



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN REPORT



6/30/2016

Implementation in FY 2016

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, 2015 through June 30, 2016, are included.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Report

UPDATED LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The final draft of the OTO Long Range Transportation Plan went out for public comment at the end of FY 2016. The Plan, *Transportation Plan 2040*, carried forward most of the recommendations from *Journey 2025*. The facilities map was updated to include a much larger proposed trail network around the City of Ozark.

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 Chrighton Landing east of Springfield to Delaware Landing west of Nixa – Carryover from Journey 2035

E n g i n e e r i n g

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.

- Springfield marked 9.6 miles of on-street bikeways, including 9.4 miles of shared bikeway and 0.2 miles of separated two-way bikeway on Main
- Wilson's Creek Trail – from Farm Road 156 to South Creek at Kauffman Avenue, including 1.52 miles of new trail connecting two shorter segments to create a six-mile trail segment from Rutledge-Wilson Farm Park to Republic Road, including a trail head on Kauffman Avenue
- Ozark developed a trail plan for in and around the city, including a way to connect to the system in Greene County, near Lake Springfield

STREETSCAPES

- Phelps Street from Campbell Avenue to Boonville Avenue (0.1 miles)
- Main Avenue from Olive Street to College Street (0.8 miles)
 - Introducing the region's first two-way protected bike lane
 - Integrated with the opening of the City Utilities Transit Center, which included bicycle facilities as well

SIDEWALKS

Sidewalk improvements are a continual activity in the OTO area.

- Willard School Sidewalks
- Republic Sidewalks on Boston Lane from south of Highway 174 to north of Hines Street (460 feet) and Madrid Street from Lorraine Avenue to Calabria Avenue (1005 feet)
- Completion of Republic ADA Inventory
- Updated sidewalk inventory for the OTO region
- Passage of Springfield 1/4 and 1/8 cent sales tax, with all roadway projects including facilities for walking and bicycling

E v a l u a t i o n

HLA WORKSHOP

Workshop on capacity building in the region, funded by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

OTO LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

OTO updated the Long Range Transportation Plan and reviewed the facilities map for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. The Plan was out for public comment at the end of the fiscal year, for adoption by the OTO Board of Directors in August 2016.

BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

The League of American Bicyclists visited and toured Springfield, providing feedback on how to make Springfield even more Bicycle Friendly. Stephen Clark met with 22 local participants representing over a

dozen different organizations. It was communicated that Springfield had a score of 22 points out of 100, including 3 of 40 for ridership and crash data and 19 of 60 for actions being taken by the community. Communities with 21 to 30 points typically receive a Silver rating.

WALK FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

Springfield was awarded Bronze Level Walk Friendly Community by the FHWA Walk Friendly Community Program

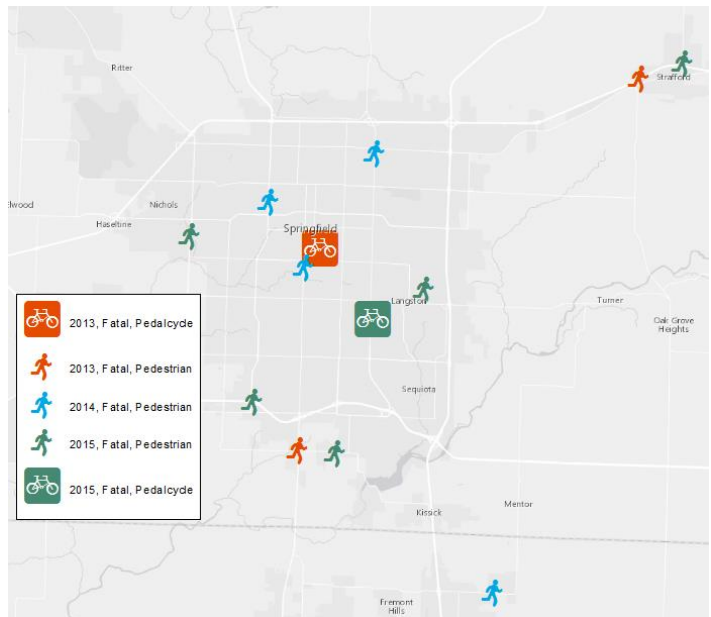
BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES APPLICATION

Continued with the Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community Designation

E nforcement

Partnerships with area police departments continues to be a goal for the OTO region. The Greene County citizens mounted patrol help watch the Ozark Greenway trails and the Park Rangers continue to monitor the trails and trailheads throughout the Springfield-Greene County area. Springfield and the City of Ozark also have officers who patrol by bicycle.

