

# GUILDERLAND TRAIL CONNECTIVITY STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

The study recommends the addition of almost 97.5 miles of multi-use trails and bikeways to the existing 38 miles of trail system. The recommended trail network is optimally positioned within a larger regional context aiming at improving regional mobility and accessibility while supporting existing and future developments and activities.



**“Goal:**

*Provide safe, convenient, and efficient transportation options for people and goods within, through and around the Town of Guilderland, which are supportive of the Town’s future land use plan and which minimize the impact of traffic on the Town’s character and quality of life.*

**Objectives:**

- Promote an attractive and efficient transportation network that integrates pedestrians, bicycles, automobiles and public transit
- Enhance the pedestrian environment in all areas of Town
- Create a multi-use trail system linking community centers, shopping and employment areas, recreation areas, and neighborhoods
- Explore ideas for traffic calming and pedestrian safety.” - TOWN OF GUILDERLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



**CONNECTIVITY**

The recommended bicycle and pedestrian network will improve active transportation connections throughout the region.

Connections to Guilderland destinations including Crossgates Mall, Stuyvesant Plaza, UAlbany, parks & preserves and open spaces, schools, etc.

Connections to destinations outside of Guilderland Town limits including Mohawk-Hudson Rail Trail, North Bethlehem Park, SUNY Polytechnic Institute, Albany Pine Bush Preserve, etc.



**ECONOMY**

The recommended bicycle and pedestrian network will stimulate the local economy by allowing people to walk, bike, and take a transit to businesses. Improved bicycle and pedestrian activity also increases property values and spur private investment

*In 2002, the National Associations of Realtors and Home Builders surveyed 2,000 homebuyers and found that a path for biking, walking or jogging was ‘the second most important neighborhood amenity, behind only highway access.’ - BOSTON MAGAZINE*

*In North Carolina, realtors found that 40 homes adjacent to the Shepherd’s Vineway Bikeway saw property increase of \$5,000 and up. - THISBIGCITY*

*A model developed in the US, as part of research that examined factors affecting property values in Delaware, showed that a bike path would be expected to increase property values by about \$8,800. - UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE*



**ENVIRONMENT**

Improved bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure decreases deleterious impacts of transportation on our environment by reducing air pollution, noise pollution, land pollution and emissions of green house gases.

*In 2017, the transportation sector made up 29% of U.S. gas emissions - the highest share of emissions. Bicycling saves 150 grams of Carbon dioxide per km (0.6 mi) - ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY STUDY INSTITUTE*