

# South Hadley Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

## Public Forum and Visioning Session

September 16, 2015



*Catalyst for Regional Progress*

**PVPC**

Timothy W. Brennan, Executive Director



# Agenda for Tonight

1. Map-based check-in
2. Welcome and introductions
  - Summary of planning process/scope
3. What we've heard:
  - Interactive exercise
  - Results of public input collected to date
4. Break out groups about walking and biking
5. Group Discussion
6. Summary and Next Steps

# Task One: Public Involvement and Visioning

- Meetings with Town Advisory Committee
- Survey of town residents
- Interview South Hadley officials
- Visioning Session



# Task Two: Identify Route Options

- Bike-Ped Connections Between Falls and Village Center
- Connecticut River Access Bike-Ped Routes
- Safe Routes to Schools and Parks
- Hiking Trails



# Tasks 3-4: Evaluate and Map Preferred Routes

- Evaluate Existing Conditions
- Right of Way and Access Issues
- Map Preferred Bike-Ped Routes



# Task Five: Develop Recommendations

Develop a prioritized set of recommendations for improving bicycle and pedestrian access, including:

- On-street bike lanes and “share the road” routes
- Off-street multi-use trails
- Sidewalks and crosswalks
- Safe routes to school
- Hiking or greenway trails

Recommendations will include an implementation strategy for each project

# Tasks 6-7

- Identify Funding Options
- Finalize and Produce Plan



# South Hadley Bicycling and Walking Survey

- Online survey launched in April 2015 (also available offline)
- 22 total questions
- 528 total responses
- Nearly 85% of all responders were South Hadley residents
  - Non-resident responses were primarily workers and students.
- Nearly 85% of all responders reported they walk at least 10 minutes/day
  - Over 40% report walking over 30 minutes/day
- 90% would like to walk more often and 75% would like to bike more often
- 70% consider their neighborhood good for walking.
- Approximately 20% feel South Hadley is unsafe for walking.
- 85% show an interest in connecting trails to neighboring communities.



# South Hadley Bicycling and Walking Survey

## Closest Intersection to Where You Live

Intersection	Count
Route 116 and Morgan Street	24
Route 202 and Route 33	22
Route 116 and Route 47	21
Brainerd Street and Lathrop Street	19
Route 116 and Silver Street	19
Route 116 and Lyman Street	18
Route 202 and East Street	12
Morgan Street and Mosier Street	10
Route 116	9
Brainerd Street and Lyman Street	8
Morgan Street and East Street.	8
Route 116 and Woodbridge Street	6
Route 47 and Ferry Street	6
Mosier Street and Westbrook Road	5
Route 116 and Jewett Lane	5
Silver Street and Chapel Hill Road	5

## Services Within Walking Distance

Restaurants	73.30%
Bank	63.00%
Library	54.80%
Church	52.00%
Post Office	51.50%
Movie Theater	51.10%
School	47.40%
Farmers Market	42.40%
Park	35.40%
Museums/ Art Gallery	34.80%
Workplace	25.20%
Grocery Store	15.70%
Health Center	15.20%
Community Center	7.80%

## Locations to Improve Walking Connections

Location	Count
Village Common	35
Route 116	32
Schools	23
Grocery Stores	28
Morgan Street	21
Park Street	21
Mt. Holyoke College	20
Lathrop Street	18
North Main Street	18
Route 202	15
Alvord Street	14
East Street	13
McCray's Farm	12
College Street	11
Ferry Street	9
South Hadley Falls	9
Brunelle's Marina	8
Newton Street	8
Amherst Road	7

# South Hadley Bicycling and Walking Survey

## Best Roads for Bicycling

Route 116	40
College Street	25
Route 202	24
Morgan Street	22
None	21
Newton Street	20
Ferry Street	17
Route 47	15
Alvord Street	14
Side streets with little traffic	14
Mosier Street	12
Pearl Street	11
Lathrop Street	10
Granby Road	9
MHC Campus	9
Woodbridge Street	9
Silver Street	8
Amherst Road	8
Route 33	7
Ridge Road	6

## Worst Roads for Bicycling

Route 116	110
Alvord Street	74
Route 202	69
Route 47	60
Ferry Street	48
Newton Street	40
Lathrop Street	37
Route 33	34
East Street	33
Lyman Street	29
Morgan Street	23
Brainerd Street	21
North Main Street	20
College Street	18
Amherst Road	13
Main Street	12
All Roads	11
Park Street	11
Pearl Street	11

