



CIRCA Report

BiCi PATH 2023-24 Plan for Active Travel and Health

May 2024
Transport Hartford and BiCi Co.
Center for Latino Progress



Connecticut Institute for Resilience
and Climate Adaptation



Sponsored by a Climate & Equity grant from the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA). CIRCA is a partnership between the University of Connecticut and the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. More information can be found at: www.circa.uconn.edu


BiCi PATH Summary: Please provide a brief summary of the completed grant project, including activities, outcomes, and lessons learned.

CIRCA support for the Center's 2023-2024 BiCi PATH (Plan for Active Travel and Health) program helped us fundamentally realign and refocus key sections of our organization's active transportation and climate equity mission. We engaged numerous community partners to support BiCi PATH outreach, from high school students to coffee shops to municipal governments to fellow non-profits. The active transportation element of our programming delivered 37 high quality, rebuilt bicycles to residents of Hartford to use for transportation to work, school, community resources and cultural opportunities. We provided lights, locks and helmets to every new BiCi PATH member. Additionally, we developed relationships with BiCi PATH bike recipients to help them find safe routes to ride their bikes. We offered clients training to maintain their bicycles through our community bike shop DIY (Do It Yourself) program and we provided safety and riding skills training to (2) two clients. The Center began developing our Community-based neighborhood air monitoring program with support from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, which provided us with two Purple Air remote sensors and two training sessions. We deployed and hosted one Purple Air Monitor to record concentrations of PM 2.5 particles at our offices at 95 Park Street in Hartford. The device gathered data for a full year and continues to do so. We secured a commitment from a local business on Capital Avenue (within one quarter mile of I-84) to host a 2nd Purple Air Monitor, which will be installed following a renovation this summer. Our community-based neighborhood air monitoring program goals were shared widely, including with partners in Bridgeport and Waterbury, and we engaged our youth program participants to receive training in air quality health impacts in Hartford. We collaborated with CIRCA to support a pilot for its environmental justice community data project. We collaborated with UCONN professor Dr. Yoo Min Park by providing a support letter for a research project centered on Low-Cost Mobile Air Sensors and Culturally Tailored Health Messages. Our grant proposal was overly optimistic in assuming we could activate schools and community residents to host Purple Air monitors. Schools had technical (IP address) challenges which made it hard to host monitors. We were unable to locate neighbors in the highway corridors where we wanted to sample air because most people lacked reliable WiFi and outdoor power systems to support Purple Air Monitors. We learned from Dr. Park that there is mobile, micro sensor air quality monitoring technology available which can be worn by community members to sample indoor and outdoor air quality. We underestimated the technical resources needed to create and share a data system. We needed a more robust system to gather, analyze and deliver data and a better communications system to provide relevant analysis to the community.

Grant Project Activities:

- In addition to our in-house, planned community projects (see summary above), we presented at public meetings and gatherings:

BiCi PATH 2023




2023

- Began Hyper-Local Air Quality Monitoring Network (Purple Air) - UCONN/CIRCA!
- Partnered with BiCi Co to extend and expand Bikes for Jobs into Partnership for Active Travel and Health

2024

- Engage Community to Expand Air Quality Ed (Schools and Community Groups)
- Fundraise BiCi PATH program extension!!! TOP PRIORITY!!!



Slide at Presentation at Greater Hartford Mobility Justice Conference (Jan 2024)

