



Mapping Tool Analysis

December 2024

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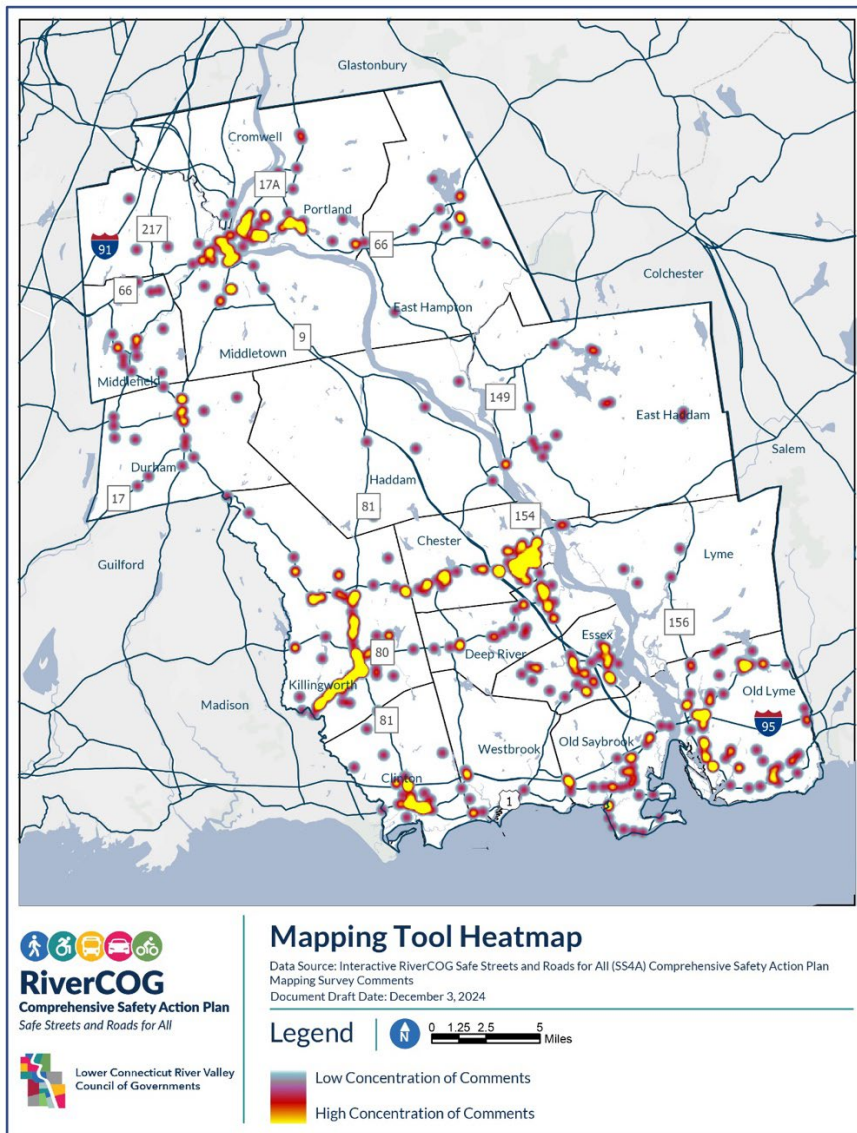
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MAPPING TOOL ANALYSIS

Overview

The RiverCOG Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Safe Streets and Roads for All aims to eliminate roadway related deaths and serious injuries by developing a safe roadway system that serves all populations. To determine safety priorities by users of the roadway system, members of the public were invited to share safety concerns through an interactive mapping tool that was publicized at public meetings, at pop-ups in the community, on social media, and through e-mails to stakeholders. From August through November 2024, 631 comments were submitted.

Figure 1. Heatmap of Mapping Tool Comments



Region-Wide Takeaways

Driver/car safety was the top concern shared by the public and accounted for 63% of all comments. Comments related to pedestrians, intersections, and visibility were also common, accounting for approximately one-third of all comments each.

