

# RiverCOG Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

## Virtual Public Meeting 2 - May 15, 2025

**RiverCOG:** Robert Haramut, Sam Gold, Marcos Gonzalez

**FHI Studio:** Michael Ahillen, AICP, Hannah Brockhaus AICP, Cassandra Valcourt

### Summary

Michael Ahillen (Project Manager from FHI Studio) led a presentation, assisted by Robert Haramut (RiverCOG Project Manager) and Hannah Brockhaus (FHI Studio). The following topics were covered:

- Project Overview & Update
- Vision & Goals
- Policy Recommendations
- Focus Corridor Selection
- Municipal Profiles
- Next Steps

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

### Public Comments

- What can an individual or group of individuals do in light of the significance of the challenges?
  - Michael Ahillen encouraged members of the public to stay involved and voice their support for safety improvements. He added that the purpose of the SS4A program is to accelerate implementation of safety projects
- A participant said he wished more town leadership had joined the meeting.
  - Michael Ahillen mentioned that the project team meets with town leadership regularly, through committee meetings or phone calls. Sam Gold (RiverCOG Executive Director) noted that the project team will be presenting to town leadership on May 28 at the RiverCOG Board meeting.
- A participant noted that a lack of decorum and mutual respect on the roads is disappointing. Education campaigns focusing on the chance of hurting someone when traveling above the speed limit, etc, could be effective.
  - Michael Ahillen said this will be integrated in the recommendations.
- A participant said there is a notable challenge in small rural communities with local roads and chokepoints and hazardous areas where assembling funding is notable. Suggestions included

signage indicating poor visibility, flashing lights especially focused when there is opposing traffic approaching.

- Michael Ahillen said national best practices will be used in developing appropriate countermeasures.
- What data exists on the number of students who would like to walk or bike to school and do not because it is not safe?
  - Michael Ahillen said school travel surveys as part of Safe Routes to School program have historically asked the question. Data monitoring is a key part of the Safe Routes to School program.
- A participant raised concerns about pedestrian safety. It was noted that people walk up to six abreast, use strollers in the roadway, and wear dark clothing.
  - Michael Ahillen added that a pedestrian safety campaign can be noted as part of the recommendations.
- Participants expressed concerns about the following corridors in Killingworth:
  - Green Hill Road: drivers frequently roll through stop sign
  - Cow Hill Road: speeding is common at a location where people walk and bike; landscaping blocks sightlines, especially at intersection with Green Hill
  - Chittenden Road & Cow Hill Road
- A participant noted that Westbrook Road in Essex is a concern from Bokum Center to Essex Elementary School.