

**Name of Community:**

New Haven

**Mayor or top elected official in municipality:**

John DeStefano, Jr.

**Contact First Name:**

Michael

**Contact Last Name:**

Piscitelli

**Position:**

Director of Trans. Traffic and Parking

**Employer:**

City of New Haven

**Address:**

200 Orange St.

**City:**

New Haven

**State:**

CT

**Zip:**

06510

**Phone:**

203-946-8078

**Fax:** (not required)

no answer provided

**Email:**

mpiscite@newhavenct.net

**Website:** (not required)

no answer provided

**Population:**

127288

**Square mileage of municipality, Total Area:**

20.00

**Square mileage of municipality, Water Area:**

1.00

**Square mileage of municipality, Land Area:**

19.00

**Population Density:**

6735.00

**Average temperature for January:**

27.90

**Average temperature for April:**

46.90

**Average temperature for July:**

71.80

**Average temperature for October:**

52.50

**Average precipitation for January:**

3.40

**Average precipitation for April:**

3.90

**Average precipitation for July:**

2.90

**Average precipitation for October:**

3.50

**Median Income:**

36428

**Age distribution, % under 20:**

30.00

**Age distribution, % 20 - 64:**

61.20

**Age distribution, % 65 - 84:**

7.90

**Age distribution, % 85+:**

0.90

**Race, % Hispanic or Latino :**

23.00

**Race, % Not Hispanic or Latino:**

77.00

**Race, % One race:**

98.00

**Race, % White:**

43.00

**Race, % Black or African American:**

39.00

**Race, % American Indian and Alaska Native:**

0.00

**Race, % Asian:**

6.00

**Race, % Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander:**

0.00

**Race, % Some other race:**

11.00

**Race, % Two or more races:**

**If you have Journey-to-Work census data on bicycling to work, what percentage of people in your community bike to work?**

1.80

**How many households are within 1/4 mile of a retail or business area?**

Most

**How many neighborhoods have significant grass, flowers, and trees?**

All

**How many neighborhoods have significant amenities such as parks, water fountains, benches, and public art?**

All

**How many neighborhoods in your community would you consider a good place to raise children?**

Most

**Do you have a Bicycle Master Plan?**

Yes

**Do you have a written bicycle accommodation policy?**

Yes

**What was your community's most significant investment for bicycling in the past year?**

In the past year the City of New Haven has committed funds to the construction of the Farmington Canal Greenway and to installing bike racks in the downtown business district.

**List current community activities that encourage/promote bicycling.**

- Artspace City-Wide Open Studios Bicycle Tours, a series of rides that visit studios throughout New Haven and surrounding cities. - Regular rides sponsored by ElmCityCycling (example: Wednesday Night Ice Cream rides, which took place every week during the summer and attracted over 300 cyclists). - International Festival of Arts & Ideas Explorations, which include an organized series of 10-12 different rides throughout the city and region, including a New Haven Century ride. - Regular bicycle jamborees and educational workshops for children, sponsored by ElmCityCycling. - Monthly "Bike to Work Breakfast" days sponsored by ElmCityCycling.

**List your official bicycle/pedestrian coordinator or bicycle issues contact person on government staff.**

none

**What department is the bicycle coordinator located in?**

none

**How many hours are spent per year in this capacity?**

0

**List all other government staff or contractors whose primary duties are devoted to bicycling issues.**

none

**Do you have a Bicycle Advisory Committee, Ped/Bike Council or other venue for citizen input?**

Yes

**List the name of the Chair and their contact information.**

ElmCityCycling (not part of city government). This is a local advocacy group, to which City does turn for advice on cycling matters. It has no official chair.

## Engineering Section

**Do you have a policy that requires the accommodation of cyclists in all new road construction and reconstruction and resurfacing?**

Yes

**Provided policy**

Your accomodation policy is on file, [click here](#) to view it.

**Have you provided training for your engineers and planners on how to accommodate cyclists?**

No

**Description**

NA

**Is there a mechanism to provide training on an on-going basis?**

No

**How many bridges are in your community?**

50

**How many are closed or inaccessible to cyclists?**

None, except interstate highways. 2 major US Rte 1 bridges have no shoulder despite high speeds.

**Of those accessible by bike, how many have shoulders, bike lanes, wide curb lanes, or multi-use paths?**

Bridges on most roads have shoulders; Hillhouse Ave Bridge under construct'n will have bike lane

**Do you have a bike parking ordinance?**

No

**Provided policy**

You have not provided a copy of your ordinance.