## Locations Where More Bike Parking is Needed

Village Commons	52
Big Y	21
All Schools	16
Library	16
Beach Grounds	11
Friendly's/Ace Hardware Plaza	14
Unsure	10
Post Office	7
Route 116	6
South Hadley Falls	6
Town Hall	5
Canal Park	4
McCray's Farm	4
Route 47	4
Buttery Brook Park	3
None	3
Trail Heads	3
Alvord Street	2
Dunkin Donuts	2

# South Hadley Bicycling and Walking Survey

## Locations Where Bike Lanes, Paths and Trails Are Desired

Striped Bike Lane	#	Off Road Path	#	Hiking Trail	#
Route 116	83	Along the CT River	21	Along the CT River	30
Route 47	20	Anywhere	19	Anywhere	14
Alvord Street	16	Connecting to Norwottuck Trail	9	Ledges Golf Course	7
Route 202	16	Along Route 116	6	Mount Holyoke College	7
On all major roads	15	Ledges Golf Course	6	All conservation areas	4
Everywhere	8	Mount Holyoke College	6	Bachelor Brook Conservation	4
Lathrop Street	8	Lithia Springs	5	Lithia Springs	4
Ferry Street	6	Byrnan Conservation Area	4	Byrnan Conservation Area	2
East Street	4	None	4	connecting to Holyoke Range	2
Morgan Street	3	Along Route 202	3	East street area	2

## Interest in Multi-use Trail Connections

Strong Interest	52.80%
Medium Interest	32.10%
No Interest	15.10%

## Desired Trail Improvements

Better connections between trails in South Hadley	17.60%
Better connections to trails outside of South Hadley	12.20%
More access to existing trails	19.10%
Improved maintenance of existing trails	9.20%
Better marketing to designate trails	31.90%
Parking near all trail heads	10.10%

## Desired Walking Improvements

Extended network of recreational trails	61.30%
Clean streets	14.90%
Sidewalks on every block	50.90%
Pedestrian cross walks	28.60%
Safer, better marked shoulders on roadside where sidewalks are not available	57.10%
Lighting	29.40%
Sidewalks in good condition	47.90%
calming traffic to slow vehicles	22.50%
Curb cuts	7.40%

# Safety Survey - Bicycling and Walking

- Telephone survey of 11 local representatives
  - Chief of Police, School Principals, DPW, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley Bike-Walk Committee
- 11 total questions
- Most consider infrastructure to be Fair or Good
- Older students are less likely to walk or bike to school.
- No formal bike/ped safety program.
- Most drivers are not aware of the rules of the road.
- Most important to have safe access to Schools and Village Commons


	Average Score
<b>Facilities Needed to Promote Safe Walking and Bicycling</b>	
More on-street bike lanes	4.45
Improved sidewalk connections (less gaps in sidewalk network)	4.18
Improved pedestrian crossings (signals, crosswalks, warning signs)	4.00
Improved buffers between pedestrians/bicyclists and vehicles	3.91
Better bike accommodation through intersections and interchanges	3.73
More off-road bicycle paths and trails	3.64
increased enforcement and education of traffic laws	3.55
Increased maintenance (street sweeping/repair of roads and sidewalks)	3.45
Improved signs, maps and roadway markings	3.45
Improved curb ramps and accessibility for people with disabilities	3.27
Slower traffic	3.27
Better lighting or security measures	2.91
Better bicycle parking, storage and workplace amenities (eg. showers)	2.18
A bike sharing program	2.09


