

## What can Active Transportation Mean for the Hartford Region?

In September of 2007, more than 1200 individuals took to the streets of Hartford on their bicycles and on foot for the Discover Hartford Bicycling and Walking Tour.



This is not a sight that one sees regularly around Hartford. Why? Because many individuals who would like to bike or walk to reach their destination, or to reach a transit stop, feel unsafe walking and biking on the roads of the region.

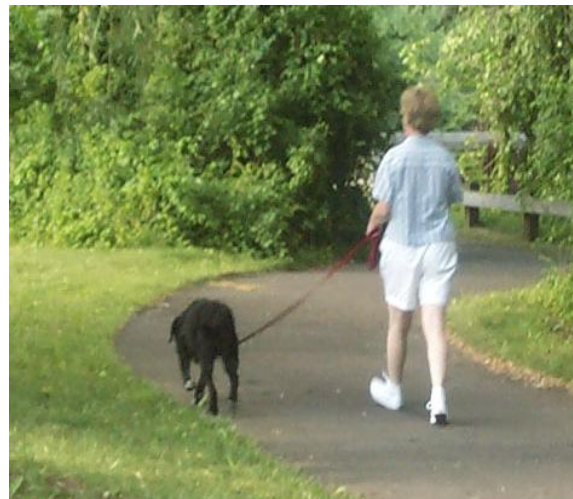
But we can turn around this situation. With attention to the 4 E's, the Hartford area can be made safe for walking and biking:

- **Engineering** to provide bicycle and pedestrian facilities that are safe and convenient
- **Education**, to insure that motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists know how to properly share the road

- **Enforcement**, to reinforce the proper rules of the road, and
- **Encouragement** activities to get folks walking and riding.

### How Can We Get Involved?

The Capitol Region could be well positioned to take advantage of Active Transportation funding, if we begin to identify the specific investments that are needed to improve bicycle and pedestrian friendliness. The Capitol Region Council of Government's Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Committee is forming a working group, the *Active Transportation Initiative* (ATI), to take this step. The ATI will begin with bicycle and pedestrian plans that have been developed for the region and some of the towns in the region. Using these as a basis, the ATI will work to identify the key actions needed to create a bike and pedestrian friendly place, a place where people can choose active transport. The resulting Action Plan will create a vision of what the region can become with a strong focus upon Active Transportation.



### What are the Next Steps?

1. Active Transportation Initiative Working Group will be created. (Contact Sandy Fry, [sfry@crcog.org](mailto:sfry@crcog.org), 522-2217, x20) if you are interested.
2. Examine existing bike and pedestrian plans
3. Provide opportunity(ies) for public input
4. Research what has worked in other communities
5. Create the Action Plan

### Schedule

Work began in September 2007 with the initial Action Plan to be completed by February 2008.

## The Active Transportation Initiative

### Taking the Region's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans to the Next Level

#### *What is Active Transportation?*

In the 2005 federal Surface Transportation Authorization Bill (SAFETEA-LU) \$25 million was allocated to each of 4 pilot communities in order to demonstrate the impact of significant investment in bicycling and pedestrian infrastructure. The pilot program is designed to answer the question:

***If government builds effective biking and walking systems, will individuals choose to walk and bike for regular transportation needs?***

That is, can we show that, with proper planning and design, bicycling and walking, or *active transportation*, can be integral elements of a region's transportation system?

Early signs, and experience in other communities, lead to the expectation that the pilot program *will be successful* and will demonstrate that investments in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure do lead to more walking and bicycling. It is then very likely that the next authorization bill will include more funding for these investments.

## ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION:

### Be part of the Movement!

Imagine the Hartford Region as a place where you can walk or bike for regular transportation.



Imagine the possibilities:

- Decreased congestion
- Cleaner air
- Strong communities
- Healthy residents