

# Active Living Workshop City of Hartford City June 21, 2017

## Active Living Priorities and Discussion Notes

### >> PURPOSE

The purpose of this discussion exercise was to help participants identify assets, challenges and realistic opportunities in the effort to support active living in Hartford City.

### >> PROCESS

1. Participants divided into two focus groups:
  - a. Walking & Biking
  - b. Land Use & Public Places and Parks & Greenspace
2. Following facilitated discussion (notes below), each focus group chose three “**low-hanging fruit**” priorities thought to be *quickly and easily achievable* to support active living in Hartford City, as well as three “**most important overall**” priorities thought to be critical to supporting active living *regardless of the time or money required*.
3. Participants then voted for their personal **top six priorities** across all focus groups.

### >> RESULTS OF FINAL VOTE BY ALL PARTICIPANTS:

#### Top three “low-hanging fruit”:

1. Create a county-wide pedestrian/bicycle advisory council (11 votes)
2. Promote parks with marketing, communications, and events (9 votes)
3. Promote existing sidewalk policy (6 votes)

#### Top three “most important overall”:

1. Create a pedestrian and bicycle master plan (9 votes)
1. Create an enhanced financial policy to fix sidewalks (9 votes)
2. Create a parks plan (7 votes)

## >> FOCUS GROUP PRIORITIES:

### **WALKING & BIKING**

Low-hanging fruit:

1. Create a county-wide pedestrian/bicycle advisory council
2. Complete an audit of what pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure is currently in Hartford City
3. Promote existing sidewalk policy

Most important overall:

1. Create minute wayfinding signs to destinations
2. Create an enhanced financial policy to fix sidewalks
3. Create a pedestrian and bicycle master plan

### **LAND USE & PUBLIC PLACES and PARKS & GREENSPACE**

Low-hanging fruit:

1. Promote parks with marketing, communications, and events
2. Continue community beautification
3. Conduct safety audits around parks

Most important overall:

1. Create a parks plan
2. Develop and adopt a Complete Streets policy
3. Update development policies to include sidewalks and bike racks

## Focus Group Discussion Notes

### 1. What ideas and images caught your attention today?

#### **WALKING & BIKING**

- Need to get policymakers on board – more buy-in
- Bumpouts
- Rain gardens
- New sidewalks
- Buffers for pedestrians
- Create strategically placed pathways
- Trees – designated walk areas

#### **LAND USE & PUBLIC PLACES and PARKS & GREENSPACE**

- Sidewalk
- Pocket parks
- Pedestrian alley
- Car stop bar
- Signs/lights at crosswalks
- Signs glued on roads
- Bike lanes – widen sidewalks
- INDOT public input
- Library has copies of city plans
- Walk to school plans

- Community gardens/school gardens

**2. What are Hartford City's assets in the effort to support active living?**

**WALKING & BIKING**

- Greenway
- Edit funds
- Parks
- Less traffic
- Safety
- Youth soccer complex
- Public pool
- Wilderness Park

**LAND USE & PUBLIC PLACES and PARKS & GREENSPACE**

- Great parks
- Dog park/Wilderness
- Pool
- Playgrounds
- Library
- Healthy Community Alliance
- Farmers Market
- Soccer field
- Wilderness Trail (Greenway)
- High school track
- Joint use with pool at high school
- YMCA
- Silver Sneakers/Senior Center
- Pantry
- Arts Place

**3. What are Hartford City's barriers to active living?**

**WALKING & BIKING**

- No bike routes
- Bad sidewalks
- No real push or motivation
- Lack of organized groups
- Culture
- Money
- Lack of places to go

**LAND USE & PUBLIC PLACES and PARKS & GREENSPACE**

- Locked school playgrounds
- Transportation
- Safe walking/biking paths
- No bike shop

- Zig-zag streets/no direct streets
- Funding
- Lack of grants/community organization leadership/attitude
- Not celebrating successes
- Informing/publicizing of long-term vision – communication is key

**4. Additional desirable activities and goals identified by focus groups:**

- Promote biking and walking to school/work
- Create a Bruin Pride safe route to school path
- Create events for biking/walking promotion
- Create a printable map
- Create historic signage around town for a “historic walk”
- Investigate existing and potential joint use agreements