

# RIVERCOG SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL (SS4A) COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN

## Public Meeting 1

**December 9, 2024 – Chester, CT**

15 attendees

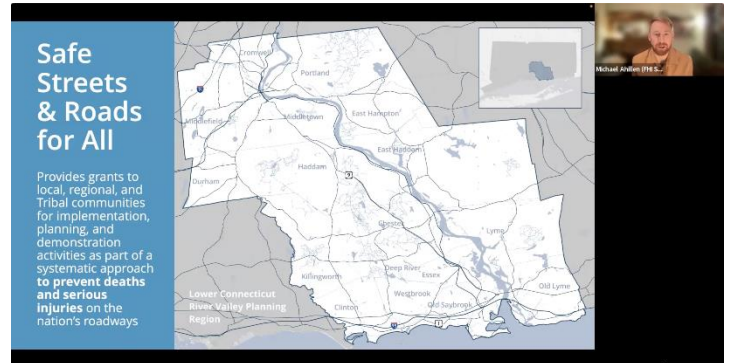
**December 10, 2024 – Virtual**

10 attendees

**RiverCOG:** Robert Haramut, Marcos Gonzalez

**FHI Studio:** Michael Ahillen, AICP, Hannah Brockhaus AICP, Sara Grossman

**Tighe and Bond:** Collene Byrne, PE



## Summary

Michael Ahillen (Project Manager from FHI Studio) led a presentation that covered the following topics, assisted by Robert Haramut (RiverCOG Project Manager) and Collene Byrne (Tighe and Bond).

- Project Overview
- Engagement and Existing Conditions
  - Engagement
  - Basemapping
  - Safety Analysis
- Goals and Vision
- Next Steps
- Discussion

More detail on these topics is available in the presentation; the following presents a summary of the discussion items.

### Public Comments from In-person Public Meeting in Chester:

- Chester and Essex residents expressed a desire for a meeting more focused on local roadways.
- Bokum Road in Old Saybrook/Essex is a safety concern shared by several participants. Narrow widths, curves, and high speeds are major challenges for people who frequent or live on this roadway.
- Route 154 at Parkers Point Road near Eagle Landing is a high-speed area; multiple residents raised concerns about this location.
- Straits Road in Chester/Deep River is another location a participant shared concerns about. High vehicle speeds on a relatively narrow roadway were the source of concern.

### Public Comments from Virtual Public Meeting:

- Multiple attendees noted safety concerns on Route 66 especially at Jackson Hill Road as well as Route 147 which has no space for walking. It was noted that these roads have typical speeds between 55 and 60 mph through Middlefield, and potentially have gotten more dangerous (as anecdotal described by speeding concerns) since roadway widening occurred several years ago.
- There were comments highlighting the desire to address walkability concerns within the Town of Chester.
- The team highlighted that Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) is just one of many federal funding options available for bike-ped projects. Others include LOTCIP and Community Connectivity grants.
- Multiple attendees highlighted that adding bike lanes on state roads has been challenging but remains of interest for the local communities, and there is interest in identifying funding opportunities, potentially outside this process, to advance those initiatives.
- A representative of Essex Meadows noted safety concerns at the following locations. She noted that all three roads need sidewalks and suggested narrowing lanes may be one solution.
  - Plains Road from Bokum Center to the Route the Route 9 overpass has a narrow shoulder and is dangerous for pedestrians.
  - Westbrook Road between Routes 153 and 154 has many pedestrians and extremely unsafe.
  - Bokum Road is curvy, which makes walking there dangerous.