicycle Friendly Businesses and Bicycle Business Growth

Simsbury's first Bicycle Friendly Business (BFB) was designated at the silver level in 2016. The Bicycle Cellar, a retail business focused on bicycle sales and repair, is an important community contributor to Simsbury's Bicycle Friendly efforts. They are committed to supporting bike events and bike education by working with residents, advocates, schools and Simsbury officials to encourage safe cycling for transportation and recreation.



In 2018, Mitchell Auto Group, a trailside Simsbury business, earned a gold Bicycle Friendly Business designation from the League of American Bicyclists. Mitchell Auto Group is a longtime supporter of safe, accessible cycling and for connectivity to our bike trail. Mitchell Auto has also graciously hosted two LCI classes and one TS101 class at their dealership.



In 2018, Children and Adult Mobility Project (C.A.M.P), a 501c3, dedicated to the philosophy "Everybody Rides", earned a gold Bicycle Friendly Business designation. This not for profit includes:

- Iron Horse Trike and E-Bike: A not for profit retail bike shop that specializes in adaptive cycling with custom built trikes and E-Bikes designed to focus on riders' strengths.
- Simsbury Free Bike: An all volunteer, multi-town bike share headquartered in Simsbury with locations in 6 towns, at 11 retail businesses, located adjacent to the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail/Farmington River Trail.
- Connecticut Adaptive Cycling: This unique shop specializes in making adaptive cycles available for short (rehab) or long term use, to anyone 18 and over with a mobility issue such as MS, TBI, combat injury.
- Trikes for Troops (C.A.M.P): Trikes for Troops collaborates with financial partners such as the Independence Fund, Semper Fi Foundation, Challenged Athletes and others to pair veterans with custom-built trikes that enhance their mobility and assist vets in rebuilding an active lifestyle.



These Simsbury-based businesses, recognized by the League, demonstrate how Bicycle Friendly businesses attract new families, new businesses and tourists to our town. Our Simsbury Chamber of Commerce recently redesigned their logo to include a bicycle and created “Ike on a Bike” with his own Facebook page!



BFB Designations	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Pending Applications								1
Bronze Designation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Silver Designation	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Gold Designation	0	0	0	0	0	0		2
Bike Friendly Simsbury Businesses	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3

Simsbury Bicycle Business Growth

Simsbury has enjoyed a steady increase in the number of bicycle related businesses over the past 4 years. The businesses are diverse and expand Simsbury's reputation as a town that supports cycling and provides services and equipment to a wide range of cycling abilities and interests.

All of these businesses are active in the community, promoting safe cycling and cycling for both recreation and transportation throughout the year.

Simsbury-Based Bicycle Business	Date of Opening	Description
Bicycle Cellar	1965	The Bicycle Cellar is Simsbury's original bicycle shop operating since 1965. They provide bike sales, repairs, accessories and energetic community support.
Bicycle Repairs Express	2014	This is a mobile bike repair operation. They provide incredible value to our community by actively supporting local bike events, education efforts and Simsbury Free Bike.
Simsbury Free Bike	2011	An all volunteer multi-town bike share serving 6 trailside towns. Volunteers provide advocacy, bike repair, business relations and outreach to other advocacy organization and mentor other towns interested in becoming bicycle friendly communities.
Connecticut Adaptive Cycling (CAC)	2010	A not for profit, trailside cycling resource that provides trike rentals for injured veterans and any rider with a mobility issue looking to get back into cycling. Equipment includes power-assisted trikes and handcycles. CAC work closely with rehab hospitals and veterans groups.
Velo Legitimo	2016	A Simsbury based, all season, training studio equipped with compu-trainers; training, conditioning, nutrition, motivation, group rides and more.
Pedego E-Bike Shop	2017	This is an E-Bike retail shop owned by the Bicycle Cellar.
Ti-Trikes	2018	Ti-Trikes is a bicycle manufacturer that relocated to Simsbury. They produce titanium-framed trikes for riders that are more comfortable on 3 wheels and may require customized adaptive controls to address the special needs of a rider. Established 2015
Iron Horse Trike & E-Bike	2018	A new retail shop for both trikes and E-Bikes. Located directly across from the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail. It is an ideal, protected location for E-bike and trike test rides.

B. Education

Safe Routes to School

“Simsbury’s Safe Routes to School effort has become a state model that continues to introduce new families to bike-pet safety and active transportation.”



Debbie Thibodeau
*Simsbury Bicycle
Education Chairperson*

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a national program dedicated to improving conditions around grade K-8 schools so that more children walk and bike to school, promoting healthier lifestyles and a healthier earth. Education, encouragement, enforcement, engineering and evaluation efforts are all part of this program’s comprehensive approach. In 2010, Simsbury began working with the CT Safe Routes to School Program for assistance in developing programs at Simsbury schools. At the district level, Simsbury Public Schools has been supportive of SRTS efforts and has allowed individual schools to pursue SRTS programming based on their school community’s interest and needs.

Simsbury’s SRTS program functions as a partnership between Simsbury Public Schools and the Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Participating schools require a volunteer champion (parent, teacher, staff), motivated parent volunteers, supportive school administration and teachers, and receptive students/families. Other active town partners include the Simsbury Police Department and Dept. of Public Works, which like SRTS, are represented on the town’s Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The SRTS representative serves as a resource for all of the local programs and any schools desiring to start a SRTS program.