High-level themes from the mapping tool are below:

- Dangerous driver behaviors such as speeding and disregard of stop signs are amplified by the natural topography (curves and vegetation creating poor sightlines)
- There is a strong desire for safe pedestrian and cyclist access, especially in urban areas (Portland and Middletown), shoreline communities (Old Saybrook, Old Lyme, Westbrook, and Clinton), rural areas with tourism attractions (Chester, East Haddam, and East Hampton), and throughout towns to commercial areas.
- Communities with vulnerable populations (areas with schools in Killingworth, Durham, Middletown, and Old Lyme) have significant concerns regarding driver behavior and improved pedestrian and cyclist safety.
- State roadways tended to attract comments at a higher rate than local roadways.

Frequent suggestions for improved safety include the following:

- Improved traffic signage
- Complete sidewalks and bike lanes, especially near schools, commercial areas, and the shoreline
- Improved sightlines

Table 1. Comments Categorized by Theme

Theme	Count	Percent of Total Comments
Driver/Car Safety	396	63%
Pedestrian	240	38%
Intersection	197	31%
Visibility	186	29%
Bike	108	17%
Transit	62	10%
Schools	55	9%
Tourism	15	2%

Cut-through Traffic	9	1%
Total	631	

Local Takeaways

Major takeaways broken out by town are shared in the sections below. Following these summaries, Table 2 and Table 3 outline the major themes by town and the key roadways of concern.

Chester

- There were concerns with speeding, drivers not stopping for pedestrians and cyclists, and delivery vehicles and parking on narrow streets in Chester Center (Route 148, Main Street, and Route 154).
- There was also concern with pedestrian access and safety, excessive speeding, and crashes near Cockaponset State Forest.

Clinton

- Respondents were concerned about speeding and desired better navigation (e.g., turning movements, pedestrian/cyclist access, and sightlines) for Route 81.
- Comments referred to a desire for pedestrian access (e.g., crosswalk installations and sidewalk extensions) and expressed difficulties with turning due to traffic on Route 1.

Cromwell

- There are concerns with speeding and turning on Route 99.
- There is support for a multiuse path near Route 9 connecting downtown Middletown with Main Street.

Deep River

- Respondents desired traffic calming measures (due to excessive speeding) and pedestrian infrastructure along Route 154.
- Respondents were concerned about poor visibility and speeding on Route 80. They would also like to see safer pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure on Route 80.

Durham

- Route 17 is a major road of concern with excessive speeding and congestion. Many desire traffic calming measures (e.g., a rotary and support for turning movements). Throughout town, there is high

cut through traffic when Route 17 gets congested or seasonally (to get to the shoreline in the summer).

- Respondents noted poor sightlines and speeding on Route 147.

East Haddam

- Respondents expressed concern regarding speeding in areas with high pedestrian traffic and poor sightlines on Route 82.
- There were also safety concerns related to car traffic and bike access on East Haddam Colchester Turnpike and Hopyard Road.

East Hampton

- Respondents were mainly concerned about speeding and desired better pedestrian infrastructure (i.e., sidewalks, crosswalks) on Route 66 and Smith Street due to their proximity to the popular destinations such as the Air Line Trail and Pumpkintown USA.
- Respondents are concerned about speeding and aggressive turning on Main Street. Improvements to pedestrian infrastructure and signals are desired for safer travel.

Essex

- Respondents desire improved pedestrian conditions including continuation or installation of sidewalks and more protection from aggressive driver behavior and cars (i.e., not following traffic signs and speeding) on Route 154, 153, and Westbrook Road.
- There is also a desire for a more comfortable biking environment and additional signage to help with navigation along Main Street.

Haddam

- There are concerns with speeding on Route 154, especially when it is near town centers.
- There are also general concerns regarding visibility (i.e., blind curves and sightlines) on rural roads.

