



DID YOU KNOW?



**IN 1969,**  
**15%**  
of school children ages 6-12 were driven to school in a private vehicle.

**IN 2001,**  
**50%**  
of school children ages 6-12 were driven to school in a private vehicle.

Source: Safe Routes to School National Partnership

## HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO



### *Become familiar with your city or town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).*

The local POCD is the blueprint for future development and transportation goals and is updated every ten years. Some questions to ask as you review the POCD: Does it focus growth in areas where public transit is available? Does it encourage children to walk or bike to school? Does it encourage people to park in one area and walk between places or activities? Does it make your town center or residential neighborhood streets friendlier and safer?

*Participate in town meetings with the transportation decision makers that occur during development of major projects.* "A Guide to Transportation Decision Making" by the U.S. DOT describes the process and gives strategic advice on how to be effective in presenting your opinions. The report is on our website [www.conservationeducation.org](http://www.conservationeducation.org).

*Work with local volunteers and town officials to encourage sidewalks, bike paths, bike lanes.* The Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board, a statewide advisory board, holds monthly public meetings to discuss ways in which the state can promote bike and walk policies. Their website is [ctbikepedboard.org](http://ctbikepedboard.org). BikeWalk Connecticut is a great resource for state and local bike and pedestrian advocacy. Their website is [wecyclect.org](http://wecyclect.org).

*Encourage young people to walk or bike to school by asking your town to participate in the state Safe Routes to School program.* Like all trip-making, travel to school has changed dramatically over the last 40 years. The biggest change is the increased number of children being driven to school. Safe Routes to School, sponsored by the Connecticut DOT, provides grants and technical advice to local communities to encourage children to safely walk or bike to school.

*Request traffic signal adjustments and traffic calming techniques in your neighborhood or your town.* Sometimes something as simple as a longer walk time for pedestrian crossings or lowering the speed limits will help make streets safer for all users, especially senior citizens and children. But these adjustments may not happen until local residents request the changes or until a tragedy occurs.



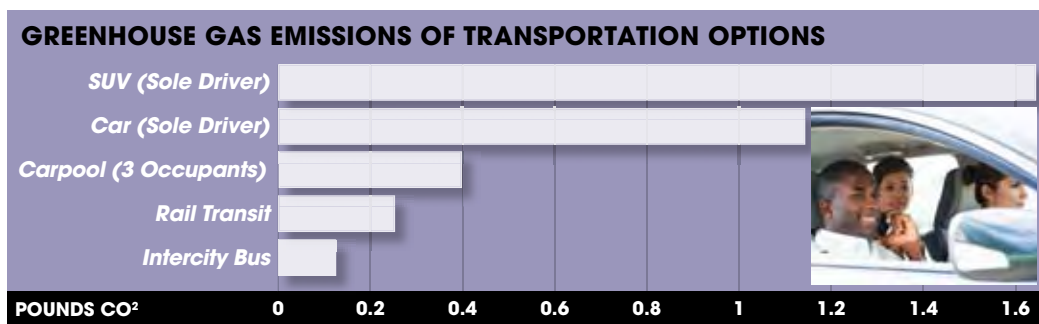
*Electric vehicle public charging station, West Hartford, CT*

COURTESY OF CONNECTICUT LIGHT & POWER

**Reconsider your travel options and reduce your carbon footprint.**

There are many ways that each of us as individuals can minimize our impact on transportation. Here are just a few suggestions:

- ❑ Consider carpooling, public transit or work from home one day a week. If you want to commute to work by transit or vanpool, start with Connecticut Commuter Services online at [ctrides.com](http://ctrides.com) or by phone at 1-877-CT-RIDES. This site presents rides by region, then by town, including links to providers and locations of park-and-ride lots.
- ❑ Turn off the car instead of idling whenever possible.
- ❑ Plan before you drive to organize your errands in sequence to reduce mileage.
- ❑ Be sure to keep your car tires properly inflated, your engine serviced regularly, use regular gas instead of premium and reduce your travel speed to save significantly on the amount of gas you use.
- ❑ When purchasing a car consider a more fuel efficient car such as a hybrid or electric vehicle.



**FACT** Parents driving children to school comprise **20-30% OF MORNING TRAFFIC CONGESTION** in urban areas according to [AmericaWalks.org](http://AmericaWalks.org)