Simsbury’s active SRTS programs have experienced steady growth in regards to student participation in Bike/Walk to School events. However, state support for SRTS was terminated in Oct. 2016 and further expansion of the program has stalled. Simsbury has five public grade K-6 elementary schools (Central, Latimer Lane, Squadron Line, Tarifville, and Tootin’ Hills) and one public grade 7-8 middle school (Henry James Memorial School). Our goal is to continue to increase public school

participation and provide outreach to local private elementary and middle schools (e.g., St. Mary's, Master's School, Ethel Walker Middle School, The Cobb School Montessori).

Walk-Bike to School Events - Number of Student Cyclists

Event Date	Tootin' Hills	Latimer Lane	Squadron Line
Fall '11	unavailable	-	-
Spring '12	-	-	-
Fall '12	unavailable	68	-
Spring '13	-	96	-
Fall '13	unavailable	125	-
Spring '14	22	114	140
Fall '14	25	88	90
Spring '15	40	110	170
Fall '15	25	111	150
Spring '16	Rain cancelation	103	150
Fall '16	45	103	150
Spring '17	60	130	Rain cancelation
Fall '17	65	128	165
Spring '18	70	134	160
Total	352	1310	1040

	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
Participating Schools	-Tootin' Hills Elementary (TH) Coord. Susan Masino -Henry James Middle (HJMS)	-Tootin' Hills Elementary (TH) Coord. Susan Masino -Latimer Lane Elem. (LL) Coord. Debbie Thibodeau	-Tootin' Hills Elementary (TH) Coord. Susan Masino -Latimer Lane Elem. (LL) Coord. Debbie Thibodeau -Squadron Line Elem. (SQL) Coord. Laura Russotto	-Tootin' Hills Elementary (TH) Coord. Susan Masino -Latimer Lane Elem. (LL) Coord. Debbie Thibodeau -Squadron Line Elem. (SQL) Coord. Laura Russotto
Walk/Bike to School Day Events (% school participation) <i>In Celebration of International Walk to School Day (Fall) and National Bike to School Day (spring)</i>	FALL: TH: 158 students (40%)	FALL: TH: 75 students (20%) LL: 222 students (50%) 68 biked SPRING: LL: 226 students (50%) 96 biked	FALL: TH: 247 students (62%) LL: 263 students (62%) 125 biked SPRING: TH: 125 students (31%) 22 biked LL: 262 students (63%) 114 biked SQL: 186 students (31%) 140 biked	FALL: TH: 165 students (44%) 25 bikes LL: 215 students (53%) 88 biked SQL: 200 students (33%) 90 biked SPRING: TH: 100 students (27%) 40 biked LL: 219 students (54%) 110 biked SQL: 214 students (35%) 170 biked
Other SRTS Activities	-Parent survey (TH) -Walking Wednesdays (TH) -Mini-grant mapping and brochure (TH) -SRTS Master Plan (TH) -Infrastructure grant application (TH) -Walk Audit (HJMS) -CT SRTS presentation at public library (open to town) -Educ. campaign through school communication channels (TH)	-Walking Wednesdays (TH) -SRTS Presentation (LL) -Parent survey (LL) -School-wide safety assembly (LL) -PE class bike/ped safety review (LL) -Library Book Display (LL) -Engineering: new crosswalk (Old Meadow Plain, improved bike access to schoolyard (LL) -CT Roadway Safety Poster Contest (LL winner) -Community outreach: tables at Harvest Fest (LL), Bike to Work Day -Educ. campaign (bike/ped. safety, equipment preparation, driver awareness) through school communication channels and townwide social media. (TH, LL) - Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee representation	- Attended SRTS Regional Workshop (LL) -Walking Wednesdays (TH) -Stud. transportation Tally LL -May Bike Rack Tally (LL) -SRTS Master Plan (LL) -CT SRTS Walk Audit (LL) -PE class bike/ped safety review (LL) -Parent survey (SQL) -SRTS Assembly (SQL) -Community Outreach: Booths at SeptemberFest, Bike to Work Day, Try Simsbury, Harvest Fest (LL), Fall Festival (SQL) -Library Book Display (TH, LL, SQL) -CT Roadway Safety Poster Contest -Educ. campaign (bike/ped. safety, equipment preparation, driver awareness) through school communication channels and townwide social media. (TH, LL, SQL) - Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee representation	-Simsbury SRTS meeting with CT SRTS Coordinator -Engineering: resurfacing of Farmington River Trail (TH) -SRTS Orientation with new administration (LL) -Harvest Fest table (LL) -Safe Driving Awareness Campaign & SRTS Presentation to PTO (LL) -Neighborhood Ride to School Days (4x) (LL) -SRTS Assembly (SQL) -CT Roadway Safety Poster Contest promotion (winner LL) -Educ. campaign (bike/ped. safety, equipment preparation, driver awareness) through school communication channels and townwide social media. (TH, LL, SQL) - Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee representation -Community Outreach