# South Hadley Average Daily Traffic

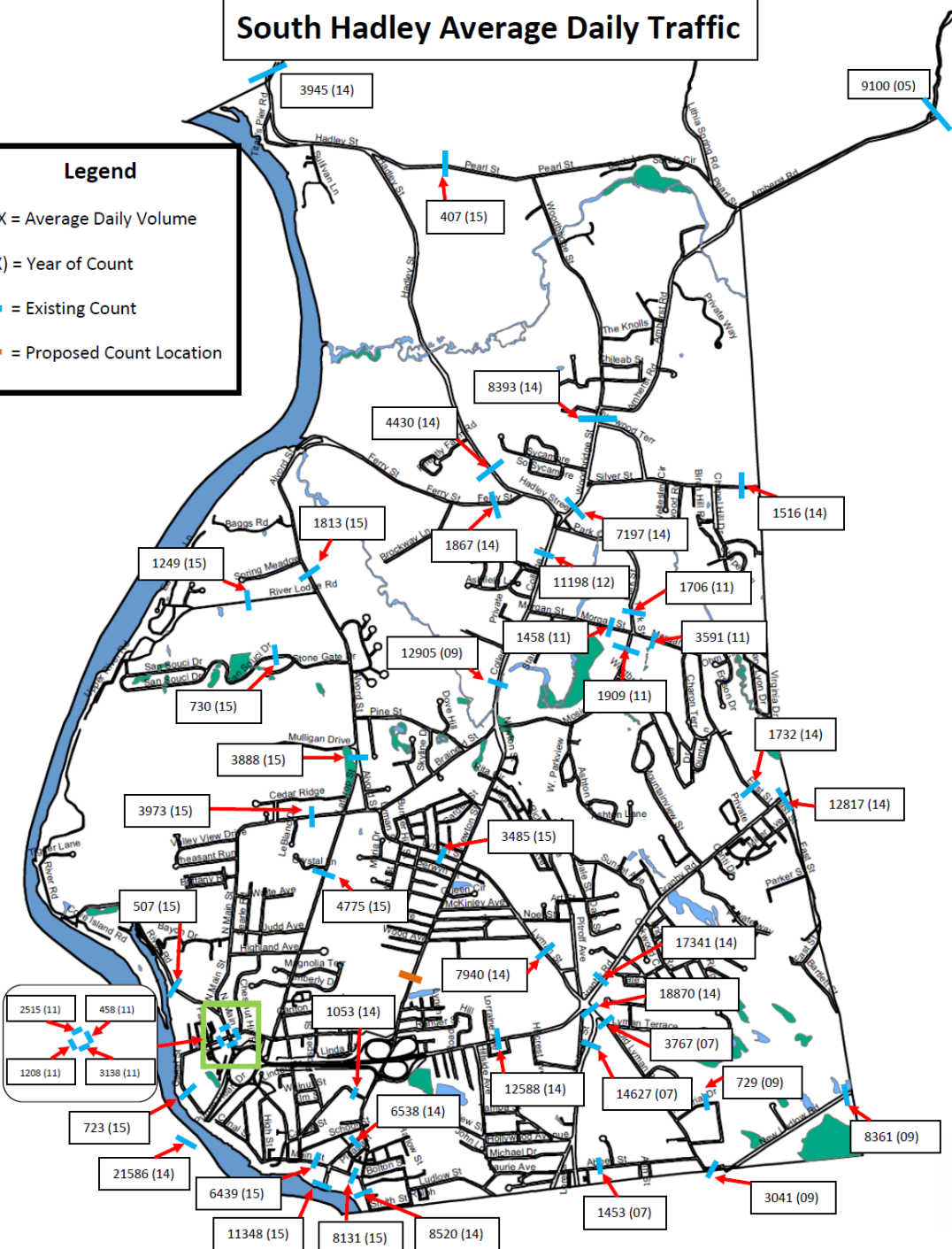
**Legend**

XXX = Average Daily Volume

(XX) = Year of Count

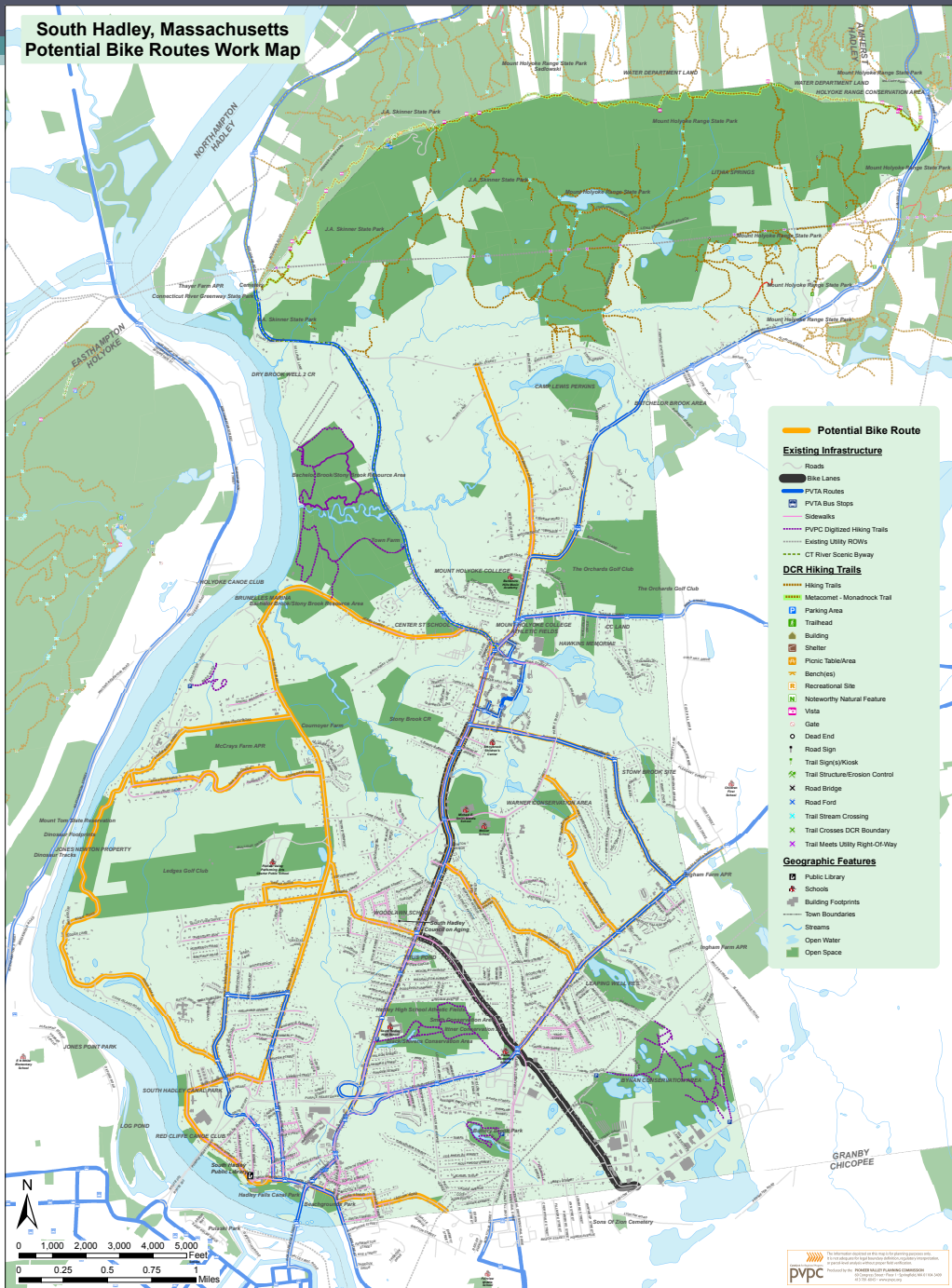
 = Existing Count

 = Proposed Count Location



- All roadways were visually assessed to determine their suitability to accommodate bicycles.
  - Roadway Width
  - Lane Width
  - Traffic Volume
- PVPC reviewed historic traffic count data.
  - Traffic count data collected at 15 locations in 2015.
- MassDOT bike lanes painted along portions of Route 116.
- Roadways were also assessed for potential connectivity to local points of interest and regional networks.

# South Hadley, Massachusetts Potential Bike Routes Work Map



**— Potential Bike Route**

**Existing Infrastructure**

- Roads
- Bike Lanes
- PVTA Routes
- PVTA Bus Stops
- Sidewalks
- PVPC Digital Hiking Trails
- Existing Utility ROWs
- CT River Scenic Byway

**DCR Hiking Trails**

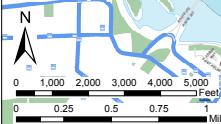
- Hiking Trails
- Metacomet - Monadnock Trail

