



CY  
2022

# BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

**IMPLEMENTATION IN CY 2022**

# Bicycle and Pedestrian Implementation Report

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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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 *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 in progress or completed in the OTO region during 2022.

#### TRAILS AND BIKEWAYS

- Constructed 8,234 LF of multiuse trails, 14,400 LF of bike lanes and 151,008 LF of soft surface single track trails
- Completed the US 65 Chadwick Flyer Crossing Study and awarded and started the Route 66 Trail Alignment Study
- Construction Funding awarded for approximately 3,200 LF of Trails
- Ongoing funded trail projects with approximately 29,925 LF of multiuse trails including two phases of the Chadwick Flyer Trail, Schuyler Creek Trail and Wilson's Creek Boulevard Trail

#### STREETSCAPES

- Improved streetscape in downtown Ozark, completed streetscape on Phelps St in Springfield, and increased safety in front of Reed Academy in Springfield

#### SIDEWALK AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

- Constructed approximately 33,878 LF of new sidewalk

#### EQUITY IMPROVEMENTS

- Made more than 39 ADA curb ramp improvements and brought more than 2,506 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

There are multiple organizations and campaigns such as SGF Yields, Better Block SGF, SpringBike, and Safe Kids Springfield, which continue to host events to encourage and improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety. Furthermore, new groups such as Cycle Connect 417 are being founded by the community aiming at peer support and creating more visibility of multimodal transportation users. The OTO region benefits from this wide range of educational and engagement activities, which also include numerous other fun runs, 5k races and cycling events from many other community and neighborhood groups.

## GUIDING DOCUMENTS

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The OTO Board of Directors has adopted bicycle and pedestrian plans and priorities over the past several years, providing guidance to prioritization and funding efforts.

### 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:

- 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 support 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.

### 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.

### 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. This study has been the basis for OTO's continued efforts to construct and connect trails throughout the region.

## GOALS AND BENCHMARKS

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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 measured 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

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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 2022.

### ANNUAL STIP PRIORITIZATION

The OTO recommended several projects for inclusion in MoDOT's STIP that will benefit bicyclists and pedestrians. These projects include pedestrian improvements along Chestnut Expressway, Glenstone, Kearney, Brookline Ave, with a particular focus towards transit users along S Glenstone Ave. There are also several intersection projects in Nixa, Ozark, Strafford, and Springfield 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 33 regional trail and local bicycle and pedestrian projects from the OTO region, valued at just under \$22 million, were included on the state's need list. Trail projects included new trail segments along the Route 66 trail in Springfield and Strafford, new segments along the Chadwick Flyer and the I-44/Fort Scott trails, trail improvements along Route MM in Republic 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 \$21,000 to \$840,000.

# ENGINEERING

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## TRAILS AND BIKEWAYS

While many pieces of the regional 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

- Multiuse path and sidewalk along Truman Blvd in Nixa (approx. 3,200 LF of each)

### FUNDED ENGINEERING AND PLANNING STUDIES

- US 65/Chadwick Flyer Crossing Study to identify best location and method crossing US 65 with the Chadwick Flyer trail was completed and approved in May of 2022
- Route 66 Trail Alignment Study to identify a preferred alignment of the trail between Le Compte Rd in Springfield and the City of Strafford was awarded and started

### CONSTRUCTED

- 2,000 LF of multi-use trail as part of the Trail of Tears trail in Battlefield
- 28.6 miles of single-track trail for as part of the Dirt 66: Fellow Lake trails around Fellow Lake in Greene County
- 3,764 LF of multi-use trail in Ozark, including 2,200 LF of multi-use trail from Hwy 14 to OTC Richmond Campus
- 1,270 LF of multi-use trail as part of the Fassnight Trail between S Clay Ave and Brookside Dr in Springfield

- 14,400 LF of bike lanes on St. Louis St between Kimbrough Ave and Glenstone Ave as part of a road diet (7,700 LF in each direction) in Springfield
- 1,200 LF of multi-use path along northside of Central St between Benton Ave and Clay Ave in Springfield