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Participating Schools	-Tootin' Hills Elementary (TH) Coord. Chris O/Connor -Latimer Lane Elem. (LL) Coord. Debbie Thibodeau -Squadron Line Elem. (SQL) Coord. Laura Russotto (Central School investigating)	-Tootin' Hills Elementary (TH) Coord. Tania Enxuto -Latimer Lane Elem. (LL) Coord. Donna Roseman David -Squadron Line Elem. (SQL) Coord. Laura Russotto (Central School investigating)	-Tootin' Hills Elementary (TH) Coord. Tania Enxuto -Latimer Lane Elem. (LL) Coord. Donna Roseman David -Squadron Line Elem. (SQL) Coord. Laura Russotto	(Tariffville School investigating)
Walk/Bike to School Day Events (% school participation) <i>In Celebration of International Walk to School Day (Fall) and National Bike to School Day (spring)</i>	FALL: TH: xx students (xx%) 25 bikes LL: 223 students (60%) 111 biked SQL: 200 students (25%) 150 biked SPRING: TH: rain cancelation LL: 222 students (60%) 103 biked SQL: 210 students (35%) 150 biked	FALL: TH: 173 students (49%) 45 bikes LL: 232 students (57%) 103 biked SQL: 272 students (44%) 150 biked SPRING: TH: xxx students (xx%) 60 biked LL: 262 students (64%) 130 biked SQL: rain cancelation	FALL: TH: 171 students (48%) 65 bikes LL: 290 students (68%) 128 biked SQL: 196 students (48%) 165 biked SPRING: TH: 190 students (54%) 70 biked LL: 268 students (65%) 134 biked SQL: 232 students (40%) 160 biked	
Other SRTS Activities	-Central School PTO orientation/shadowing LL -Bike Club devel. Meeting (LL) -CT Greenways Award (LL) -Bike Walk CT Award Recipient (LL) - Engineering: Parking lot striping (LL) -Engineering: new sidewalk in front of SQL -Walk Audit by CT SRTS (SQL) -CT Roadway Safety Poster Contest promotion -Educ. campaign (bike/ped. safety, equipment preparation, driver awareness) through school communication channels and townwide social media. (TH, LL, SQL) -Community Outreach - Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee representation	CT DOT TERMINATES SRTS PROGRAM SUPPORT (10/2016) -Central School feasibility meeting -Engineering: surface repair/drainage work on Red Stone-Adams bike path (LL) -SRTS Parent Survey (LL) -SRTS Travel Talley (LL) -Engineering: surfacing repair (Musket Trail path to Squadron Line School (SQL) -Kids bicycle safety inspection event (SQL) -CT Roadway Safety Poster Contest promotion (winner LL) -Educ. campaign (bike/ped. safety, equipment preparation, driver awareness) through school communication channels and townwide social media. (TH, LL, SQL) -Community Outreach - Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee representation	-District SRTS meeting with Police, Public Works, Admin. -Participation in town's Pedestrian-Bicycle Master Plan development -CT Roadway Safety Poster Contest promotion -Educ. campaign (bike/ped. safety, equipment preparation, driver awareness) through school communication channels and townwide social media. (TH, LL, SQL) -Community Outreach - Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee representation	

Walk-Bike to School Event - School Participation

Event Date	Tootin' Hills	Latimer Lane	Squadron Line
Fall '11	40%	-	-
Spring '12	-	-	-
Fall '12	20%	50%	-
Spring '13	-	50%	-
Fall '13	62%	62%	-
Spring '14	31%	63%	31%
Fall '14	44%	53%	33%
Spring '15	27%	54%	35%
Fall '15	Unavailable	60%	25%
Spring '16	Rain cancelation	60%	35%
Fall '16	49%	57%	44%
Spring '17	Unavailable	64%	Rain cancelation
Fall '17	48%	68%	48%
Spring '18	54%	65%	40%

Simsbury Public School Bicycle Education

Physical Education - Bicycle Safety Training Program

In 2011, at the recommendation of Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, the Simsbury Public School Board of Education agreed to adopt a Bicycle Safety program as part of the Physical Education program.

The program began with Bike Safety Instructor Training for Simsbury Public School physical education teachers, curriculum development for elementary PE classes, the acquisition of a transportable, right-sized fleet of bikes, a trailer for transporting the fleet from school to school and a summer high school program. Simsbury Free Bike volunteers assembled the inaugural fleet for the elementary school program.



The program continues to be fine tuned, and has expanded to grades 4, 5, 6 for on-bike safety training. Simsbury high school students have the option to participate in a summer bicycle safety summer school program.

The Simsbury Public School Physical Education Department has submitted a proposal to the Board of Education for a further expansion of the program to include K-12. Approval pending for the 2018-2019 school year.

The number of students trained each year continues to grow!