The 2015 year did see an increase in fatal crashes. The map to the right shows fatal bicycle and pedestrian crashes in 2013, 2014, and 2015.



E ducation and Encouragement

SAFETY GUIDES

OTO had 2500 Safety Guides printed with materials from the League of American Bicyclists on bicycle safety. These have been shared with member jurisdictions and Ozark Greenways for distribution around the region.

OZARK AND NIXA SAFETY TOWNS

Week long programs to teach all aspects of safety to area school children.

STAR TEAM

The Ozark Greenways Sustainable Transportation Advocacy Resource (STAR) Team continued to meet monthly throughout the year. STAR Team activities include contributing to the City of Springfield Person Powered Mobility Plan, support of a Complete Streets and the Springfield 1/8- and 1/4-cent sales tax initiatives, and other general bicycling and pedestrian activities throughout the region. STAR Team hosted the Bicycle Friendly Community Workshop for the region. 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.

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. This past year, the Let's Go Smart was incorporated into the Ozark Greenways website, however, the Ozarks Transportation Organization has offered to host it as a standalone site again, which should be ready by mid-2017.

BICYCLE FRIENDLY BUSINESSES


The program continued to review applications and help local businesses learn more on how to be recognized. Several applications were received throughout the year, but did not qualify for recognition. Committee members communicated with those businesses on ways to succeed in this program.

REPUBLIC OPERATION BRAIN FREEZE AND HELMET HEAD

In June 2016, the Republic Police Department promoted the third annual 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.

SAFE KIDS SPRINGFIELD

Safe Kids Springfield is a member of Safe Kids USA, and works to bring together health and safety experts, educators, corporations, foundations, governments, and volunteers to educate and protect families. One focus area for Safe Kids is bike and pedestrian safety. Safe Kids provides safety education materials, helps with distribution of bicycle helmets, and offers bike rodeos at various events. Since 2002, Safe Kids Springfield has been involved with Walk this Way each October.



BEFORE BEING NUDGED TO RIDE, I HADN'T RIDDEN TO WORK AT ALL...SINCE BIKE TO WORK WEEK, I'VE BEEN RIDING 2-5 DAYS A WEEK.

Tom O'Connell

EVENTS

EDUCATION CLASSES

- Five Bicycle Traffic Skills classes with 31 participants
- Continued to have 3 League Cycling Instructors
- Published OTO branded League of American Bicyclists Smart Cycling Guides

BIKE TO WORK WEEK:

Ozark Greenways sponsored Bike to Work week in May. Due to heavy rain, the even was extended for an extra week. New this past year was a partnership with the Springfield-Greene County Health Department for registration. Over 1,000 people participated and almost \$10,000 in sponsorships (cash and in-kind) was received.

BAMBINO'S FOR BIKES AND QDOBA FOR BIKES

Local businesses continue to support Ozark Greenways by sponsoring bike nights with proceeds benefiting the organization.

SCULPTURE WALK SPRINGFIELD

Sculpture Walk Springfield bills itself as a museum without walls, placing quality sculptures around downtown and providing maps for self-guided walking tours. Thirteen sculptures were in the 2016 collection.

OZARK GREENWAYS ANNUAL MEETING AND FUNDRAISERS

RUNS, WALKS, AND RIDES:

- Bass Pro Fitness Series
- Republic 100-mile Walking Club
- Republic Tiger Triathlon
- Republic Got Mud? Run
- Republic Reindeer Run 5k
- Pancake Ride benefiting MS
- Route 66 6.6 Mile
- Illuminating the Darkness 5k for Suicide Prevention
- Nixa Annual Azalea Half Marathon
- Willard Run for the Orchard
- Ozark Rotary Trick or Trot
- Turkey Trot
- Jack Frost 5k
- Ozark Jingle Bell 5k
- Ozarks 100
- Ride of Silence – Memorial for those who have died while bicycling
- Red Ribbon Ride
- Cycle of Life
- BSA Marathon on Frisco Highline Trail
- Numerous other walks/runs/rides not listed

AWARDS

- Springfield was recognized as a Bronze-level Walk Friendly Community by the Federal Highway Administration



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

2208 W. Chesterfield Boulevard, Suite 101
Springfield, MO 65807
(417) 865-3042
(417) 862-6013 Fax
www.OzarksTransportation.org