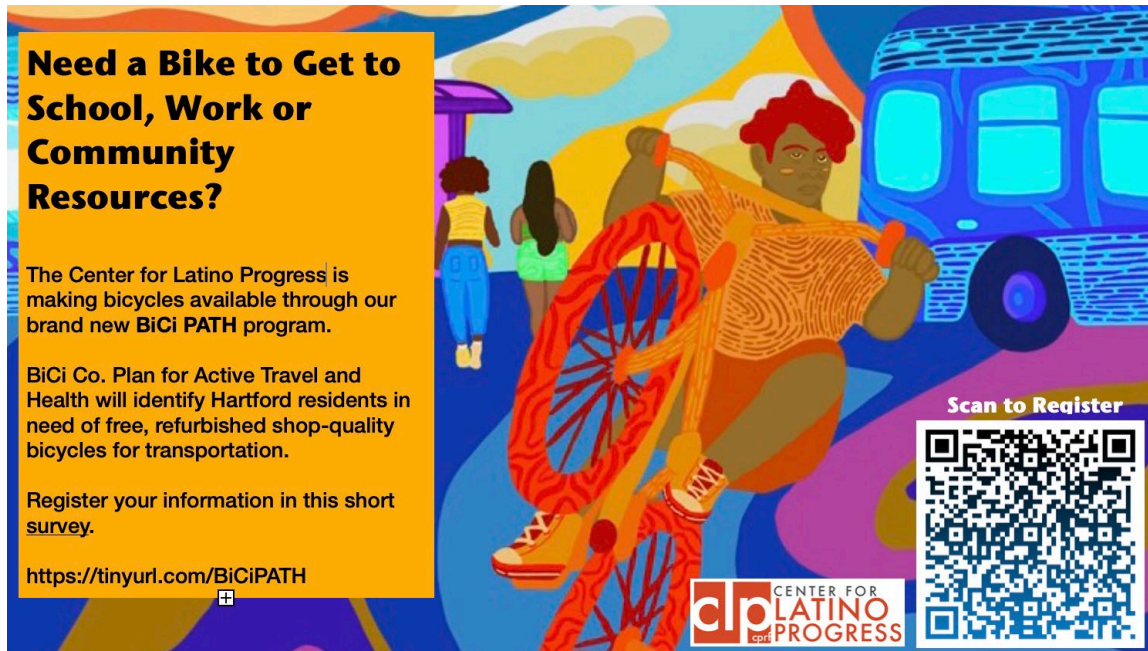
We provided an overview of our air quality work to the CEEJAC Air and Transportation Sub-Committee, which Jay Stange of Transport Hartford joined as a member. The Center hosted a CIRCA community meeting to provide community feedback on the Connecticut Environmental Justice Screening Tool. (<https://connecticut-environmental-justice.circa.uconn.edu/>)

We engaged our youth program participants to receive training in air quality health impacts in Hartford (see below).

- *Please indicate any important project milestones:*

An older program called Bikes for Jobs served as version 1.0 structure for the BiCi PATH active transportation and climate resiliency work in this grant program. In our previous work, we gifted bikes to community members who needed them for basic transportation. Once those bikes went out the door, we would only see participants if they needed repairs at our community bike shop. BiCi PATH allowed us to take the next step in community engagement by actively engaging participants with services and communications to bring them into a community. Our mechanics and staff tracked recipients with a sheets-

based database. We engaged 93 members of the community through our BiCi PATH Participant Survey and were able to secure all but three clients for our goal of engaging 40 BiCi PATH clients.



BiCi PATH Participant Survey Flyer

We provided 6 hours of training in air quality measurement to a cohort of (6) six Bulkeley High School students in Spring of 2023. We provided training to youth program volunteers in the basics of air quality measurements, including particulate pollution (PM 2.5 and PM 10) and related health impacts including asthma. Youth program participants worked to install our Purple Air Monitor at our offices.

- *Where did your organization complete activities?*

Downtown Hartford (Frog Hollow, Parkville, Asylum Hill, the West End and South Downtown) and West Hartford (Elmwood)

Grant Project Outcomes and Capacity Building Progress:

Our work with BiCi PATH this past year directly engaged 37 new community members with zero-carbon transportation options (bikes!) and reached 93 total residents interested in bicycle transportation. We supported the part-time work of

five program staff members in our BiCi Co shops and Transport Hartford program.

The indirect impact of our work supported by this grant was perhaps even more significant. We received inquiries from organizations in Bridgeport, Waterbury and New Haven requesting more background in order to model the BiCi PATH program in those communities. Our model of providing supports to new riders including a welcoming cycling community, access to tools and shop space, expert mechanical support, safe routes information, and events to join is supporting a new wave of carbon-free and low-carbon transportation choices.