Students Trained	2012-3	2013-4	2014-5	2015-6	2016-7	2017-8	2018-9*
Latimer Lane Elementary	Spring '13 Grades 3 & 4 150 Trained				Spring '17 Grades 4-6 225 Trained		Program Expansion Proposed to Board of Education
Central School Elementary		Spring'14 Grades 4-6 225 Trained		Spring'16 Grades 4-6 180 Trained		Spring'18 Grades 4-6 178 Trained	
Tootin' Hills Elementary	Spring'13 Grades 3 & 4 120 Trained			Spring'16 Grades 4-6 180 Trained		Spring'18 Grades 4-6 178 Trained	
Squadron Line Elementary		Spring'14 Grades 4-6 375 Trained			Fall'16 Grades 4-6 300 Trained	Fall'17 Grades 4-6 300 Trained	
Tariffville Elementary School		Fall'13 Grades 4-6 85 Trained	Spring'15 Grades 4-6 110 Trained		Spring'17 Grades 4-6 85 Trained		
Simsbury High School (July Summer School)		85	130	130	160	150	120
Students Trained	270	770	240	490	795	810	120*

***2018-9: Summer School numbers available; Fall 2018/Spring 2019 to come.**

Bicycle Safety Education Fleet Expansion

As Simsbury Public Schools' Bicycle Safety program has grown, so too has the need for convenient, right-sized, and economical access to quality bikes. Rentals and the donated 35 refurbished children's bikes have been replaced by a fleet of standardized right-sized Jamis bikes. Retired bicycles were donated to another community for building their own fleet for a Bike Safety Education Program.

In 2017, Squadron Line School, Simsbury's largest elementary school, was awarded a grant that supported the purchase of a *dedicated* fleet of 30 bicycles for the Bicycle Safety Education program at that school, eliminating the need to transport a fleet for their program.

Simsbury Public School Bike Fleet

Fleet	2013*	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Transportable Fleet*	35 Refurbished Bicycles	35	35 New Bicycles	35	35	35
Squadron Line School				30 Bike Grant Rec'd	30	30
Simsbury High School	Students use their personal bikes - Summer Program					
Total Fleet	35	35	35	65	65	65

* ***Starter fleet, donated by Simsbury Free Bike, was given to another town to begin their program***

* ***New Trailer for bike transportation acquired in 2014***

Bicycle Education - Public

Public bicycle safety education has been a consistent focus of the Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee and local advocates. Many of our local LCI's, physical education teachers, and bike shops assist with the organization and instruction of bike seminars on general bike maintenance, trail etiquette and traffic safety skills. Community partners in this effort include Simsbury Culture, Parks and Recreation, Simsbury Free Bike, Simsbury Public Schools, Simsbury Police Department, the Simsbury Public Library and our Bicycle Friendly Businesses.



Class/Clinic/ Workshop	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
LCI Seminar Training * Simsbury Parks/Rec		1	1			
Smart Cycling/Traffic Skills 101* Simsbury Parks/Rec		1		1	Offered	1
Small Group Clinic* Teen/ABC House*** Simsbury Free Bike					1	
Train the Trainer Workshop* - PE Teachers - Simsbury Public Schools	1			1		
Simsbury Free Bike Weekly Maintenance Clinics - Shop Nite	Weekly	Weekly	Weekly	Weekly	Weekly	Weekly
Bike Maintenance - Teens Simsbury Public Library		1				Offered
Bike Maintenance - Adults Simsbury Public Library	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bike Commuter Forum* Simsbury Public Library				1		
Mountain Bike Clinic** Simsbury Parks/Rec		Offered Teen	Offered Women			

* LCI Trainer; ** PMBI Trainer ***Class and on-bike

Community Education via Social Media, TV and Radio Public Service Announcements

In preparation for National Bike Month, Simsbury advocates prepare public service announcements for Simsbury Public TV and for Facebook. In 2018, audio and video were added to our messaging.

Audio and video message themes included:

- The Dangers of Bike Lanes
- Distracted Driving
- Family Safety
- New Connecticut Bike Laws
- Building a Positive Bike Culture
- Sharing the Road



Share the Road Car Stickers

	2016	2017	2018
Simsbury Public TV	Yes	Yes	Yes
Simsbury Radio 103.5	No	No	Yes
Facebook/IG/Twitter	Yes	Yes	Yes

C. Enforcement

Programs, Crash and Incident data

“Insuring that our roads and trails are safe for all road users is our first priority.”

Nicholas Boulter

*Chief of Police, Town of
Simsbury*



Simsbury was named Connecticut's first Bicycle Friendly Community in 2010 and the state's first Silver Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) in 2014 by the League of American Bicyclists. The Farmington Canal Heritage Trail runs through the Farmington Valley and 7.2 of that trail is in Simsbury.

The bike trail and the BFC designation attract both novice and seasoned cyclists to our town. Promotion and enforcement of safe bike practices is essential due to Connecticut's evolving bicycle laws, prevalence of bike clubs on our roadways, family cycling activity and the growing number of new cyclists.

Equal enforcement of cyclists and motorists and the development of a positive and supportive cycling culture are essential. The Simsbury Police Department studies creative community policing tactics to positively manage/develop a safe cycling environment. Positive ticketing and local access television is routinely utilized to educate and enforce safety practices.