Killingworth

- Most comments were concentrated on Route 81 (particularly at Stevens Road), Route 80 (particularly at Roast Meat Hill Road), Green Hill Road, and Route 148. Top concerns included dangerous intersections, excessive speeding, poor sightlines, and desire for traffic calming measures especially in areas with vulnerable populations.
- On Route 80, respondents are concerned about speeding drivers and poor sightlines and desire a safer route for pedestrians and cyclists.

Lyme

- *There are concerns with speeding on Joshuatown Road and Route 148.*

Middlefield

- *Respondents are concerned about speeding and turning at intersections on Route 157.*
- *Respondents desire improved pedestrian safety through sidewalks and improved sightlines on Route 147.*

Middletown

- *There is a desire for better infrastructure for cyclists and sidewalk extensions and sidewalk maintenance for pedestrians on Route 66 and Route 9.*
- *On Main Street and Church Street, respondents report drivers ignoring traffic signs and speeding due to frequent backups.*

Old Lyme

- *On Route 156, respondents desire improvements to signage (i.e., underpass height, stop signs) and safe pedestrian access with crosswalks.*
- *On Route 1 and Town Woods Road, respondents are concerned with excessive speeding on narrow roads and poor sightlines.*
- *At the intersection of Route 1 and Halls Road, respondents desire better infrastructure for students, especially by Lieutenant River Bridge, which is well used by students who bike and walk between school and the main commercial area.*

Old Saybrook

- *There is a strong desire for safe pedestrian and cyclist access (i.e., safer intersections, crosswalks, sidewalks) on Route 154, Route 166, and Main Street.*
- *Respondents also desire crosswalks, sidewalks, and rotaries to curb speeding on Route 1.*

Portland

- *Respondents desire safe bicycle access (dedicated bike lanes, unpredictable traffic related to commercial activities, connection to Air Line Trail), seek better pedestrian and cyclist access to the shopping plaza, and are concerned about dangerous driver behavior on Route 17.*
- *Respondents are concerned about dangerous driver behavior (i.e. speeding, drivers not following signs) and seek better pedestrian and cyclist access on Route 17A,*

Westbrook



- *Respondents desire complete crosswalks and additional time to facilitate pedestrian crossings on Route 1.*
- *Respondents also desire improvements for navigating turns, signals, and sightlines on Route 145 and I-95.*

Table 2. Significant Themes by Town

Significant Themes	Chester	Clinton	Cromwell	Deep River	Durham	East Haddam	East Hampton	Essex	Haddam	Killingworth	Lyme	Middlefield	Middletown	Old Lyme	Old Saybrook	Portland	Westbrook
Count of Comments	88	43	2	30	21	15	15	37	6	138	6	15	41	73	36	56	9
Bike	X	X	X	X			X						X	X	X	X	
Pedestrian	X	X	X	X			X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X
Driver Behavior	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Transit													X				
Intersections	X	X	X	X	X								X		X	X	X
Schools					X									X			
Visibility		X		X	X	X			X	X		X		X		X	X
Tourism	X				X	X	X										
Cut-through Traffic					X												

Table 3. Roadways of Concerns by Town

Town	Corridors of Concern (Top Corridors of Concern in Bold)
Chester	Route 148 , Main Street, and Route 154
Clinton	Route 1 and Route 81
Cromwell	Route 9 and Route 99
Deep River	Route 154 and Route 80
Durham	Route 17 and Route 147
East Haddam	Route 82, East Haddam Colchester Turnpike, and Hopyard Road
East Hampton	Route 66, Main Street, and Smith Street
Essex	Route 154, Route 153, Main Street, and Westbrook Road
Haddam	Route 154
Killingworth	Route 81 , Green Hill Road , Route 148, and Route 80
Lyme	Joshuatown Road and Route 148
Middlefield	Route 157 and Route 147
Middletown	Main Street, Route 66 , Church Street, and Route 9
Old Lyme	Route 156 , Route 1, Halls Road, and Town Woods Road
Old Saybrook	Route 1 , Route 154, Route 166, and Main Street
Portland	Route 17 and Route 17A
Westbrook	Route 1, Route 145, and I-95



RiverCOG

Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

Safe Streets and Roads for All