

NHCM Transportation Resolution Sign-On Letter



Dear Mayor Elicker and New Haven Board of Alders:

We, the undersigned organizations, are extremely concerned about the climate crisis and how it is being fueled by emissions from the transportation industry. As **Governor Lamont said** recently, “Improving local infrastructure for all users in community centers is a win for our whole state”.

We are writing to have the **New Haven Board Alders pass a Transportation Resolution** and for the administration to support implementation. The Resolution recognizes the urgent need for an accelerated approach to transportation transformation that prioritizes safety, equity, sustainability, and environmental stewardship, with clear commitments to timelines and objectives, and supported by adequate financial backing. The Resolution also will urge the Board to make specific plans to improve affordable and healthy transportation options and curb air pollution from vehicle use. This proposed resolution follows the 2019 passage by the New Haven Board of Alders of NHCM’s [Climate Emergency Resolution](#).

As stated in the State’s 2024 CT Climate Report Card Press Release, ***“While we’ve made progress, particularly in decarbonizing the electricity generation sector, we will need to substantially increase the pace of reductions over the next five years to meet our next legislative goal in 2030. The transportation sector continues to be the largest source of our emissions [...] Achieving the reductions required by the Global Warming Solutions Act will require deeper, more rapid emissions reductions from the transportation and building sectors in particular, and policies to ensure those reductions are sustained. Additionally, our climate targets cannot be achieved without continued and increased investment in clean renewable energy that frees us from reliance on fossil fuels.”***

In the face of this truly unprecedented challenge, we all must move out of normal mode. We recognize some good progress has been made on creating a healthier transportation system in New Haven, but the climate emergency is also worsening and increasing risks to New Haven. We need clear plans to cut climate pollution ASAP, with significant reductions by 2030. We believe we have the opportunity to create a more just, healthy, resilient, sustainable New Haven through this effort, and provide a safe environment for our children, who are the future of this world. This significant effort will need collaboration from the government, organizations, businesses, schools, and community members to ensure this urgent, necessary, and instrumental goal be accomplished.

Sincerely,

Safe Streets Coalition

Yale Endowment Justice Collective

HSC (High School in the Community)

Haven's Harvest

New Haven Bioregional Group

EV Club of CT

NH Coalition for Active Transportation	Save the Sound
Community Alliance for Research & Engagement	Sunrise New Haven
Yale Student Environmental Coalition	Interreligious Eco-Justice Network
CT Roundtable Climate and Jobs	New Haven Bird Club
Desegregate Connecticut	Sierra Club of Connecticut
New Haven Leon Sister City Project	New Haven People's Center
Citizens' Climate Lobby of Greater New Haven	Elm City Cycling
Connecticut Climate Crisis Mobilization	Huneebee Project
Youth Continuum	Hamden Land Conservation Trust
Social Justice Committee of First Unitarian Universalist Society of New Haven	
Social Justice Committee of Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Society	
Unidad Latina en Accion	CT Students For A Dream
Clean Transportation Communities of Southern CT	

NHCM Transportation Resolution Actions

[Full Resolution here](#)

RESOLUTION OF THE NEW HAVEN BOARD OF ALDERS ENDORISING THE CREATION OF A TIMELINE TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS BY IMPROVING PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the City and Board of Alders recognize the urgent need for a transformative approach to transportation that prioritizes safety, equity, sustainability, and environmental stewardship, underpinned by clear commitments to progress and supported by adequate financial backing; and

1. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Department of Transportation, Traffic & Parking reports back to the Board of Alders within 6 months with a plan and a timeline to cut transportation greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2030 and significantly increase bus, train, biking, walking, and electric vehicle use by 2030, and what steps are needed to accelerate the implementation of the Safe Routes for All Citywide Active Transportation Plan.
2. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City reaffirms its support (2022 Board of Alders Resolution) for the state of Connecticut to provide free bus passes to all, recognizing this as a pivotal step towards shifting habits, reducing pollution, supporting low-income families, fostering sustainable urban mobility; and

3. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City encourages the New Haven Board of Education — recognizing the opportunity to improve the health of its students and help them lead on the climate emergency and the broad reach the schools have in New Haven communities — to report back in six months to the Alders Education Committee with a plan on how to educate students on the impacts of present transportation choices on public health, the possibility of implementing an in-school bike, walk, and transit curriculum, and overall how schools could promote the use of healthier public transit and active transportation.
4. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Economic Development Administration report back to the Board of Alders in six months with a plan to promote active transportation in all their public activities, events, and initiatives (fairs, markets, etc).
5. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Office of Climate and Sustainability report progress on greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions reductions from transportation to the Board of Alders in June of each year, to ensure transparency and accountability in achieving New Haven's climate and transportation goals.
6. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City commit staff to work with major local employers and stakeholders (Yale, SCSU, YNHH, Gateway, unions, etc) and with CTrides to encourage people through ongoing marketing and media work to rely more on public transit and healthier transportation options, and to drive more safely.
7. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Alders recognize the need to for funding to support increased transportation staffing to lead these critical projects, including a grant writer, a Transportation Planner and a Transportation Engineer, and specifically to implement projects identified in the approved 2018 [New Haven Climate and Sustainability Framework](#) and the [Safe Routes for All Plan](#) approved in 2022.
8. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Alders recognize the need to increase transportation capital funds (given that reaching 2030 goals will need significant investment before then) and will try to include \$5 million in the City 2025-27 capital budget to accelerate implementation of the Safe Routes for All plan, especially in the City's "Priority Neighborhoods" as significant infrastructure changes will be critical to people shifting transportation modes.