Incidents	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 Thru 8/01/18
Simsbury Bicycle Crashes	6	3	9	4	1	4	2	2	0	5
Simsbury Bicycle/ Ped Fatalities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Police Department Outreach Programs

The Simsbury Police Department works in partnership with Simsbury cycling advocates. The agency has developed and executed positive ticketing programs for the community's youth. During the summer months, officers are able to issue a "ticket" (valid at several local ice cream shops) to youth as a positive reward when discussing safe cycling practices. The Community Services Officer for the Department serves as a liaison between the Police Department and is an active member of the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The Department regularly deploys its LED signs with various bike/pedestrian/motorist safety messages. The Department's bicycle officers are active participants in the planning and event management on "bike and walk to school" events two times per year for several of the Simsbury elementary schools.

The Simsbury Police Department maintains a website as well as two social media accounts (Facebook and Twitter) and uses both to notify the public of various bicycle related events (bike to school, national bike month) as well as providing cycling education to the public via bike safety videos and links. The Simsbury Police Department is dedicated to creating and enforcing a safe network for all road and trail users.

Outreach Program	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Bike Peo Advisory Meetings	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bike Rodeos	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Youth Positive Ticketing				Yes				Yes
Bike Month LED Signs		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Safe Routes to School	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

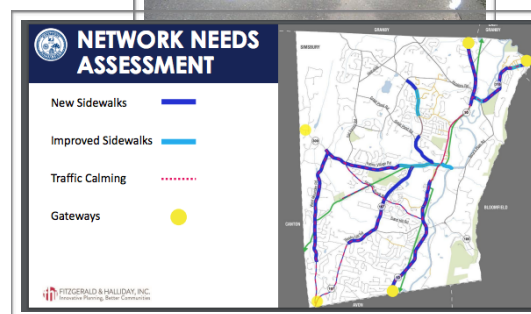
D. Engineering

Network and Connectivity Improvements

“The adoption of a Complete Streets Resolution and pending approval of a Town of Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan moves vision to action to create a safer, healthier and better connected community ”

Tom Roy

Simsbury Director of Public Works and Bicycle Pedestrian Manager



Paved Sharrowed Routes

A sharrow is a pavement marking symbol that indicates that motor vehicles and bicyclists must share the road. Simsbury has been adding sharrowed bike routes through town since 2010. This table demonstrates that since 2010 Simsbury has added over 18 miles of sharrowed routes with plans expand that work where appropriate.

Paved Sharrowed	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Simsbury Sharrowed Scenic Route #1(16.6 Full Route Miles)	0	0	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8
Farmington River Trail (FRT) West Mountain Rd. to Dry Bridge	0	0	0	0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Town Forest Rd. (FRT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.8	0.8
Firetown Rd.						3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
Total Paved Sharrowed Miles		0	14.8	15.7	15.57	19	19	19.8	19.8

Dedicated Bike Lanes

A dedicated bike lane is a roadway that has been designated, by pavement markings, and/or signs, for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclist.

Hopmeadow Street (CT State Road Route 20) was upgraded in 2012 to reduce width of travel lane to calm traffic and increase shoulder width for safer cycling.

Hopmeadow Street and Iron Horse Boulevard are the two primary (and parallel) roads through the center of Simsbury.



Iron Horse Boulevard
Simsbury CT

Bike Lanes	2012	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Iron Horse Boulevard - Dedicated	0	2	2	2	2	2
Hopmeadow Street (State) (Wide Shoulder - Narrowed Center Lane - Traffic Calming)	2	2	2	2	2	2
Total Miles of Bicycle Lanes	2	4	4	4	4	4

Paved, Shared-Use Paths

A bikeway physically separated from motorized vehicular traffic by an open space or barrier and either within the highway right-of-way or within an independent right-of-way. Shared use paths may also be used by pedestrians, skaters, wheelchair users, joggers and other non-motorized users.

Two of three grants that will connect Simsbury's section of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail to an unconnected Simsbury Village of Tariffville have been approved. Ground will be broken in 2019. The last grant, connecting those two sections, will be written in 2019. These 3 sections, once complete and connected to the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in Simsbury, will be designated as East Coast Greenway and will connect Simsbury to Hartford, Connecticut and serve as a much needed commuter route.



Paved, Shared-Use Paths	2012	2014	2016	2017	2018	2019 Plan
West Street (High School to Drake Hill Rd.) (FRT)	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Owens Brook Blvd (Firetown to Hopmeadow)	0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail (FCHT)	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4
Redstone - Adams neighborhood connector	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
**FCHT to Curtiss Park (T-ville Connector/East Coast Greenway Link)- Simsbury Center to T'Ville	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.6
**Main St. to Bloomfield border (T-ville Connector/ East Coast Greenway Link)	0	0	0	0	0	0.7
Main St. to Curtiss Park T-ville Connector/ East Coast Greenway Link)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Farms Village Road (Watson to Apple Barn Dr.) neighborhood connector	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3

Paved, Shared-Use Paths	2012	2014	2016	2017	2018	2019 Plan
Hearthstone Drive to Firetown Rd.- neighborhood connector	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14
Newbury Ct. to Weatherly Rd. neighborhood connector	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Vincent Dr. to Owens Brook Blvd. - neighborhood connector	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Kerr Farm Rd. to Hearthstone Dr. neighborhood connector	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
Aspen Green Trail on Hopmeadow St. (Blue Ridge Dr. to Lincoln) neighborhood connector	0	0	0	0.3	0.3	0.3
Mountain Farms Neighborhood Trails	.7	.7	.7	.7	.7	0.7
County Rd. - Holcomb St. neighborhood connector	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	0.5
Flower Bridge to FCHT on Drake Hill Dr.	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	0.2
Total Paved, Shared-Use Path Miles	10.7	11.7	11.7	12.0	12.0	13.27

* This project created a safe, off-road connection on the 26 mile Farmington River Trail Loop. It is also be a safe, off road route for biking to the high school to avoid Route 309, a Safe Route to School artery for several neighborhoods and bike-safe route to Town Center via Stratton Brook Park.

