



**For immediate release:** February 25, 2014

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### **Over 1,000 Pedestrian Crashes in Fairfield County from 2010 to 2012**

*Route 1 has most crashes in Fairfield County with 169; Stamford and Bridgeport have highest crash rates*

A groundbreaking analysis from Tri-State Transportation Campaign, a non-profit policy watchdog organization, finds that in the three years from 2010 to 2012, over 1,100 people were injured or killed while walking in Fairfield County.

The *Fairfield County Pedestrian Crashes* analysis found that there were 1,022 crashes involving pedestrians in the three-year period, resulting in 1,077 injuries to pedestrians and 34 deaths.

"Pedestrian crashes are practically a daily occurrence in Fairfield County, but they don't have to be," said Steven Higashide, senior planner at Tri-State Transportation Campaign. "If state and local leaders cooperate to redesign the most dangerous roads, they can drive these numbers down."

"In Bridgeport, we are focused on creating a more walkable city by having fewer vehicles on the road and diversifying transportation options which will lower our carbon footprint. As we work toward a more walkable, sustainable city, improving safety for pedestrians is among our highest priorities. In recent months, our police department has initiated improved traffic enforcement strategies and is also working closely with the community to educate residents on pedestrian safety. Additionally, we look forward to collaborating with the Connecticut Department of Transportation to find ways to fund much needed traffic calming solutions for the heavily traveled State-owned roads in our city," said Mayor Bill Finch of the City of Bridgeport.

Route 1 had the highest number of pedestrian crashes in Fairfield County, with 169. The analysis includes a series of factsheets highlighting Route 1 in different Fairfield County municipalities. After Route 1, the roads with the most crashes in Fairfield County were Route 130 in Fairfield, Bridgeport, and Stratford (43 crashes); Route 137 in Stamford (32 crashes), Main Street in Bridgeport (30 crashes), and Route 127 in Bridgeport and Trumbull (29 crashes).

"The most dangerous roads are so-called arterials, which have multiple lanes and many destinations which people want to walk to, but often lack the accommodations needed so that people can do so safely," said Veronica Vanterpool, executive director of the Campaign. "For example, some stretches of Route 1 enable high speeds and require pedestrians to cross seven lanes, with minimal or no pedestrian refuge islands."

"Pedestrian safety improvements help seniors age safely in their homes and neighborhoods," said Nora Duncan, State Director of AARP Connecticut. "Last spring, AARP volunteers joined Tri-State to perform a 'walking audit' of Route 127 in Bridgeport, the road with the fifth-highest number of pedestrian crashes. We will continue to advocate for improvements, both in our local communities and in the halls of the state capitol."

"Many of Connecticut's roads have been built with outdated designs that are inherently unsafe," said Kelly Kennedy, Executive Director of Bike Walk Connecticut. "Today, planners have plenty of tools and techniques to make streets safer to walk and bike. It's time for us to apply that knowledge in every single state and municipal road project."

Stamford had the highest per capita pedestrian crash rate of all municipalities in the county (with a yearly pedestrian crash rate of 6.45 per 10,000 residents), followed by Bridgeport, Norwalk, Danbury, Greenwich, Stratford, New Canaan, Westport, and Fairfield.

The report noted that regional planning agencies, like the South Western Regional Planning Agency and Greater Bridgeport Regional Council, have conducted several studies which recommend pedestrian safety improvements on dangerous roads like Route 1. For example, SWRPA has recommended changes on Route 1 in Greenwich, Stamford, and Darien. GBRC has recommended changes in Fairfield and Bridgeport.

This analysis builds on TSTC's *Most Dangerous Roads* report, which was released earlier in February and analyzed pedestrian deaths across the state. It is the first time TSTC has mapped both pedestrian deaths and injuries in Connecticut. The analysis relies on data from the Connecticut Departments of Transportation and Public Safety that was made publicly searchable through the University of Connecticut's Connecticut Crash Data Repository, which was launched in 2013.

"We thank the Departments of Transportation and Public Safety, as well as the University of Connecticut, for their work in making crash data public and transparent," said Kathi Ko, research associate with TSTC and the report's author. "They've done a real public service and set an example for other states to follow."

The Campaign recommended that:

- ConnDOT update the state's Highway Design Manual, the standard road design reference book, to address the goals and policies set forth in the state's complete streets law.
- State and local leaders fund corridor studies of dangerous roads like Routes 1, 130, 137, and 127 and implement recommendations of existing studies, such as those completed by SWRPA and GBRC.
- The State Legislature pass a vulnerable users bill which would increase penalties for careless drivers who injure or kill pedestrians, cyclists, first responders and other users of the road who are most at risk.
- Municipal governments pass complete streets policies requiring that local roads are safely designed for everyone who uses them.

The analysis, which includes county- and town-specific stats, a series of factsheets on Route 1, and a map of all 1,022 pedestrian crashes, is available on [tstc.org](http://tstc.org).

### Crash Rates and Statistics by Municipality

City/Town	Per Capita Crash Rate*	2010 Crashes	2011 Crashes	2012 Crashes	Total Crashes
Stamford	6.45	95	64	81	240
Bridgeport	6.44	103	87	91	281
Norwalk	4.85	38	43	45	126
Danbury	4.19	39	34	30	103
Greenwich	3.24	24	15	21	60
Stratford	2.77	10	16	17	43
New Canaan	2.67	7	4	5	16
Westport	2.37	9	4	6	19
Fairfield	2.33	17	12	13	42
Ridgefield	1.88	4	5	5	14
Darien	1.75	6	5	0	11
Shelton	1.67	10	5	5	20
Trumbull	1.38	6	6	3	15
Monroe	1.19	2	2	3	7
Brookfield	1.00	1	2	2	5
New Fairfield	0.95	0	2	2	4
Wilton	0.91	1	3	1	5
Easton	0.88	1	1	0	2
Bethel	0.88	2	2	1	5
Redding	0.36	0	1	0	1
Newtown	0.36	2	0	1	3
<b>Fairfield County</b>	<b>3.68</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>1,022</b>

\* Per capita crash rate is the number of annual pedestrian crashes per 10,000 residents.

(A table ranking municipalities by total crashes is provided in the analysis at [tstc.org](http://tstc.org).)

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*The Tri-State Transportation Campaign is a non-profit organization working toward a more balanced, transit-friendly and equitable transportation system in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey.*