



CY
2021

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

IMPLEMENTATION IN CY 2021

Bicycle and Pedestrian Implementation Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The OTO's *Bicycle and Pedestrian Implementation Report* is compiled annually to record the wide range of bicycle and pedestrian prioritization, engineering, evaluation, and education activities completed through the region. This report demonstrates the region's ongoing commitment to developing a more complete bicycle and pedestrian network.

GUIDING DOCUMENTS

The Ozarks Transportation Organization has adopted several new plans and policies that act as guiding documents for the region's bicycle and pedestrian programs. These plans include *Destination 2045*, the official long range transportation plan. Additionally, the OTO has adopted *Towards a Regional Trail System*, a new trail plan, and a *Statement of Priorities* for local bicycle and pedestrian networks.

GOALS AND TARGETS

The adoption of *Towards A Regional Trail System* included a goal for trail construction. THE OTO WILL construct 45 miles of new trails by 2045, or **45 By 45**. The focus hasn't been placed on what specific trails get built, rather the focus is on ensuring steady trail construction. Two benchmarks have been set to help encourage regular progress to achieving this goal.

NEEDS IDENTIFICATION

The Ozarks Transportation Organization continuously works to identify transportation needs and prioritize funding to address these needs. This occurs through the annual STIP project prioritization process, regular Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meetings, participation with Ozark Greenways, and through special planning efforts.

ENGINEERING

Many funding, engineering, and construction activities were completed in the OTO region during 2021.

TRAILS AND BIKEWAYS

- *Construction Funding* awarded for approximately 22,000 LF of trails and bikeways
- *Engineering Funding* awarded for a US-65/Chadwick Flyer Crossing Study
- *Constructed or Reconstructed* approximately 3,700 LF of Trails

STREETSCAPES

- *Completed* one streetscape at *Cherry & Pickwick*

SIDEWALK AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

- *Constructed* approximately 43,000 LF of new sidewalk

EQUITY IMPROVEMENTS

- Made 30 ADA curb ramp improvements and brought approximately 17,500 LF of existing sidewalks into ADA compliance

EVALUATION

SGF Yields and the *Let's Go Smart: Transportation Collaborative* continue to evaluate the region's bicycle and pedestrian system through quarterly yield checks and periodic *Walk & Talk* events.

EDUCATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT

The OTO region continues to benefit from a wide range of educational and engagement activities. Organizations such as SGF Yields, Better Block SGF, and Safe Kids Springfield are hosting events to boost pedestrian safety and build awareness of our built environments. Many different community groups and organizations continue to host fun runs, 5k races, and a host of cycling events.

GUIDING DOCUMENTS

New bicycle and pedestrian plans and priorities have been adopted by the OTO Board of Directors.

DESTINATION 2045

The OTO adopted a new long range transportation plan, entitled *Destination 2045*, in 2021. This plan will guide transportation investments over the next 5 years and help the region address five key transportation goals. These goals are shown below.

- Goal 1 - A Safe Transportation System for All Users on All Modes
- Goal 2 - Preserve Existing Transportation Assets and Promote Fiscal Responsibility
- Goal 3 - Connected, Integrated, Multi-Modal System
- Goal 4 - Build a Transportation System that Supports a Resilient Region that is Prepared for the Future
- Goal 5 - Build Quality Projects that Implement Best Design and Engineering Practices

Destination 2045 includes strong supports for multi-modal investments and projects that help improve bicycle and pedestrian safety.

TOWARDS A REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM

The OTO adopted a new trail plan, entitled *Towards A Regional Trail System*, in 2021. This plan explores the continued expansion of the region's trail system and sets a goal for 45 miles of new trails by 2045. The **45 by 45** goal will help ensure the region successfully creates a network of trail that truly connects our communities.

REGIONAL 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.

STATEMENT OF PRIORITIES

In January 2022, the OTO Board of Directors adopted a Statement of Priorities for local bicycle and pedestrian networks. This includes the development and maintenance of sidewalk and on-street pedestrian infrastructure in the region's seven cities and two counties. The eight priorities are grouped into three categories. These priorities describe a grid-like network of bike/ped infrastructure that connects regional trails, schools, neighborhoods, and commercial centers.

ON THE PATH TO CONNECTED BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN NETWORKS

These eight priorities are embodied in local bicycle and pedestrian networks across the OTO region. *On the Path to Connected Pedestrian and Bicycle Networks* highlights many

of these local examples. For example, residents of Strafford can safely move between neighborhoods, schools, and commercial areas. Willard also has a pedestrian underpass that connects neighborhoods to the Frisco Highline Trail north of US 160.

GOALS AND BENCHMARKS

The adoption of *Towards A Regional Trail System* included a goal for trail construction. This goal will guide future trail development efforts. To measure progress towards goal achievement, two benchmarks have been set. These benchmarks have measure progress over three year periods, so data will be available after CY 2024.