* * This 2019 project will extend the Simsbury section of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail through Tariffville to connect to Bloomfield, creating a true commuter route into Hartford. It will also be designated as the official East Coast Greenway route.

Unpaved Trails - Connector trails, rail trails

Unpaved trails are important elements of our connectivity success. Connecting neighborhoods to town center and other key destinations has been improving thanks to the collaborative efforts of the town and bicycle advocates. This photo of the newly refurbished trail from West Mountain Road to Town Forest Road provides a safe way to school for neighborhood children and an alternate off-road route for cyclists traveling the on-road section of the Farmington River Trail.



UNPAVED SHARED USE TRAILS - CONNECTOR TRAILS & RAIL TRAILS	2012	2014	2016	2017	2018	2019 Plan
Farmington River Trail West Mtn Rd. to Town Forest Rd. (FRT) rail trail	.5	.5	.5	.5	0.5	0.5
FRT Stratton Brook State Park rail trail (Bushy Hill Rd. to Stratton Brook Rd.)	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Wildflower Lane to Town Forest Rd./FRT neighborhood connector	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16
Madison Lane (at Wintergreen Lane) to FRT neighborhood connector	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	0.1
Old Canal Way to Latimer Lane neighborhood connector	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	0.5
Musket Trail to Squadron Line school neighborhood connector	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22
FCMT to Tuller Dr (Lake Basile neighborhood connector	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	0.2
Five Gaits to Simsbury Farms Fitness Trail neighborhood connector	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	0.1
Tariffville School neighborhood connector	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Hop Brook Rd. to Simsbury Farms Trail neighborhood connector	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	0.1
FRT/Stratton Brook SP to High School neighborhood connector	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	0.1

UNPAVED SHARED USE TRAILS - CONNECTOR TRAILS & RAIL TRAILS	2012	2014	2016	2017	2018	2019 Plan
Massaco to Hopmeadow neighborhood connector	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	0.2
Massaco to Memorial Park (lower) neighborhood connector	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	0.1
Central School to Memorial Park neighborhood connector	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	0.1
Total Unpaved Shared Use Path Miles	3.88	3.88	3.88	3.88	3.88	3.88

Unpaved Trails - MTB/Single Track/Recreational

Description	Trails	Mileage	Acres	Mapped	Signed	Rated	Owner
Still Brook	4	2.5	47.5	Yes	No		Simsbury
Belden Forest	2	1.4	42	Yes	No	E	Simsbury
Penwood State Park	8	5.2	787	Yes	Signed Blazed	M/T	State of CT
Stratton Brook Park	9	3.84	148	Yes	Blazed	E/M	State of CT
Ethel Walker Woods	9	11	427	Yes	Blazed	E/M	Simsbury
Town Forest	1	1.5	296	Yes	Blazed	E	Simsbury
Great Pond/ Massacoe State Forest	7	5.54	297	Yes	Blazed	M/E	State of CT
Onion Mountain	1	.88	190	Yes	Blazed	M/T	Simsbury
Nod Brook WMA	2	1.93	137	Yes	No	E	State of CT
Simsbury WMA (Ferry Road)	1	2	315	Yes	No	E	State of CT
Riverwalk Trails	3	3	240	No	No	E	Simsbury
Simsbury Farms	2	3	235	Yes	Yes	E/M	Simsbury
Talcott Mountain/ Tariffville Ridge	2	4.31	46	Yes	No	T	Mixed
Tariffville Park Trail	1	.75	23	Yes	No	M	Simsbury
Total Single Track Trail Miles	43	46.85	3230.5				

E=Easy M=Moderate T=Technical

Town of Simsbury Trail Improvements and Maintenance

The 7.2 miles of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail that runs through the Town of Simsbury was one of the first bike trails built in the state, one of the heaviest traveled sections and beginning to show it's age. A 2 mile, on-road section of the Farmington River Trail, runs through Simsbury as well. Over the past few years advocates have worked hard to secure dedicated funds for both routine maintenance and capital improvements in collaboration with the Farmington Valley Trails Council, CT DEEP and the Town of Simsbury. The newly acquired Ethyl Walker Woods property, a 424 acre mountain biking and hiking area, enjoyed a variety upgrades in 2018.

