



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN REPORT



6/30/2015

Implementation in FY 2015

This report outlines the bicycle and pedestrian accomplishments related to the OTO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Activities occurring during the 2016 Fiscal Year, July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, are included.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Report

YEAR IN REVIEW

FY 2015 was a year for action. More trail and Link connections were completed, the Bicycle Friendly Business program was introduced, and various bicycle safety classes were held. This has really been the year of the bicycle. The community has embraced bicycling and the bicycling culture has come more to the forefront. This is not without challenges, however. There were several fatal bicycle accidents, which shows more education is needed of bicyclists and drivers. For pedestrians, there was a lot of sidewalk construction over the past year. Future funding shortages will lead to fewer sidewalks getting built. MoDOT is dramatically reducing the work they do on supplementary routes and this will impact sidewalk and curb ramp installations as well.

PRIORITIES INCLUDED IN THE PLAN

TOP 5 POLICY PRIORITIES

- Sidewalks on School Walking Routes
- Sidewalks on Streets with Commercial Land Use, especially High Volume Bus Routes
- Emphasize Projects that Extend from Communities and Enhance the Regional System
- Complete Bike/Ped Projects with appropriate Roadway Projects
- Develop Implementation Plan for Bike/Ped Plan, including details such as easements

ADDITIONAL POLICY PRIORITIES

- North-South Connections between Trails, including The Link in Springfield
- Streetscapes in Urban Centers
- Trail Connections between Communities
- Development of a Trail Loop around Springfield
- Reclamation of Rail Bed – including following the status of active rail
- Educational Campaign
- Focus on bringing Trails toward Wilson's Creek National Battlefield at a Designated Access Point
- Support for a regional bikeshare program

TOP PROJECT PRIORITIES

- Route 66 Corridor – Consolidated
- Southwest Trail (Creeks Trails) – Consolidated
- Trail of Tears – from Close Memorial Park to City of Battlefield – Carryover from Journey 2035
- Ozark Finley River Trail and other Future Linear Trails as shown on the OTO Bike/Ped Map in Christian County – Carryover from Journey 2035
- Christian County and Regional Addendum to the now completed Greene County Destination Plan – Carryover from Journey 2035
- James River Trail – from Chughton Landing east of Springfield to Delaware Landing west of Nixa – Carryover from Journey 2035

Engineering

Springfield City Council adopted a Complete Streets Policy, which directs the City and Public Works to consider all users of the City's transportation network.

Amendment 7, which was a funding effort for the Missouri Department of Transportation, included bicycle and pedestrian projects alongside roadway projects. The participation process in the OTO region was well received by the bicycle and pedestrian community.

On December 25, 2014, Wes Johnson, with the Springfield News-Leader, highlighted the two OTO priority trails added to the Projects of Regional Significance list.

TRAILS AND BIKEWAYS

While many pieces of the Ozark Greenways Trail system are in the planning stages, several have been designed and constructed as part of the effort to make a continuous trail system.

- New trail on Fassnight Creek which consists of trail from Campbell Avenue near Meadowmere to Jefferson at Bennett including grade-separated crossings at Bennett Street and Jefferson Avenue (0.41 miles)
- New trail on North Jordan Creek Trail from Chestnut Street to existing trail south of Chestnut Expressway passing under Chestnut Expressway (.04 miles)
- New trail on Upper Ward Branch Trail from Belvedere Ct to Bradford Parkway at Independence St including crossing under National Avenue (0.49 miles)
- New trail under construction on Ward Branch Trail from north of James River Freeway to Monastery Drive at Kimbrough Avenue passing James River Freeway and Republic Road as part of storm drainage improvements project with completion expected in Summer 2015 (0.33 miles)
- New trail under construction on Wilson's Creek Trail from Farm Road 156 to South Creek (Kauffman Road & James River Freeway) connecting Rutledge Wilson Park with the South Creek trail and existing Wilson's Creek Trail south of James River Freeway is with completion expected in Fall 2015 (1.52 miles)
- The Google Maps Street View Trekker Project captured imagery along several greenway trails in the Springfield area, including Galloway Creek and Jordan Valley.
- The McDaniel Lake bridge on Farm Road 76 was permanently closed to traffic and became part of the Ozark Greenways Trail System through an agreement in 2011. This past year, City Utilities, who helps maintain the bridge, replaced the access gates for the ends of the bridge.
- New bike lanes were striped on Division in Springfield from Kansas to West Avenue.
- A bicycle lane was removed on North Grant going southbound south of Chestnut. This stretch of roadway had been put on a road diet several years ago and during a restriping project, crews returned the southbound direction back to two lanes. The northbound segment did, however, stay at one lane for vehicular traffic, with a bicycle lane.