### IN PROGRESS

- Chadwick Flyer Trail along 21<sup>st</sup> St at Tracker Marine in Ozark (approx. 5,000LF)
- Chadwick Flyer Trail between Kissick Ave and Greene County Line at James River Power Station in Springfield (approx. 9,191 LF)
- Shuyler Creek Trail between along Farm Road 182 from Wilson Cree National Battlefield to City of Republic (approx. 9,134 LF)
- Wilson's Creek Boulevard Trail along Rt. ZZ between Republic High School and Wilson's Creek National Battlefield (approx. 6,600LF)

### STREETSCAPES

- 1,032 LF of new and renewed crosswalk markings in downtown Ozark
- Jefferson Ave and Elm St intersection in Springfield – Bulb outs added
- South St and Pershing St intersection in Springfield– Bulb outs added
- Raised Crosswalk on Lyon St in front of Reed Academy between Atlantic St and Dale St in Springfield
- Phelps St streetscape improvements between Boonville Ave and Robberson Ave in Springfield - Installed Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB) and added 800LF of sidewalk

### SIDEWALKS AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

Sidewalk improvements are a continual activity in the OTO area.

### CONSTRUCTION

- 2,900 LF of sidewalk along 3<sup>rd</sup> St in Battlefield
- 22,678 LF of sidewalk within new subdivisions in Republic
- 700 LF of sidewalk along Bennett St in Springfield
- 1,200 LF of sidewalk along south side of Central St in Springfield
- 3,700 LF of sidewalk along Division St in Springfield
- 900 LF of sidewalk along John Ave in Springfield
- 900 LF of sidewalk along Lovers Ln in Springfield
- 900 LF of sidewalk along St. Marys Ave in Springfield

### EQUITY IMPROVEMENTS

- 34 ADA curb ramp improvements and 710 LF of sidewalk replacement along Farm Roads 102 and 135 in unincorporated Greene County
- Multiple ADA improvements within City if Nixa addressing curb and sidewalk deficiencies
- 15 ADA ramps and 1,796 LF of sidewalk replacement and repairs in downtown of Ozark



## 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 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2022. Overall, drivers yielded to pedestrians 54% of the time in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.



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

The Let's Go Smart: Transportation Collaborative hosted two Walk & Talk events in 2022 to evaluate walkability in and around Rountree and C-Street neighborhoods. These events bring together community stakeholders and advocates to discuss recent improvements, current needs, and future projects in different neighborhoods.

## 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 Walk & Wheel Week participants.

### CYCLE CONNECT 417

Cycle Connect 417 formed in September of 2022 and is encouraging women to explore cycling and connecting women within Southwest Missouri. The group organizes community rides for women on every first Saturday of each month with the goal of bringing women together and providing an inclusive environment with cycling opportunities for all skill levels.

## 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. In June of 2022, a bicycle safety class was held for the Boys and Girls Club at the Stalnaker Unit as part of the collaborative, which included donations of helmets at bicycles for the children. Twenty-six boys and girls attended the class and learned how to care for their bike and check their bike before riding, how to start and stop, how to turn, how to use turn signals, how to dodge rocks, and how to stop. Following the class, the group went for a two-mile ride on the Jordan Creek Trail.

## 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. The Let's Go Smart website continues to be a standalone site hosted by the Ozarks Transportation Organization, and 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-enforcement,” drivers may be issued citations.

In 2021, SGF Yields in partnership with neighborhoods also started to organize Lantern Walks within the City of Springfield. This event aims at creating more awareness to children as the most vulnerable group of road users. Neighborhoods, schools, and families are encouraged to help organize a route for a lantern walk, which has learning stations for children and adults about safe walking habits, crosswalk laws and how to encourage safe street crossings for all road users.

## 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

- SGF Yields Awarded the Show ME Zero 2022 Southwest Regional Award by the Missouri Department of Transportation’s (MoDOT)
- SGF Yields Awarded the 2022 Exceptional Performance in Safety award from the American Public Works Association (APWA)

## EVENTS

### BIKE WALK & WHEEL WEEK

Ozark Greenways sponsored Bike Walk & Wheel week in May. There were 570 people that logged at least one trip or activity attendance in 12 communities in Southwest Missouri, including Battlefield, Nixa, Ozark, Republic, Springfield, Strafford and Willard.