45 BY 45

The OTO has set a goal to construct 45 miles of new trails by 2045, or **45 By 45**. Communities will be connected, and gaps will be filled if the region is able to build 45 miles of new trails. The focus hasn't been placed on what specific trails get built, rather the focus is on ensuring steady trail construction. Two benchmarks have been set to help encourage regular progress to achieving this goal.

MILEAGE BENCHMARK

A mileage benchmark has been set at 6 miles of new trail every 3 years. This will be measured by when funding is identified. This target recognizes the cyclical nature of construction projects and allows for the design and right-of-way phases of trail projects.

INVESTMENT BENCHMARK

A complementary investment benchmark has been set at \$6 million of new trails every 3 years. This will be measured by when funding is identified. This target recognizes the complex nature of some planned trails and allows the region to track significant investments its trail network

NEEDS IDENTIFICATION

The Ozarks Transportation Organization continuously works to identify transportation needs and prioritize funding to address these needs. Below are descriptions of some needs lists and prioritization processes from 2021.

ANNUAL STIP PRIORITIZATION

The OTO recommended several projects for inclusion in MoDOT's 2022-2026 STIP that will benefit bicyclists and pedestrians. These projects include pedestrian enhancements along Glenstone, with a particular focus towards transit users along S Glenstone Ave. There are also several intersection projects in Springfield and Ozark that should improve pedestrian safety.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The OTO's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meets regularly to discuss regionally significant projects, complete planning and safety studies, and to assist in setting bicycle and pedestrian funding priorities.

OZARK GREENWAYS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The OTO continues to participate on Ozark Greenways' Technical Committee. These monthly meetings provide OTO staff an opportunity to learn about ongoing trail needs and to provide information on upcoming funding opportunities.

MoDOT MULTIMODAL UNFUNDED NEEDS LIST

The OTO participated in the development of a statewide Multimodal Unfunded Needs List. A total of 64 regional trail and local bicycle and pedestrian projects from the OTO region, valued at just under \$23 million, were included on the state's need list. Trail projects included repairs on the Ward Branch Greenway, new segments along the Chadwick Flyer and the I-44/Fort Scott trails, and needed track realignments in West Meadows to make room for more trails in downtown Springfield. Individual communities submitted a wide range of local bicycle and pedestrian needs. Projects ranged from \$15,000 to \$865,000.

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.

CONSTRUCTION FUNDING AWARDED

- Chadwick Flyer Trail along 21st St at Tracker Marine in Ozark (*approx. 5,000 LF*)
- Chadwick Flyer Trail between Kissick Ave and Greene County Line at James River Power Station in Springfield (*approx. 10,500 LF*)
- Wilson's Creek Boulevard Trail along Rt. ZZ between Republic High School and Wilson's Creek National Battlefield (*approx. 6,600 LF*)

FUNDED ENGINEERING STUDIES

- US-65/Chadwick Flyer Crossing Study to identify best location and method for crossing US-65 with the Chadwick Flyer trail

CONSTRUCTED

- 2,700 LF of reconstructed trail along Galloway Creek Greenway south of Sequiota Park in Springfield
- 1,000 LF of multi-use trail along Lone Pine Ave and Covington St in Springfield

STREETSCAPES

- Cherry and Pickwick- Intersection Bulb-outs, raised crosswalks, additional parking, and new sidewalks

SIDEWALKS AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

Sidewalk improvements are a continual activity in the OTO area.

CONSTRUCTION

- 2,500 LF on Nicholas Rd in Nixa
- 5,400 LF on Hwy 14 in Nixa
- 18,770 LF within new subdivisions in Republic
- 9,110 LF within Ozark
- 1,900 LF on Harvard Ave in Springfield
- 1,080 LF on McCabe St in Strafford
- 1,000 LF on Pine St in Strafford
- 1,100 LF along Canterbury Ln in Willard
- 500 LF along Farm Rd 68 in Willard
- 680 LF along Stella CT in Willard
- 1,270 LF within the Royal Oaks subdivision in southern Greene County

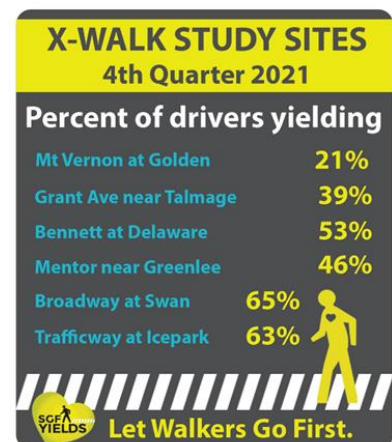
EQUITY IMPROVEMENTS

- 30 curb ramp improvements along Gallup Hill St and in the Rolling Hills neighborhood in Nixa
- 14,880 LF of existing sidewalk brought into ADA compliance along US 60 in Republic
- Brought existing sidewalk at MO 413 and Scenic Ave into ADA compliance
- 2,700 LF of existing sidewalk brought into compliance along MO 413 in Springfield.

