



# BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN REPORT



7/13/2021

Implementation in CY 2020

This report outlines the bicycle and pedestrian accomplishments related to the OTO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Activities occurring during the 2020 Calendar Year are included.

# Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Report

## UPDATED LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The OTO Long Range Transportation Plan was adopted August 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 Chughton Landing east of Springfield to Delaware Landing west of Nixa – Carryover from Journey 2035

## BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TRAIL INVESTMENT STUDY

In the fall of 2016, the OTO Transportation Alternatives Selection Committee noted the continued decreases in dedicated bicycle/pedestrian funding and asked OTO to study the investment required to construct a regional trail system. Area trails connecting OTO communities were segmented and evaluated for cost and environmental concerns. The study refined 88 miles of trail corridors and identified a buildout cost of \$125 million.

# Engineering

## 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.

### FUNDING AWARDED

- Construction funds for Shuyler Creek Trail between the City of Republic and Wilson Creek National Battlefield

### CONSTRUCTED

- 2,900 feet of the Jordan Creek Greenway was constructed between Fort Avenue and railroad
- Pedestrian Underpass along US 160 at Hunt Road
- 8,100-foot section of Fulbright Spring Greenway across former Fulbright Landfill
- A new Riverside Bridge has been completed in Christian County with a walk/bike path along one side
- South Creek Trail has been extended to the recently completed bridge on Barrington Avenue
- Bike lanes have been installed on Primrose Street between Cox Health South Campus and Jefferson Avenue after the street was widened last year.

## STREETSCAPES

- Two alleys south of Commercial Street have been rebuilt with concrete pavement inlaid with ceramic designs and added lighting and a parking lot at Blaine and Jefferson has been rebuilt with landscaping, lighting, and pedestrian features.

## SIDEWALKS AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

Sidewalk improvements are a continual activity in the OTO area.

### CONSTRUCTION

- Sidewalks included with the expansion of Business 65 in Ozark
- 2,800-foot section of multi-use sidepath along Fremont between Sunset and Battlefield
- 6,600 feet of sidewalk were added in the City of Republic
- 3,900 feet of sidewalk was constructed near Delaware Elementary in Springfield
- 1,700 feet of sidewalk was constructed near Watkins Elementary in Springfield
- 3,100 feet of sidewalk was constructed to improve connectivity around other Springfield Schools
- 4,000 feet of sidewalk was constructed along Hunt Rd in Willard
- 1,100 feet of sidewalk was constructed in the West Ridge Subdivision in Willard
- 15,840 feet of sidewalk throughout the City of Ozark

## EQUITY IMPROVEMENTS

- Addressed ADA sidewalk and curb ramp issues along Miller Rd at Knight and Jackson St in Willard
- Addressed ADA sidewalk and curb ramp issues at 28 locations in the City of Nixa.
- Crosswalks added or enhanced, and pedestrian actuated flashing lights added at Grant Avenue and Calhoun Street, Walnut Lawn Street and Broadway Avenue, and Blackman Road and Dan Kinney Family Center/Lomita Street

## Evaluation

### SGF YIELDS

In its efforts to initiate a cultural change in Springfield, leaders at SGF Yields have extensively reviewed safety data. The analysis has focused on identifying locations for possible improvements and for increased enforcement. Efforts are also being made to understand the underlying causes of the rise in pedestrian injuries and fatalities.

## Education and Encouragement

### SAFETY GUIDES

OTO has continued to make available 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. These were also included for distribution to Bike Work Week participants.

### OZARK BIKE PATROL

During events in Ozark, such as the Christmas Parade, Tiger Streak 5k, and the Sertoma Duck Race Event, the Ozark Police Department Bike Patrol distributed educational information. At the Ozark Expo, the Police Department also distributed bicycle safety education materials from their booth.

### EMERGENCY RESPONDERS AWARENESS DAY

The City of Ozark offered a bike safety rodeo and distributed educational information and bike helmets.

### LET'S GO SMART: TRANSPORTATION COLLABORATIVE

The Ozark Greenways Let's Go Smart Committee and the Community Partnership of the Ozark's Transportation Collaborative combined into the Let's Go Smart: Transportation Collaborative in 2019. This combined group continues to support the two groups' key priorities: non-motorized transportation and expanding transportation options for the region's under-resourced.

### 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 website was redesigned and launched as a standalone site hosted by the Ozarks Transportation Organization. The redesigned site includes a place for events and an interactive map of the region's bike and bus routes and trails.

### 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.

## SGF YIELDS

The SGF Yields campaign aims to initiate a cultural change in Springfield toward being more pedestrian friendly. To encourage this shift, the campaign utilizes two key strategies – education and awareness. Staff works with local schools and talks with students in their classrooms about how to be a “Safety Superhero.” The city also has created ‘Mr. Walker’ statues and placed them around the city near crosswalks and heavily used pedestrian areas to remind drivers to pay attention for pedestrians. Finally, City staff monitors drivers’ yield compliance at crosswalks across the city. Statistics are shared with the community each quarter.



SGF Yields was awarded funding to conduct *Crosswalk Yield Checks* in cooperation with the Springfield Police Department. These checks will be treated as opportunities for “edu-forcement”, including driver education as the issuance of a warning from the Springfield Police Department. After this period of “edu-forcement”, drivers may be issued citations.

## EVENTS

### BIKE TO WORK WEEK

Ozark Greenways sponsored Bike to Work week in May. Over 290 people logged at least one bike trip, representing 26 communities in Southwest Missouri, Northern Arkansas.

### 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. The 2020 collection included 22 sculptures.

### RUNS, WALKS, AND RIDES:

- Bass Pro Fitness Series
- Republic 100-mile Walking Club
- Republic Tiger Triathlon
- Republic Youth Triger Triathlon
- Republic Got Mud? Run
- Republic Reindeer Run 5k
- Pancake Ride benefiting MS
- Nixa Annual Azalea Half Marathon
- Virtual Springfield Turkey Trot
- Willard Turkey Trot
- Jack Frost 5k
- Ozarks 100
- Ride of Silence – Memorial for those who have died while bicycling
- Virtual Cycle of Life

## Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Report

---

- IronHorse Gravel Grind
- Numerous other walks/runs/rides not listed

## AWARDS

- Ozark Greenways Awarded Bicycle Friendly Business Silver Designation



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](http://www.OzarksTransportation.org)