### PARK(ING) DAY 2022

In partnership with the Discovery Center, Better Block SGF participated in the annual, global Park(ing) Day Event in 2022. On Park(ing) Day, people across the world temporarily repurpose parking spaces into public parks and social spaces to advocate for safer, greener, and more equitable streets for people. During this year’s project they transformed a single parallel parking space into a semi-permanent parklet to provide an area for interactive displays and activities used by the students and staff of the Discovery Center.

### DOWNTOWN NIXA PLACEMAKING DEMONSTRATION

The Nixa Placemaking Demonstration, organized by Better Block SGF, Downtown NIXA and the City of Nixa, created an opportunity for the community to re-imagine a better downtown Nixa as a community hub that supports the local economy, social interaction, and community pride.

The Nixa Placemaking Demonstration featured temporary improvements including, narrowed driving lanes with expanded sidewalks, removed parking spaces, art installations, landscaping, outdoor seating, a mid-block crosswalk street mural, and a new "pocket park". The demonstration was up for 90 days, from September 10th through December 10th, and was kicked off with a street festival that featured live musical performances, yard games, and food trucks.

**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 2022-2023 collection included 32 sculptures.

**SPRING ROLL BICYCLE RIDES**

Springbike Bicycle Club led five bike rides on Sunday afternoons and the Ride of Silence in May 2022. The bike rides advocate for more bicycle usage in the Springfield area and provide short and slow rides on low volume streets to encourage riders of all ages and skill levels.

**CHADWICK FLYER TRAIL SHOWCASE**

In cooperation with Ozark Greenways, the City of Ozarks and the City of Springfield, OTO hosted a public meeting to showcase the Chadwick Flyer Trail project in November 2022. 121 people attended the meeting and shared their views and opinions on this and other trail projects in the region. The meeting provided information about the history, current efforts, and future plans of the trail project.

**Runs, Walks, and Rides:**

Bass Pro Fitness Series	Sertoma Duck Waddle 5K	31st Annual CoxHealth Virtual Medical Mile 5K Run/Walk
Republic 100-mile Walking Club	Finley River 5 and Tri	Run and Remember 5K
Republic Tiger Triathlon	Finley River Night Light 5k	The Colorectal Rundie Virtual Run/Walk
Republic Tigger Triathlon	Run Across Springfield	Bike MS: Ozarks Ride 2022
Republic Got Mud? Run	Oktoberfest HRD 5K	Rockin' Roll Bike & Music Festival
Republic Reindeer Run 5K	MBCH Hope and Restoration Run	Raptor Run, 5K and Fun Run
Pancake Ride benefiting MS	Girls Just Wanna Run 2022	NAMI Neon Night Run 5K
Springfield Turkey Trot	Girls on the Run 5K	OneSolePurpose 5K/10K Run
Willard Turkey Trot	Conservation Marathon	Strafford Turkey Trot
Jack Frost 5K	Bass Pro Shops Zombie Run	Strafford Strong 5k
Ozarks 100	Paint the Run	SW Missouri Tandem Rally
Cycle for Life	Groundhog Day 5K	Missouri Interscholastic Cycling League hosted their largest statewide race weekend at Fellows Lake Trails
Iron Horse Gravel Grind	Springfield Seize the Day 5k Run/ Walk	Numerous other walks/runs/rides not listed
Joggin' for Noggins 5k	Shamrock & Shenanigans 5k	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Springfield Tour de Brew	Springfield Youth Cycling Club 2022 State Champions	
Frisco Railroad Run	Queen City Century Ride	
Red Ribbon Ride	Camp Barnabas Campfire 5k	
Reindeer Run		
Springfield Santa Run		
Four on the 4 <sup>th</sup>		
The Fast & The Furriest 5K		



## 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.

# 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)