**Are there bike racks or storage units at Schools?**

Few

**Are there bike racks or storage units at Libraries?**

All

**Are there bike racks or storage units at Transit Stations?**

All

**Are there bike racks or storage units at Recreation Centers?**

n/a

**Are there bike racks or storage units at Government Buildings?**

Few

**Are there bike racks or storage units at Office Buildings?**

Some

**Are there bike racks or storage units at Retail Centers?**

Some

**Are there bike racks or storage units at Public Spaces and Parks?**

Some

**If your community has transit service:**

**Are buses equipped with bike racks?**

All

**Can bikes be brought inside transit vehicles?**

Yes

**Please describe any restrictions:**

Metro-North Railroad allows bicycles within trains at non-peak hours if bicycle permit is purchased (by mail, or in person in New York City) in advance. Shore Line East Railroad allows bicycles on all trains east of New Haven when front wheel of bicycle is removed. CT Transit buses have exterior two-bicycle bicycle racks.

**How many miles of bike lanes do you have?**

4

**How many miles of bike lanes are in your bicycle master plan?**

10

**What is the mileage of your total road network?**

255

**What percent of arterial streets have bike lanes or paved shoulders?**

20

**How many miles of designated bike routes do you have?**

10

**How many miles of signed bike routes are in your bicycle master plan?**

29

**Please describe any maintenance programs or policies that ensure bike lanes and shoulders remain usable.****Routine maintainance:**

Biweekly street sweeping from April to November; the city has a New Haven 311 online interface that allows citizens to report infrastructure problems such as roads that have not been swept or the presence of potholes and sinkholes that can obstruct cyclists

**Capital Improvements:**

The City of New Haven has identified roads of suitable width for bike lanes and are working on updating markings and installing new signage in conjunction with road construction and repair schedules. Six more miles of bike lanes are currently planned.

**Please describe initiatives your community has taken to ensure or improve bicycle access, safety and convenience at intersections, including bicycle detection, signing and marking.**

Bicycle detection capability included in all new traffic lights; bicycle signs and curb-outs at all intersections of Farmington Canal Greenway with street network

**How many miles of paved or hard surface trails do you have?**

14

**How many miles of paved or hard surface trails are in your bicycle master plan?**

35

**How many miles of natural surface trails do you have?**

9

**How many miles of natural surface trails are open to mountain bikes?**

9

**What is the estimated acreage of open space and public lands within the community (city, county, state, and federal public lands)?**

2000

**Are these area open to cyclists?**

Most

**Please describe any maintenance programs or policies for multi-use paths.**

**Routine maintenance:**

The Maintenance Division of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Trees is involved in a partnership with the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, Urban Resources Initiative (URI - an initiative of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies) and the New Haven Land Trust to fund and coordinate community gardens and greenspaces. The Parks Department maintains the roads in East Rock Park and much of the Farmington Canal Greenway and cyclists are very satisfied with its efforts here, though snow removal in winter will need to be considered if Farmington Canal Greenway is to become a reliable route for year-round bicycle (and pedestrian) commuters. Long Wharf Boardwalk sweeping is less frequent.

**Capital Improvements:**

Multi-use paths are improved as part of general park reconstruction projects. The Parks Department's 5-year capital allocation is \$2 million for general improvements.

**Does your community have an ordinance or local code requirement for employers to provide bicycle parking, shower facilities, etc.?**

No

**Provided ordinance**

You have not provided a copy of this legislation

**Describe recreational facilities for cyclists such as a low traffic rural roads and signed routes.**

Car-free paved road from base to near-summit of East Rock Park; New Haven section of Farmington Canal Greenway (approx 1.5 mi fully completed, remaining 1.5 mi funded and in design phase, will connect with much longer regional Greenway system); Fair Haven Greenway, West River Greenway and Harborside Trail (all under partial construction but fully planned as part of Greenways Master Plan document); 1.5 mi Vision Trail from New Haven Green to waterfront (completed). 2-mile Long Wharf Boardwalk along Long Island Sound. Towns surrounding New Haven have hundreds of miles of excellent low-traffic rural roads and bicycle routes, all identified on the official State of Connecticut bicycle map.

