

2 Vision, Goals, & Objectives

The purpose of the vision statement is to illustrate what the bicycle and pedestrian network will become as the result of actions recommended in this plan. The long-range goals describe general actions that will help accomplish the vision, and the objectives describe additional actions for achieving each goal.

2.1 Vision: Chittenden County Bicycle & Pedestrian System

“Chittenden County residents are healthy and active due in part to the region’s safe, convenient and accessible bicycle and pedestrian network; A network that serves the non-motorized transportation needs of people of all ages and abilities. This network of sidewalks, bicycle lanes, roadway shoulders, and shared-use paths provides mobility between all communities in the County and with other transportation modes. The network provides a link to surrounding Counties, is consistent with VTrans bicycle and pedestrian planning efforts, and enhances the County’s natural environment, community character, and overall quality of life.”

2.2 Long-Range Goals & Objectives

The following six goals provide guiding principles which establish a framework for enhancing Chittenden County’s pedestrian and bicycle system. Following each goal are objectives to be accomplished.

Goal #1: Continue to Build and Enhance the Regional Network of Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

- Complete a network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities to create clear connections between all communities in Chittenden County by closing existing gaps in the system
- Modify the existing bicycle and pedestrian network to facilitate improved connectivity
- Construct off-road facilities where appropriate and link them with on-road facilities
- Provide a seamless transportation network that offers access and mobility for all transportation modes (bicycle, pedestrian, transit and motor vehicles), a concept referred to as ‘complete streets’
- Barring prohibitive barriers extend shoulder pavement width on all roads in order to provide safer separation between motor vehicles and bicyclists/pedestrians.
- Use road striping where appropriate to designate adequate shoulder widths for safe bicycling and walking.

Goal #2: Continue to Make Bicycling and Walking Safer Throughout the CCMPO Region

- Improve behavior of cyclists, pedestrians, and motorists through education and enforcement of existing laws
- Improve the skill level of cyclists through training
- Maintain on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities in good operating condition for their expected use
- Enhance connectivity between different land uses, with direct connections to and within downtowns and village centers
- When identified, address pedestrian and bicycle safety deficiencies in Vermont law as appropriate

Goal #3: Ensure Facilities are Appropriately Planned and Designed

- Design facilities that are appropriate for all users of various ages, interests, and skill levels
- Ensure compliance with Americans with Disability Act (ADA) accessibility guidelines
- Work with the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) and municipalities to create a traveling environment that is an inviting, viable alternative to motorized travel by promoting smart land use and development principles
- Install necessary support facilities, such as bike racks, bike lockers, and showers, at appropriate locations
- Update this Plan at least every 5 years
- Develop a Bicycle Level of Service and Pedestrian Level of Service, or other similar appropriate measures, for use throughout the County

Goal #4: Enhance Community and Regional Acceptance of Bicycling and Walking as Transportation Modes

- Work with citizens and municipalities to develop, plan, and implement local pedestrian and bicycle plans, projects, and programs which complement the regional and statewide efforts
- Provide pedestrian and bicycle planning, technical, educational, and financial assistance to local governments
- Fund planning, design and construction of pedestrian and bicycle projects and programs at a sustainable level
- Encourage law enforcement agencies to equitably and more actively enforce the rules for all transportation system users including motor vehicle drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians

Goal #5: Enhance Environmental Protection, Economic Vitality, and Healthy Lifestyle Efforts

- Reduce fuel consumption, congestion, and tailpipe emissions by reducing per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by increasing bicycle and walking trips throughout the region
- Encourage and enhance business development related to bicycle and pedestrian facilities and use

- Increase eco-tourism within the region by promoting travel via bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Reduce employee expenses related to automobile use through increased bicycling and walking
- Promote bicycling and walking as active transportation modes that improve health and fitness
- Provide information on existing bicycling and walking facilities, trainings, and avenues for greater citizen involvement to the public
- Create a diversified transportation system that better meets the needs of individuals who cannot drive a motor vehicle or choose not to own a vehicle
- Increase the frequency of personal interactions that help create a safer, more connected community and helps deter crime
- Promote sustainable smart growth land use in regional and municipal plans
- Site new schools and public buildings in locations that are easily accessible to children and the general public by walking or bicycling

Goal #6: Educate the Public and the Business Community on the Benefits of Bicycling & Walking

- Encourage more Vermonters to walk and bicycle through programs and actions that promote a sustainable lifestyle, including:
 - Environmental benefits of walking and bicycling vs. driving
 - Positive health outcomes from increased use of bicycling and walking as transportation modes
 - Economic benefits and economic development opportunities from increased bicycle and pedestrian traffic and bicycle tourism
- Encourage employer sponsored programs that advocate bicycling and walking integrated with the use of public transit, highlighting the potential related benefits including:
 - Lower transportation costs
 - Healthier employees
 - Reduced health care costs for employers
 - A reduction in the corporate “carbon footprint”
- Create new, and enhance existing, partnerships with local, regional and state health organizations in an effort to increase physical activity through increased bicycling and walking



Shared Use Path in Colchester