We received volunteer support for our BiCi PATH technical work from the Travelers Employee Cycling network, which provided approximately 36 person hours (over three separate evenings) of support in the form of Wrench Nights at the Center. Travelers employees learned bike mechanic skills and put them to use supporting our mechanic staff in assembling BiCi PATH bicycles.

The Center is in the midst of final preparations to begin a sub-contractor relationship with the City of Hartford and the Connecticut Department of Transportation, which will provide Safe Streets education and community outreach to make it safer and easier in the Capital City to ride bicycles. Additionally, the City of Hartford relationship provides staff support for outreach and programming to continue the BiCi PATH active transportation program, with potential to provide 30-50 clients with upcycled bicycles and community support to become more active riders. We have leveraged the BiCi PATH grant funding from CIRCA to expand and enrich our BiCi PATH program from an older, less supportive model of giving bikes away in our Bikes for Jobs program. The relationships we've developed this past year are also contributing to create a Sustainable Transportation gathering this Fall at the Swift Factory along with other community partners.

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For future community air quality monitoring work, we highly recommend engaging a technical collaborator. We learned through this work that challenges for a community-based organization like ours involved areas beyond acquiring and bringing online Purple Air Monitors. We also needed to support our data

collection with analysis, GIS data references, more extensive volunteer and resident education, data reporting and community outreach. CT DEEP had many resources available in its Air Quality Bureau, which can support us in work going forward. We weren't aware of these resources until we began fully engaging with DEEP Air Quality Bureau staff, another indirect benefit of this project.

Pictures (optional):



Jenilee Vazquez of Hartford with her BiCi PATH match, a **Trek 4300**, which she'll use to ride to work this summer. She got her bike free from the **BiCi PATH (Plan for Active Travel and Health)** program at Transport Hartford and BiCi Co. (sister programs of the Center for Latino Progress). We teamed up with the [Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation](#) (CIRCA) to create the program to put 40 free, refurbished, shop-quality bikes into the hands of Hartford residents who need transportation to work, school and community resources. Please contact [BiCi Co.](#) if you have a bike you can donate to support this amazing program. #BiCiPATH #CTClimateAndEquity



BiCi PATH Bike Match!

Valorie Torres rides her **Raleigh SC30** to work as a Personal Care Attendant in Downtown Hartford. She got her bike free from the **BiCi PATH (Plan for Active Travel and Health)** program at Transport Hartford and BiCi Co. (sister programs of the Center for Latino Progress). We teamed up with the [Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation](#) (CIRCA) to create the program to put 40 free, refurbished, shop-quality bikes into the hands of Hartford residents who need transportation to work, school and community resources. Please contact [BiCi Co.](#) if you have a bike you can donate to support this amazing program. #BiCiPATH #CTClimateAndEquity



BiCi PATH Bike Match!

Diana Mendez uses her **Raleigh Rowdy** to get to work as a teacher in Downtown Hartford. She got her bike free from the **BiCi PATH (Plan for Active Travel and Health)** program at Transport Hartford and BiCi Co. (sister programs of the Center for Latino Progress). We teamed up with the [Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation](#) (CIRCA) to create the program to put 40 free, refurbished, shop-quality bikes into the hands of Hartford residents who need transportation to work, school and community resources. Please contact [BiCi Co.](#) if you have a bike you can donate to support this amazing program. #BiCiPATH #CTClimateAndEquity



BiCi PATH Bike Match!

Brionna Coleman and her **Univega Activa** make a lot of miles together each week on her commute from Hartford up to her work in warehouse logistics near Windsor. Brionna uses her bike to get to transit stops from her home and then to her workplace using the CTtransit bus rack system. Brionna volunteered at the Center for Latino Progress when she was in high school (shout out to Tony Cherolis!) and found us again recently when she needed a bike to help her get to work. Transport Hartford and BiCi Co. (sister programs of the Center for Latino Progress) teamed up with the [Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation](#) (CIRCA) to create the **BiCi PATH (Plan for Active Travel and Health)** program. This grant will put 40 free, refurbished, shop-quality bikes into the hands of Hartford residents who need transportation to work, school and community resources. Please contact [BiCi Co.](#) if you have a bike you can donate to support this amazing program. #BiCiPATH #CTClimateAndEquity