**Are there other facilities that have been created to promote bicycling in your community?**

Yes

**If yes, please describe:**

Locked, indoor bicycle parking room at Union Station for commuters; bike/skate park in Edgewood Park with jump boxes, quarter pipe, halfpipe, spines; bicycle racks installed downtown and on university campuses

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Education Section

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**How do you educate motorists to share the road with cyclists? Please describe:**

Share-the-road flyers sent out with municipal tax forms; share-the-road signs along certain bike routes; Connecticut DMV Driver's Manual has section on bicycles: pp. 29-31 (available at: <http://www.ct.gov/dmv/lib/dmv/20/29/ctdriver.pdf>); New Haven also sponsors and promotes a Pace Car program to all residents (more information available at: <http://www.cityofnewhaven.com/TrafficParking/paceprogram.asp>)

**How many community motorists do you reach with these efforts?**

Most

**Are there other bicycle education opportunities for adults?**

Yes

**Please describe**

Local bicycle shop (Devil's Gear Bike Shop) offers free bicycle-repair lessons; City of New Haven Parks and Recreation Department offers a mountain biking clinic. ElmCityCycling has also had

representatives at activities fairs for incoming Yale University first-year students.

**Do you have a bicycle safety program for children in schools?**

No

**Please describe**

No, but weekend jamborees are organized by ElmCityCycling at local schools (see below).

**How many schools participate?**

no answer provided out of no answer provided

**What other types of bicycle safety and education opportunities are available for children?**

The City of New Haven Department of Youth Services has been running an annual "Bikes for Kids" program for the past 17 years. The program involves giving away refurbished and new bicycles plus helmets to a group of 50 preselected elementary school students and their families. Bicycle safety is a part of the event each year, with a particular focus on getting children to wear the helmets which are distributed. In 2007, the program was expanded with a city grant, which enabled the purchase of all-new bicycles for each child. Previous years involved donations from area law firms and other sources. Date of event: January 12, 2007 and in 17 previous years during the holiday seasons. This year's program was held at Wexler Grant School, but also involved students from several other city schools. ElmCityCycling has organized seven bike jamborees in the last three years in various neighborhood schools including Jackie Robinson Middle School, Edgewood Park, Fair Haven Middle School, Betsy Ross Arts Magnet School, Career High School and Vincent Mauro elementary school. Typical events included bike repairs and fitting kids for helmets, installing bike lights and brakes. Bicycle lights and helmets were distributed to children, primarily from lower-income families. Exact numbers are not available but ECC estimates that roughly 100 helmets and 100 bicycle lights were installed. Funding has come partially from the Devil's Gear Bike Shop. On Martin Luther King Day, ElmCityCycling organizes a stand at the Community Education fair on bicycle safety at the Peabody Museum. Also see information provided later on bike activities organized by Parks Department.

**How many children participate?**

50 per year

**Do you make bicycle safety materials available to the public?**

Yes

**Please describe**

Bicycle safety information is included on New Haven Bicycle map and on the ElmCityCycling website, which is broadly advertised in the community.

**Do you have a bicycle ambassador program that educates community members on local opportunities for bicycling and answers their questions?**

No

**Do you have League Cycling Instructors in your area?**

Yes

**Please list their names:**

James P. Cassidy, LCI# 1629 (860-324-8416)

**Is bicycle safety education included in routine local activities (e.g. tax renewal, drivers licensing and testing, or inserts with utility bills each month)?**

Yes

**Please describe**

Share-the-road flyers sent out with municipal tax forms. Detailed state driver's manual section on bicycling (see above for details).

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Encouragement Section

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**How do you promote National Bike Month in May (or another month)?**

New Haven has not very actively promoted National Bike Month in past years, but instead focuses its energy on the June International Arts & Ideas Festival, which includes ten to twelve bicycle rides every year (see below). New Haven also hosted "BikeSummer" in 2007, which had more than 2,000 participants in dozens of cycling-related events. In 2006, New Haven organized guided commuter bicycle rides with police escorts from points North, East and West to downtown as part of the National Bike to Work day. (This was funded in large part with a grant from LAB). ElmCityCycling organized "Bike to Work Breakfasts" to support NBM in May.

**How many people do you reach with events and activities during this celebration?**

127288

**Do you actively promote Bike to Work Day or other bicycle commuting incentive programs?**

Yes

**Please describe**

ElmCityCycling organizes monthly (spring-autumn) bike-to-work day with breakfast for bicycle-commuters. Publicized via e-mail (sent to all ECC members, as well to as to all City employees), flyers at coffee shops and bike shops, news outlets. Average attendance is roughly 20 commuters.

**What portion of the community workforce do you reach?**

Some

**Is there an annual bike tour or ride promoted to the general public in your community?**

Yes

**Please describe**

Ten or more bike tours of various lengths and skill levels during June Arts & Ideas Festivals, some are primarily are guided sight-seeing tours of City, others are primarily long distance bicycle rides, including annual New Haven Century ride. City-Wide Open Studios Bike Tour in October - guided bike tours of artists' studios throughout New Haven; ElmCityCycling and Devil's Gear Bike Shop sponsor year-round weekly Lulu's Ride, which is medium distance (approx. 50-mile) casual group ride. In summer, ElmCityCycling sponsors weekly Wednesday night Ice Cream Ride.

