

# Complete Street Policy

## Canton, Connecticut

The Town of Canton does ordain as follows:

**SECTION I. FINDINGS.** The Town of Canton hereby finds and declares as follows:

WHEREAS:

(A) **Connecticut General Statutes** specifies the following rights:

- **Sec. 14-286a. Rights, duties and regulation of cyclists.** Every person riding a bicycle, as defined by section 14-286, upon the traveled portion of a highway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of any vehicle subject to the requirements of the statutes relating to motor vehicles
- **Sec. 13a-153f. Accommodations and provision of facilities for all users.** Accommodations for all users shall be a routine part of the planning, design, construction and operating activities of all highways, as defined in section 14-1, in this state.
- **Sec. 13a-153f.** "User" means a motorist, transit user, pedestrian or bicyclist;"
- **Sec. 14-300i.(b) provides that:** Any person operating a motor vehicle on a public way who fails to exercise reasonable care and causes the serious physical injury or death of a vulnerable user of a public way, provided such vulnerable user has shown reasonable care in such user's use of the public way, shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars.
- **Section 14-300i.(a)** provides the following definition of vulnerable user on a public way: "(A) A pedestrian; (B) a highway worker; (C) a person riding or driving an animal; (D) a person riding a bicycle; (E) a person using a skateboard, roller skates or in-line skates; (F) a person operating or riding on an agricultural tractor; (G) a person using a wheelchair or motorized chair; and (H) a blind person and such person's service animal, and (2) "public way" includes any state or other public highway, road, street, avenue, alley, driveway, parkway or place, under the control of the state or any political subdivision of the state, dedicated, appropriated or opened to public travel or other use."
  - In addition to the statutory categories provided in Section 14-300(i)(a), a vulnerable user shall be additionally defined as public safety professionals, including but not limited to, members of the

police and public works departments, volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians; and

- (B) The Connecticut Department of Transportation Complete Streets Policy EX.O. - 31 adopted October 23, 2014 specifies:

“As a condition of funding, Complete Streets must be considered in adherence with Public Act 09-154.”; and

- (C) The Town of Canton Plan of Conservation and Development Strategic Direction 9.A provides, “Provide for improved systems and facilities for pedestrian, bicycle, and public transit “... “Canton’s transportation systems and facilities should provide for all transportation users. Walking and bicycling are becoming more and more popular as modes of transportation. Transit provides important transportation options to a number of residents. Limited resources in funding and land mean that these uses must coexist in the same general space; and

- (D) The Town of Canton Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Measure T10 provides, “Create and adopt a Complete Streets Policy and Plan for the Town.”; and

**THEREFORE:**

- (E) The Town of Canton recognizes the need to strive for its transportation systems and facilities to accommodate all potential modes of transportation in their development. The concept is to provide, where practical, reasonable, and economically feasible, pedestrian and bicycle friendly connections between neighborhoods, transit stops, bike routes and greenways/ trails, recreational areas, public facilities, points of interest, village centers, and other key commercial areas; and also transit service between destinations as demand and need dictates.

## **SECTION II. Vision**

- (A) It is the intent of the Town of Canton to encourage healthy, active living, reduce traffic congestion and fossil fuel use, and improve the safety and quality of life of residents, workers, and visitors, by providing safe, convenient, and comfortable routes and connections for walking, bicycling, and public transportation.
- (B) It is the policy of the Town of Canton to consider the needs of all users of all abilities and ages (specifically including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and vehicle operators) in the planning, programming, design, construction, and maintenance activities related to all roads and streets as a means of providing a safe, efficient transportation network which enhances quality of life and economic vitality. Complete streets shall be defined as, for the purposes of this policy, a means to provide safe access for all users by providing a comprehensive, integrated, connected multi-modal network of transportation options.

- (C) The Town will strive, where practical, reasonable, and economically feasible, to incorporate "Complete Streets" elements into transportation projects to provide appropriate accommodation for bicyclists, pedestrians, transit users and persons of all abilities, while promoting safe operation for all users in a manner consistent with, and supportive of, the surrounding community.
- (D) Training: Key officials whose responsibilities are reasonably related to complete street interests will attend training related to complete streets. Such officials may include the Director of Public Works, Police Chief, Town Planner, Local Traffic Authority, Board of Education staff, and other relevant officials representing the interests of the Town.
- (E) Design Guidance: The Town will encourage the utilization of current best practices and design guidance in the design, construction, and maintenance of highways to reflect the intent to provide accommodations for all users where practical.
- (F) Regulations, Documents and Policies: The Planning and Zoning Commission shall make every effort to update Zoning Regulations, Subdivision Regulations, the Plan of Conservation and Development and other relevant regulatory documents to facilitate the implementation of the objectives of this policy.
- (G) Maps/ Plans: A mapped plan showing existing bicycle, pedestrian, and transit infrastructure and routes will be created. Such map/ plan shall identify key community features and destinations identified by the public. Areas of gaps and lack of connectivity for people to access without the use of a motor vehicle will be identified. The map/ plan shall recommend means for increasing connectivity throughout the community associated with this plan.