

Safe Routes for All

Ensuring Equity and Engagement in New Haven



2023

AT A GLANCE

The Community Alliance for Research and Engagement (CARE) and its community partner, the City of New Haven Transportation, Traffic, and Parking Department (TT&P), reached an exciting milestone in our collective efforts! The New Haven Safe Routes for All (SRFA) Active Transportation Plan was unanimously passed and adopted by the New Haven Board of Alders in September 2022. Safe Routes for All is a blueprint for the City to improve infrastructure for walking, taking transit, and biking, with an emphasis on equity. CARE was instrumental in supporting community engagement efforts - ensuring that residents from lower-income neighborhoods and Black and Brown communities had a voice in the plan's development.

PUBLIC HEALTH CHALLENGE

Safe, reliable, and easy access to transportation through walking, biking, or taking public transit is an effective way to be physically active. This is particularly important in New Haven, where many people do not have access to a car. New Haven residents are also less likely than residents in surrounding towns to report that they feel safe walking in their neighborhood. In low-income neighborhoods, these safety concerns are even more pronounced. For the New Haven community, access to safe streets and dedicated trails for walking and biking are vitally important for traveling to work, school, stores, and healthcare centers, with the added benefit of promoting physical activity.

APPROACH

Since 2018, CARE and TT&P have worked collaboratively on developing the SRFA Plan with Street Plans, a nationally recognized active transportation consulting firm. The SRFA Plan includes both policy and infrastructure recommendations based on best practices for active transportation - with the ultimate goal of getting more people moving safely across the city. The partners met regularly to develop and implement a robust community engagement plan, led by CARE. CARE worked diligently to solicit community input, particularly from low-income neighborhoods and Black and Brown communities - which are not often included in the development of plans and policies and where active transportation infrastructure is not always prioritized. CARE also helped to infuse an equity framework throughout the SRFA Plan.



Timeline

- Phase I**
- June 2019 - February 2020**
 - Public meetings held to engage residents for community input
 - Temporary pedestrian enhancements were installed in Dixwell, Dwight, Fair Haven, Newhallville, Hill, & West Rock
 - March 2020 - February 2021**
Project on Pause Due to COVID-19
 - Phase II**
 - March 2021 - September 2022**
 - First public workshops for the SRFA Active Transportation Plan were held virtually in English and Spanish
 - Handlebar & Walkabout Survey routes in April & May informed the development of the SRFA Plan
 - Multiple public workshops were held virtually and in-person to review the Draft Plan
 - New Haven Board of Alders voted unanimously in support of approving the Safe Routes for All Active Transportation Plan



Zero-Car Households

1 in 3

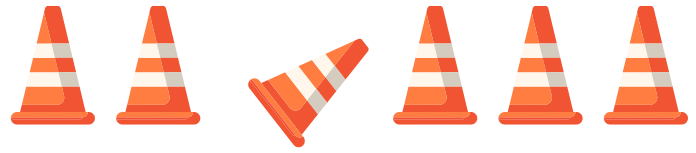
New Haven households rely on transit, carpooling/rideshare, walking, or biking to get around



Walking Safety

59%

of New Haven residents living in low-income areas feel unsafe to walk in the neighborhood at night compared to 40% of residents in high-income areas



RESULTS

CARE and its partners began our community engagement strategy in 2019 by conducting outreach, hosting public meetings, and organizing temporary pedestrian safety enhancements. Efforts were stalled with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Between March 2021 and September 2023, we reinvigorated our community engagement strategy.

- **Organized SRFA Steering Committee** | 26 residents and partners provided direction and expert input into the plan.
- **Hosted 4 public workshops** | 80 residents participated.
- **Led 8 walking and biking surveys** | More than 70 residents rated street conditions on 9 routes, covering 22 miles over 29 streets in 13 neighborhoods.
- **Collected data through online resident request systems** | Residents submitted 240 entries through SeeClickFix.
- **Informed residents about community engagement opportunities**
 - o Consistently sent emails to listservs, posted on social media, and texted key constituents.
 - o Attended neighborhood meetings and events and canvassed priority neighborhoods door-to-door with dozens of volunteers, handing out hundreds of postcards.

CARE's community engagement strategy bolstered overall support of the SRFA plan. Residents and advocacy groups, such as the Safe Streets Coalition and the New Haven Coalition for Active Transportation, advocated in support of the plan, including during public hearings leading up to the final approval by the Board of Alders. By ensuring consistent avenues for community engagement into the design of the SRFA plan, more residents – particularly those from marginalized communities – had the opportunity to provide input, prioritizing the voices of people of color and, ultimately, designing a more representative and equitable plan. **SRFA was unanimously passed and adopted by the Board of Alders in September 2022 and includes active transportation improvements for all of New Haven's 221 miles of streets.**

SUSTAINING SUCCESS

The Safe Routes for All Plan represents an extensive policy change for New Haven. The plan lays out a comprehensive vision for transforming all streets into safe streets in the City. The adoption of this policy plan is a meaningful way of making sustainable, lasting change towards creating a healthier community.



Investing in active transportation and prioritizing disadvantaged neighborhoods is not just a matter of fairness; it is a crucial step towards building healthier, more sustainable, and inclusive communities.

DOUG HAUSLADEN

Chair, New Haven Coalition for Active Transportation
Former Director, Department of Transportation, Traffic & Parking



Read the Final SRFA Active Transportation Plan

You can read the full plan by visiting
www.SafeRoutesForAll.com

CONTACT US!

For more information about Safe Routes for All, visit www.saferoutesforall.com or contact Alycia Santilli at santillia1@southernct.edu. This project is funded in part by the CDC's Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) program.



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www.CAREnhv.org