**Are there community road and mountain bike clubs, bicycle advocacy organizations or racing clubs?**

Yes

**Please describe**

ElmCityCycling - bicycle advocacy organization with approximately 500 individuals on mailing lists, has worked with City of New Haven since 2001 and is planning for formal incorporation as a nonprofit organization; Farmington Canal Rails to Trails Association: significant 501c3 advocacy organization dedicated to promoting the Farmington Canal Greenway, a historic multi-use trail connecting New Haven with Northampton, Massachusetts; Elm City Scorcheders - organizes track races, alley cats, plays weekly bike polo match Laurel Cycling Club - racing club Southern Connecticut Cycle Club - general purpose, recreational cycling club Yale Cycling Team - Yale University racing team Elm City Unicycling - see [www.elmcityunicycling.com](http://www.elmcityunicycling.com)

**How many specialty bicycle retailers (i.e., bike shops, not big box retailers like K-Mart or Wal-Mart) are there in your community?**

3

**Are there other bicycling areas or facilities such as BMX tracks, velodromes or mountain bike centers in your community? Please describe.**

Bike/Skate Park in Edgewood Park (see answer to question 18 in Engineering)

**Does your trail system have a unit of the National Mountain Bike Patrol?**

No

**Are there opportunities to rent bicycles in your community or other recreational opportunities involving bicycling?**

Yes

**Please describe**

Devil's Gear Bike Shop rents bicycles for short term (daily or weekly). ElmCityCycling helps coordinate numerous public rides every month (see other questions for details).

**Do you have Safe Routes to School program that includes bicycling?**

No

**How many schools are involved?**

None

**Please describe**

NA

**Does your community have youth recreation and intervention programs that are centered around bicycling?**

Yes

**Please describe**

The Parks Department organizes youth summer Eco-Adventure camps that include biking education; United Way of Greater New Haven sponsors a summer program for low-income youth that has collaborated with the Devil's Gear Bike Shop to teach a bicycle workshop to participants

**Do you publish a bike map and keep it up to date?**

Yes

**Please describe**

First edition of bicycle map published in 2004 and is available at <http://www.cityofnewhaven.com/CityPlan/EIGreenwaysResources.asp>

**Do you publish a map of mountain bike trails?**

No

**Please describe**

NA

**Please describe any other efforts in your community to encourage cycling**

Yale University has an office of Sustainable Transportation Systems that encourages cycling among Yale University employees and students. This spring they will be launching a bike-sharing initiative to encourage biking around campus, around New Haven and also as the commuting-to-work alternative for faculty and staff.

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 Enforcement Section
 

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**Is your local police department aware of the concerns of cyclists in your community?**

Yes

**Is there a liaison that communicates with the bicycling community?**

Yes

**If yes, please describe**

The NHPD has recently entered into a partnership with ElmCityCycling, with an officer who will regularly attend ElmCityCycling meetings. Previously, although there was no official liaison, an officer from the NHPD met on numerous occasions with members of ElmCityCycling to discuss concerns. SCSU PD does not have an official liaison but has a bicycle supervisor who is willing to meet with any cyclists about concerns they might have.

**Do you offer specific training to police officers regarding traffic law as it applies to bicyclists?**

Yes

**If yes, please describe**

The NHPD provides officers with roll-call training as well as a handout on traffic law as it applies to bicyclists. SCSU PD: All sworn personnel receive Traffic Laws & Safety Awareness Education, as part of their initial Police Officer Training Council Academy Curriculum. More specifically the 8 certified Bicycle Officers, receive training on traffic laws and how to apply it to bicyclists as part of their initial 40 Hour certification course and as part of their yearly recertification training,

**Do you use targeted enforcement to encourage cyclists and motorists to share the road safely?**

No

**If yes, please describe**

NHPD: no. SCSU PD does not have any official program but officers are proactive especially with cyclists riding on the wrong side of the road.

**Do you have public safety employees on bikes?**

Yes

**If yes, please describe**

NHPD: The New Haven Police Department has a fifteen-officer bicycle patrol unit that supplements foot patrols while working in the districts during day and evening shifts. The officers are certified police cyclists through International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA). SCSU PD: The Southern Connecticut State University Police Department has an eight-officer (seven police officers and one traffic officer) bike patrol unit that operates all year round and is capable of riding in most weather conditions. The officers are certified police cyclists through IPMBA. Yale University has police and other public safety officials who travel and patrol by bicycle. Town Green Special Services District (Downtown New Haven Business Improvement District) has "bicycle ambassadors" who encourage public safety and traverse downtown via bicycle.