STREETSCAPES

- Boonville Avenue from Tampa Street to Chestnut Expressway (0.14 miles)

- Route 66 Roadside Park and adjacent streetscape (0.12 miles)

SIDEWALKS

Sidewalk improvements are a continual activity in the OTO area.

- 500 feet of sidewalk under construction on N. Boston Lane in Republic as a cost share between the City and Republic Schools
- In the Beverly Hills subdivision, 3,895 feet of four foot sidewalk was constructed along the east side of Broadway from Burntwood to Vancouver, on the south side of Beverly Hills Boulevard from Broadway to Farm Road 151, and along the north side of Farm Road 96 from Broadway to Farm Road 151. This included 10 new handicapped curb ramps and one new marked crosswalk.
- Along the north side of Farm Road 164, 565 feet of new four-foot sidewalk was constructed from Golden Avenue to Glenn Avenue. This included four new handicapped accessible curb ramps and access to the bus shelter at the intersection of Farm Road 164 and Golden. This connects to existing sidewalk on Golden and is located within the no-bussing zone for Carver Middle School.
- A 50-foot sidewalk extension was built along Williams Court with curb ramp construction for access to South Creek Greenway.
- A HAWK signal installed on Sunset Street east of Kimbrough Avenue in Springfield.
- Sidewalk constructed along Chestnut Street from Clay Avenue to underpass under Chestnut Expressway.
- Sidewalk constructed along Clay Avenue from Chestnut Street to Bob Barker Boulevard on OTC Campus.

Evaluation

WALK FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

Springfield submitted a Walk Friendly Communities application. Similar to the Bicycle Friendly Communities program by the League of American Bicyclists, this Federal Highway Administration Sponsored program out of the University of North Carolina, rates the quality of walking in a community and the efforts by the community to improve walking.

Enforcement

Partnerships with area police departments continues to be a goal for the OTO region.

REPUBLIC OPERATION BRAIN FREEZE AND HELMET HEAD

During the summer of 2014 and 2015, the Republic Police Department promoted their bicycle safety programs – Operation Brain Freeze and Operation Helmet Head. These programs reward children who wear their helmets with coupons for ice-cream and give away helmets to children who do not have one.

E ducation and Encouragement

HEALTHY LIVING ALLIANCE

The Healthy Living Alliance developed a PSA about sharing the road between bicycles and drivers, naming the video “Cher the Road,” featuring a Cher look-a-like.

COMMUNITY SPONSORED EVENTS

In June of 2015, the Nixa Police Department offered their second annual Safety Town event for children ages 3 to 8. This is a one week program that teaches lessons about roles of police officers in their community, traffic safety, water safety, safety signs, how to be safe around strangers, poison safety, bus safety, animal safety, and playground safety.

On June 26th, 2015, the Public Works Department of the City of Republic operated a public relations booth at the 19th annual Have-A-Blast event, the City’s 4th of July celebration. One of the themes for the evening was bicycle safety. Along with free children’s activity books promoting safe cycling, 39 bicycle helmets were given away to toddlers, children, teens and adults.