EVALUATION

SGF YIELDS: CROSSWALK COMPLIANCE STUDIES

Crosswalk compliance studies, performed by Springfield Public Works Traffic Operations division since 2017, evaluates driver compliance at six crosswalk sites with similar traffic speeds and characteristics across Springfield. Two locations are studied every quarter as a control group. The remaining sites are selected from each of the four City Council zones. Results from each location are averaged to produce a snapshot of driver compliance across town. Results of the assessment are posted on two educational boards, located at



the intersection of Campbell & Walnut Lawn and Glenstone & Division. The chart to the right shows driver compliance at the six test sites during the 4th quarter of 2021. Overall, drivers yielded to pedestrians 48% of the time in the 4th quarter.

LET'S GO SMART: TRANSPORTATION COLLABORATIVE - WALK & TALKS

The Let's Go Smart: Transportation Collaborative hosted two Walk & Talk events in 2021 to evaluate walkability in and around Downtown Springfield and the Missouri State University campus. These events bring together community leaders and advocates to discuss recent improvements, current needs, and future projects.

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 WEBSITE

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.

BETTER BLOCK SGF

Better Block SGF empowers individuals to reimagine the built environment to build a better city, one block at a time. This community non-profit advocates for pedestrian friendly design and improvements, conducts community engagement, and implements tactical urbanism projects.

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.

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.

AWARDS

- Ozark Greenways Awarded Bicycle Friendly Business Silver Designation
- SGF Yields Awarded 2021 Transportation Achievement Award by the Ozarks Section of ITE

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 and Northern Arkansas.

PARK(ING) DAY 2021

Better Block SGF participated in PARK(ing) Day, an annual, global event, where single parking spaces are temporarily transformed into public parks and pedestrian spaces. In 2021, they reimagined their participation and converted a parking space within the Battlefield Mall parking lot. They sought to bring attention to the imbalance of space dedicated to cars vs. pedestrians by showing how even a successful shopping mall still has a large surplus of parking most days of the year.



SOUTH AVENUE PLACEMAKING DEMONSTRATION

The South Avenue Placemaking Demonstration, hosted by Better Block SGF, created an opportunity for the Springfield community to experience a re-imagined block of South Avenue that promotes pedestrian activity, support for local economy, safety, social connection, and a quality urban experience.

The demonstration featured new pedestrian amenities and urban design elements including a mid-block crosswalk, wider sidewalks, trees and potted plants, benches, cafe seating, and art installations. The 10-day demonstration was setup the morning and afternoon of Friday, October 15th, and was kicked off with a Street Festival that evening in which the entire block was closed to traffic for musical performances, yard games, and interactive activities. The demonstration lasted through October 24th.

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	Sertoma Duck Waddle 5K	30 th Annual CoxHealth Virtual Medical Mile 5K Run/Walk
Republic 100-mile Walking Club	Finley River 5 and Tri Run Across Springfield	The Fast & The Furriest 5K
Republic Tiger Triathlon	Oktoberfest 5K & Beer Run	Run and Remember 5K
Republic Tigger Triathlon	Girls Just Wanna Run 2021	Habitat Home Run 5K/10K/1 mile
Republic Got Mud? Run	DoNot Stop Half Marathon	The Colorectal Rundie Virtual Run/Walk
Republic Reindeer Run 5K	Dublin's Pass Shamrox 5K/10K	Bike MS: Ozarks Ride 2021
Pancake Ride benefiting MS	Shamrock Virtual Fun Run	Rockin' Roll Bike & Music Festival
Springfield Turkey Trot	Girls on the Run 5K	SBC's Railcar Root Beer Juniors Ride
Willard Turkey Trot	Conservation Marathon	Raptor Run, 5K and Fun Run
Jack Frost 5K	Hot N Hilly 5K	NAMI Neon Night Run 5K
Ozarks 100	Bass Pro Shops Zombie Run	OneSolePurpose 5K/10K Run
Cycle for Life	Paint the Run	Camp Barnabas Campfire 5K
Iron Horse Gravel Grind	Donut It Make You Want to Run 5K	Strafford Turkey Trot
2 nd Annual Springfield Tour de Brew	Karhu Frozen Custard Fun Run	Numerous other walks/runs/rides not listed
Frisco Railroad Run		
Red Ribbon Ride		
Jingle Bell Jog		
Springfield Santa Run		
The Wizard Run		



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. The opinions, findings, and conclusions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, the Federal Highway Administration, or the Federal Transit Administration.

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