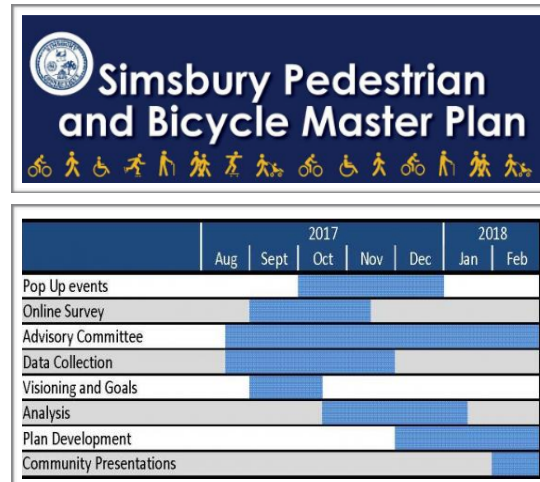
Trail Location	2017	2018
Farmington Canal Heritage Trail	Repaved Iron Horse to Wolcott 2.8 Miles Fencing Repairs	
Farmington River Trail	Drainage at Eastern end of Stratton Brook Park	
Simsbury Farms Fitness Trail -Farms Village Rd	Repaved/widened - .6 Miles	
Town Forest Park/Ethyl Walker Woods	New bridge, facilities upgrade, landscaping and signage	
Squadron Line Connector to Musket Trail	Regraded	

F. Evaluation

2018 Town of Simsbury

Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan

In 2017-2018, work began on a Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan with funds approved in 2017. A Master Plan is a comprehensive, long-term strategy or planning document to guide future growth, development, and improvements in the Town. A Master Plan is a “blueprint for the future”. A Master Planning process includes analysis, recommendations, and proposals for key features, including transportation, in a community. Our plan was guided by public input, surveys, planning initiatives, existing development, physical characteristics, and social and economic conditions.



Fitzgerald and Halliday was contracted to produce a planning document. Efforts began with an evaluation of community needs through the use of a town-wide survey, interactive town meetings, pop-up events. The plan is complete and scheduled to be formally presented to the Board of Selectmen in September of 2018 for final adoption.

The survey had 883 respondents - 90% were Simsbury residents and 88% cited that they routinely use the trails. The most requested improvements were improved walking/ biking connections between designations (57%), improved wayfaring/services signage (36%) and improved amenities/lighting (34/36% respectively).

The most significant pedestrian issues were speed of passing traffic, poor walking connections and narrow shoulders. More sidewalks and shared-use paths were cited by 72% of respondents.

More separated bike lanes was cited by 72% of respondents to encourage more cycling and to improve safety. Eighty-four percent of respondents felt it was either important or moderately important to continue to work on bicycle pedestrian improvements. .

The plan summarized recommendations to improve safety, calm traffic, build connectivity and devise a signage system/plan. Prioritization will be an essential element of the plan to be discussed in September at the Board of Selectmen's meeting.

2018 Simsbury High School Student Cycling Survey

In December of 2017, the Simsbury High School Future Entrepreneurs Club designed, executed and analyzed a brief bicycle survey to determine how safe and connected Simsbury high school students perceived the Town of Simsbury. Results were published in 2018. Findings below, represent the opinions of this important demographic.

Number of Survey respondents: 86

Survey

Simsbury Bike Survey
Complete these questions and enter a raffle for the chance to win a \$10 dollar Starbucks or Dunkin' Donuts Giftcard!

* Required

1. What is your name? *

2. What grade are you in? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ 9th
☐ 10th
☐ 11th
☐ 12th
☐ Teacher

3. Do you have a driver's license? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes
☐ No

4. Do you own a bike? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes
☐ No

5. How frequently do you ride a bike a month? *

Mark only one oval.

0 1 2 3 4 5
Never ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Everyday

6. Have you ever biked on the downtown Simsbury bike path? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes
☐ No

7. Have you ever biked to school? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes
☐ No

8. If no, what is your biggest obstacle? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Don't own a bike
☐ Don't have time
☐ Don't know about any trails
☐ Don't feel safe
☐ Don't know how to ride a bike
☐ Other: _____

9. Have you participated in Bike safety training as part of your Physical Education classes in DHS or other schools? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes
☐ No

10. Do you ride your bike in the summer? *

Check all that apply.

☐ Yes, for transportation
☐ Yes, for recreation
☐ No
☐ Other: _____

11. Do you have a safe route from home to school by bike? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes
☐ No

12. Do you have a safe route from home to Simsbury Town Center by bike? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Yes
☐ No

13. Are there any parts of Simsbury where you would feel unsafe biking? If so, where and why do you feel unsafe there? *

Survey results compiled by the Future Entrepreneurs Club revealed both the obstacles to cycling in Simsbury and initiatives to increase cycling among high school students.

Over 75% of the respondents used a bike during summer for recreation/transportation. Obstacles to cycling during the school year included weather, time constraints, lack of peer cyclists and access to a safe route. 65% of students do not have a drivers license.

Respondents suggested improvements that we have made or are in the process of making such as repaving trail surfaces, building a safe connection to Tariffville and expanding cycling education programs. Our bike safety programs in the elementary schools and at the high school address riding/safety skills.

Recommendations from the club included public service announcements, High School Bike to School days, collaboration with the High School Environmental Club, and social media outreach. These recommendations will be addressed by the Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Trail connectivity, safe routes and school bike safety

education will be addressed by the Town of Simsbury. We are proud of the work done by the Club to provide input from the high school demographic to our Master Bicycle Pedestrian Plan.