**Other Features**

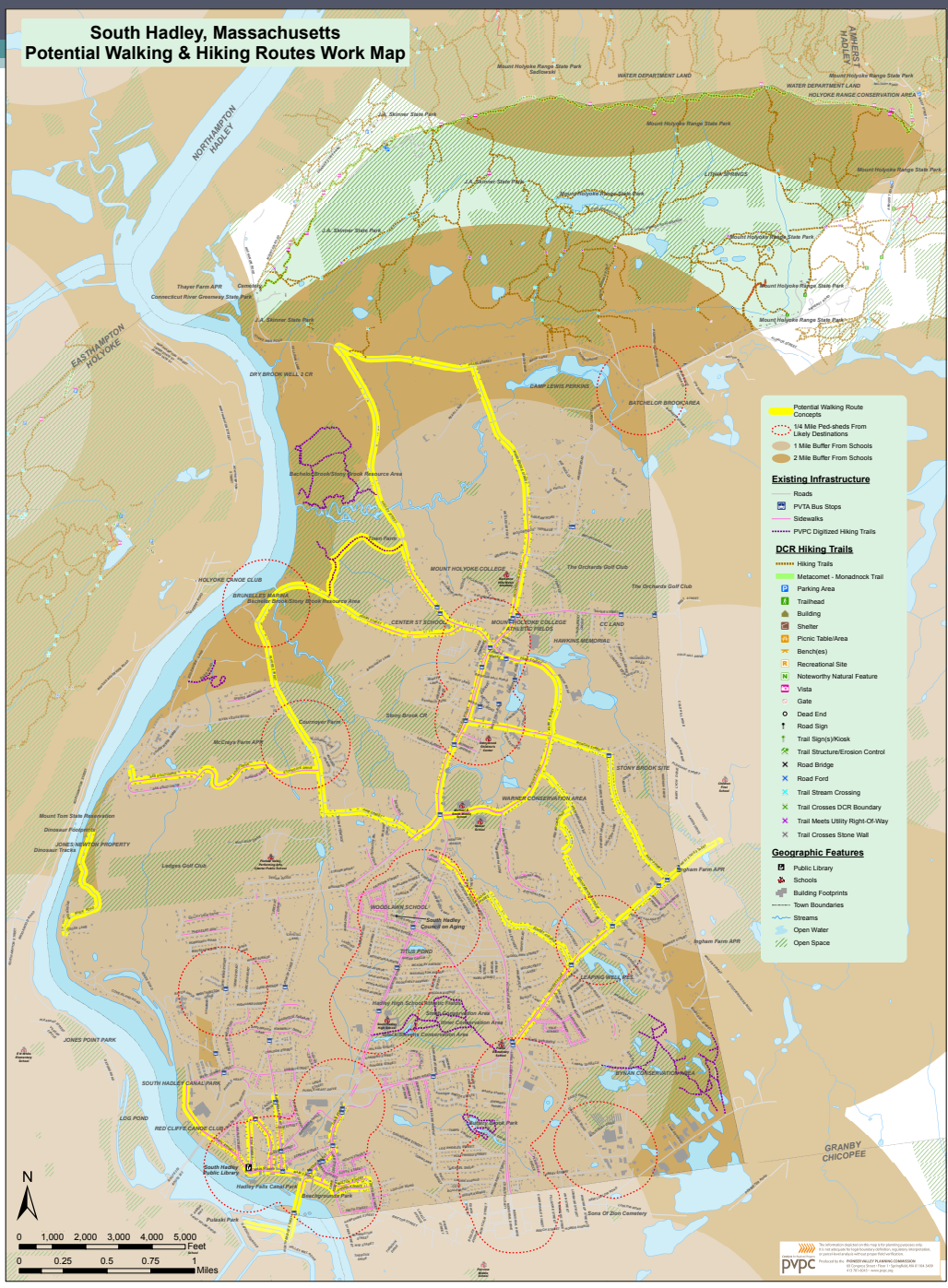
- Parking Area
- Trailhead
- Building
- Shelter
- Picnic Table/Area
- Benches
- Recreational Site
- Noteworthy Natural Feature
- Vista
- Gate
- Dead End
- Road Sign
- Trail Sign(s)/Kiosk
- Trail Structure/Erosion Control
- Road Bridge
- Road Ford
- Trail Stream Crossing
- Trail Crosses DCR Boundary
- Trail Meets Utility Right-Of-Way

**Geographic Features**

- Public Library
- Schools
- Building Footprints
- Town Boundaries
- Streams
- Open Water
- Open Space



**South Hadley, Massachusetts  
Potential Walking & Hiking Routes Work Map**



## Walking and Hiking

### Functional Walking

- Four destination centers: Falls, Commons, Newton Corner, Big Y area
- Falls: relatively complete sidewalk network. Other centers mostly lacking sidewalks on minor streets.
- Centers are connected by major roads, but have minimal connection via minor streets.
- Walking to most schools requires crossing a major road
- Grocery store, parks, library main destinations people would like to walk to, but aren't currently.

### Recreational Walking & Hiking

- Many people are unaware of existing trails.
- Lack of sidewalks, fear of traffic, lack of neighborhood parks may limit recreational walking
- Desire for a paved off-road trail for walking, running, and biking. Especially one connected to other area multi-use trails.
- Desire for connection to CT River

Desire for better maintenance of existing sidewalks and roads, snow removal, improved enforcement of speed limits.

## **Break Out Group Instructions (45 min.)**

- Count off and divide into groups
- Discuss Walking and Hiking (15 minutes)
  - Share your own experiences. Mark up maps
    - Green for good. Red for bad.
  - Discuss biggest problems and opportunities.
  - Prioritize top 5 opportunities
- Discuss Biking (15 minutes)
  - Same instructions as above
- Rejoin the full group
- Report Out by groups' spokespersons. (15 min.)
- Followed by full group discussion