The Woodland Heights Neighborhood hosted an event called Dirt Day. Part of that event included a booth for Bicycle Tune Up and Recycle, at which people could donate bicycles and parts and others could get help fixing their bicycles.

LET’S GO SMART

Let’s Go Smart is a campaign to educate the region about making smart choices when using transportation. This not only includes bicycling, walking, and carpooling, but also trip chaining, bicycle safety, and more. Ozark Greenways continues to distribute Let’s Go Smart yard signs that say “Watch for Bicycles and Walkers.” The Let’s Go Smart website also continues to be available with advertising around town.

SAFE KIDS SPRINGFIELD

Mercy’s Safe Kids Springfield purchased a new tool to keep kids safe and for use by hundreds of Ozarks agencies. This is a mobile trailer for Safety Town and will include mini-buildings, traffic signs and signals, and crosswalks. The program can be tailored to many topics depending on an agency’s needs.

BICYCLE FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

Ozark Greenways introduced a Bicycle Friendly Business Program at its Annual Meeting on March 31, 2015. This program first recognized Bambino’s and Frisco Trail Mini-Storage, with Springfield Brewing Company as the next awardee.

STAR TEAM

The Ozark Greenways Sustainable Transportation Advocacy Resource (STAR) Team continued to meet monthly throughout the year. The committee also worked with MoDOT to identify how the U.S. Bike Route System can tie into Springfield. The STAR Team continues to have members write articles on bicycling for Ozark Living Magazine, which is published 6 times per year.

NEWS-WORTHY

Adventure Cyclists announced a Route 66 Bike Route that goes through the OTO area.

A new restaurant opened with bike rentals available – Sequoia Bike Shop.

A&B Cycle has launched a Bicycle Advocacy Campaign called “All Wheels Created Equal.” This includes beginner rides.

The Mystery Hour taping on October 10 was a bicycle-friendly event highlighting bicycling during the show and offering a discount to those who rode their bike to the taping.

417 Magazine developed a Trails Edition for one of their issues, highlighting trails and getting outdoors in the Ozarks region.

EVENTS

EDUCATION CLASSES

- Flyers developed to promote both adult and youth bicycle safety classes
- Offered 1 Confident City Cycling course.
- The City of Springfield has worked with SPARC to offer student classes
- Bicycle Commuting 101 was held just before Bike to Work Week
- Continued to have 3 League Cycling Instructors

BIKE TO WORK WEEK:

Ozark Greenways sponsored Bike to Work week in May. It is estimated that over 1,000 people participated. Prizes were awarded to schools and businesses with the most participation. Ahead of Bike to Work Week, KY3 broadcasted a Bicycle Safety and Law news segment, interviewing David Hutchison about how to navigate the road safely and follow the laws.

BAMBINO'S FOR BIKES

Bambino's has supported Ozark Greenways by sponsoring bike nights with proceeds benefiting the organization.

OZARK GREENWAYS ANNUAL MEETING AND FUNDRAISERS

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY EVENT, CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF OZARK GREENWAYS

RUNS, WALKS, AND RIDES:

- Ride of Silence, commemorating those killed or injured on a bicycle
- Woman's only ride 2x a week
- Carnahan-White Tour de Crawdad
- Iron Horse Gravel Grind
- Earth Day Fest on the Square in Springfield
- Tiger Tri in Republic
- Bass Pro Fitness Festival
- Moonlight Bike Ride
- 12th Annual Ribbon Ride
- Numerous other walks/runs/rides not listed
- Walk Springfield Maps continue to be available. These show a variety of short walks around Springfield that are meant to show people that it is easy to get out and be active.



OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION
A METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

This report was prepared in cooperation with the USDOT,
including FHWA and FTA, as well as the Missouri
Department of Transportation.

Ozarks Transportation Organization

205 Park Central East, Suite 205
Springfield, MO 65806
www.OzarksTransportation.org