2013 Benchmark Advocates BFC Survey Results - How Bicycle Friendly is the Town of Simsbury

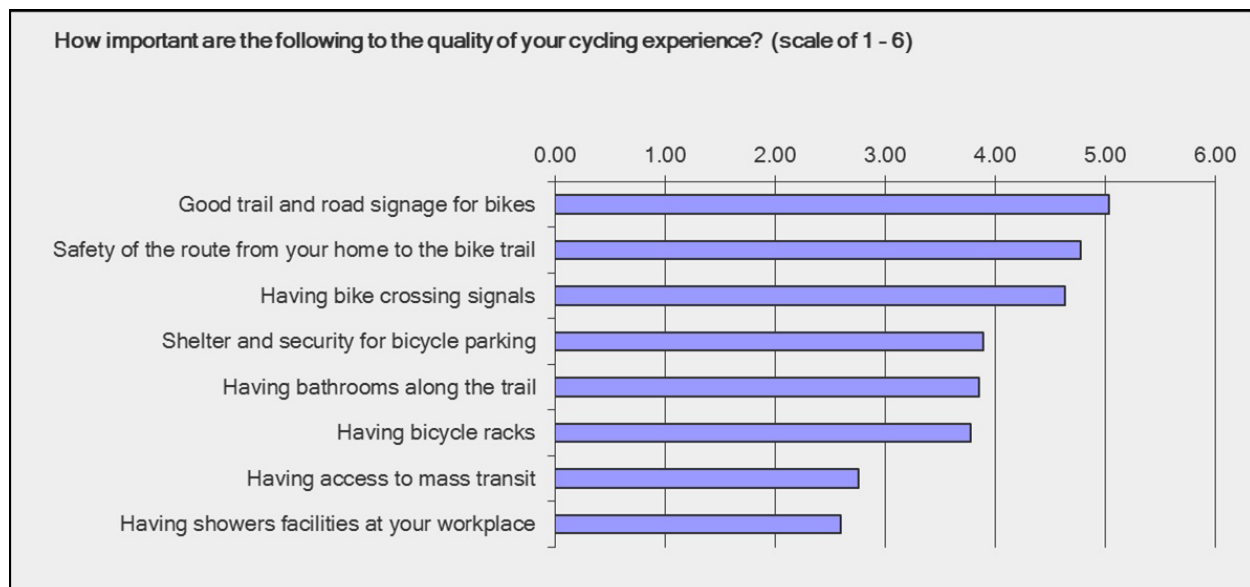
In 2013, bike advocates executed a 'Five Minute' benchmark survey of residents and visitors to identify perceptions about safety and connectivity to establish and prioritize needs of cyclists and walkers on our bike trail. This was the initiation of our advocacy in Simsbury and the basis for our first plan.

2013 Responses: 111	Number	Percent
Daily Trail Users	18	16%
Seasonal Trail Users	72	65%
Weekly Trail Users	79	35%
Respondents: Bikers	76	69%
Respondents: Walkers	69	63%
Respondents: Other	23	21%
Respondents: Out of Town	21	18%
Respondents: Residents	90	82%
How safe do you feel on the Simsbury section of the (FCHT)Trail?	4.6	(Rank 1-5) 5=Safest
How well do you feel the Simsbury Trail is Maintained?	See comments below	60% left comments about maintenance or how much they appreciate the trail
Comments included: Need safer bike commuting, plant flowers along the trail, signs for local businesses, make sure crossings have a good line of sight; vendors on trail on weekends; fill cracks in trail; i love the trail; connect to Simsbury Farms; fix holes, cut back brush; plow in winter; repair roots and ruts; repair damaged sections; fix frost heaves; fix root encroachment - love the trail!; check Mass trail for maintenance example; make it wider; bikes don't alert walkers; great asset to the community; drainage problems; keep weeds down; sand; more waste bins for pet owners; more courtesy; weak effort on part of town; more sweeping; more neighborhood connections so you don't have to drive to trail; better maintenance by businesses near the trail; clean dog leavings; north end of trail is a mess; roots need repair (lots of repetition here)		

Quality, Safety and Needed Improvements for Cycling and Walking in Simsbury

In 2013, Simsbury Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee conducted the first qualitative survey designed to solicit in-depth opinions on biking and walking in town. Residents and non-residents, cyclists and walkers, with knowledge of the town, were asked to complete the survey using Survey Monkey as the on-line tool. Over 650 responses were received. The objective of the survey was to identify areas for improvement in education, enforcement, equity and infrastructure.

A great deal of data was compiled. For purposes of this document, only the section on needs to improve cycling is included as a map for future efforts.



Simsbury Bicycle Account Data - Trends 2012-2018

Simsbury advocates and the Town of Simsbury use the Bicycle Account as a tool to document and track progress towards our goal to continuously improve safety, connectivity and ridership in the Town of Simsbury. This document tracks and evaluates our key metrics.

Advocacy Contact Information

“Like” us on [www.Facebook.com/Simsburyfreebike](https://www.facebook.com/Simsburyfreebike)

Contact us via our webpage www.simsbury.bike