**Indicate the number of employees on bike as well as the size of the entire staff.**

NHPD has approximately 420 officers on its staff and 15 officers in its Bicycle Unit Division. SCSU PD has 29 officers on its staff and 8 officers in its Bike Patrol Unit.

**Do you have a mandatory helmet law?**

Yes

**To what ages does it apply?**

15 & under

**Do you have mandatory sidepath laws?**

No

**If so, what is the status of these laws?**

State Law

**Are they enforced**

No

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 Evaluation & Planning Section
 

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**Do you have any information on the number of trips by bike in your community including census data?**

Yes

**Please describe**

Journey-To-Work for 2000 Census Summary File QT-p23 shows 1.2% trips to work by bicycle; Census Table So801 for the 2006 ACS shows 1.8% trips to work by bicycle

**How many cyclist/motor vehicle fatalities have occurred in your community in the past five years?**

1

**How many cyclist/motor vehicle crashes have occurred in your community in the past five years?**

no answer provided

**Do you have any specific plan or program to reduce these numbers?**

No

**Do you have a system in place that allows bicyclists to submit ideas and concerns to public officials?**

Yes

**Please describe**

New Haven Web 311 is an online interface that allows citizens to report concerns relating to bicycle usage as well as infrastructure problems such as roads that have not been swept or the presence of potholes and sinkholes that can obstruct cyclists.

**Do you have a comprehensive bicycle plan?**

Yes

**When was it passed or updated?**

02/01/2003

**Is it funded?**

Partially

**What percentage has been implemented?**

Some

**Do you have a trails master plan that addresses mountain bike access?**

No

**And are there ongoing relations between the mountain biking community and the community recreation and planning staff?**

No

**Is your bicycle network part of the broader development plans, land use plans, and ongoing development projects?**

Yes

**How many trails, bike lanes, paved shoulders, bike routes connect with each other to provide a seamless transportation options?**

Some

**Have you evaluated your transportation network and prioritized bicycle improvements based on hazards and needs?**

No

**What specific improvements do you have planned for bicycling for the following year?**

Consider a bike lane through Science Hill, thereby connecting neighborhoods with large numbers of cyclists (East Rock and Fair Haven) with Farmington Canal Greenway and western portion of city via a continuous, marked, cycling route; implement more bicycle lanes as paving schedule allows; complete northern section of Farmington Canal Greenway; hire consultant to plan southern 1.5-mile section of Farmington Canal Greenway; work with State DOT to install bicycle racks at State Street train station

**What are the three primary reasons your city deserves to be designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community? Reason One:**

We have the second highest percentage of commuters traveling to work by bicycle of any major city in the Northeast (1.8%) according to Census Trip-to-Work Data and have increased that number from 1.2% since 2000. We also have the highest percentage of commuters traveling to work by bicycle of any major city in the Northeast which is primary jurisdiction of its metropolitan area (Cambridge, Mass. is in Boston's metropolitan area).

**What are the three primary reasons your city deserves to be designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community? Reason Two:**

New Haven is a state-wide leader in promoting cycling as a means of transportation. The city worked with cyclists and others to create a comprehensive planning document for greenways and cycling systems, and the city's cycling community has been widely recognized for its creation of major rides and events, including last year's "BikeSummer" which attracted over 2,000 participants.

**What are the three primary reasons your city deserves to be designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community? Reason Three:**

New Haven is the hub community of a planned, and partially completed, interstate system of multi-use greenways that connect communities within New Haven and far beyond. This visionary greenway system includes bike paths along New Haven's 3 major rivers, bicycle routes following New Haven's several miles of coastline, as well as the Farmington Canal Greenway, which connects neighborhoods within New Haven and cities and towns from here to Northampton, Massachusetts. City residents and public officials at the local, state and federal level have actively worked to implement, fund and protect these greenways, and over the years have been successful at preventing many potential developments that would have destroyed them.

**What are the three aspects of your community most in need of improvement in order to accommodate bicyclists? Number One Aspect:**

Establish a full-time position of bicycle and pedestrian coordinator in City Hall in order to organize and coordinate city-wide efforts to promote cycling.

**What are the three aspects of your community most in need of improvement in order to accommodate bicyclists? Number Two Aspect:**

We need to complete the implementation of our network of bicycle routes so that every neighborhood will have a marked bicycle route to downtown that will be safe for bicyclists of all ages.

**What are the three aspects of your community most in need of improvement in order to accommodate bicyclists? Number Three Aspect:**

Improve enforcement of speed limits and other motor vehicle traffic laws; collect better statistics on motor vehicle/cyclist crashes.