

OTO BIKE/PED PLAN REPORT



6/30/2012

Implementation in FY2012

This report outlines the bike/ped accomplishments related to the OTO Bike/Ped Plan. Activities occurring during the 2012 Fiscal Year, July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, are included.

OTO Bike/Ped Plan Report

IMPLEMENTATION IN FY2012

BIKE/PED PLAN GOALS AS APPROVED IN JOURNEY 2035

- ❑ Develop a comprehensive regional bicycle and pedestrian network by identifying both on-street and off-street facilities within the OTO
- ❑ Integrate the bicycle and pedestrian network with the existing transportation system
- ❑ Enhance and promote bicycling and pedestrian safety
- ❑ Identify and target sources to fund pedestrian and bicycle facilities and programs
- ❑ Promote bicycling and walking as a means of transportation integral to daily activities
- ❑ Support bicycling and walking for the promotion of tourism in the OTO region

BIKE/PED PRIORITIES AS APPROVED IN JOURNEY 2035

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 the Goals and Objectives of the OTO Bike/Ped Element of the Long Range Transportation Plan

TOP PROJECT PRIORITIES

- ❑ Wilson Creek/Jordan Valley Creek from South Creek to Smith Park
- ❑ Trail of Tears – from Close Memorial Park to City of Battlefield
- ❑ Republic Shuyler Creek and North Fork Shuyler Creek Trails
- ❑ Strafford Route 66 Trail from Springfield to Farm Road 249 (the ball fields)
- ❑ Ozark Finley River Trail and other Future Linear Trails as shown on the OTO Bike/Ped Map in Christian County
- ❑ Greene County Destination Plan with the addition of a Christian County/Regional addendum
- ❑ James River Trail – from Crighton Landing east of Springfield to Delaware landing west of Nixa

STRATEGIES RECOMMENDED IN JOURNEY 2035

- OTO should maintain a comprehensive list of bicycle and pedestrian needs that is reviewed annually.
- OTO should work with member jurisdictions to expand data availability for bicycling and pedestrian activities. This includes, but is not limited to, bicycle and pedestrian crashes, current and projected use of facilities, system condition, and level of service calculations.
- Bicycle and Pedestrian project selection and funding priorities should support the priorities included in this plan.
- OTO, in partnership with member jurisdictions and Ozark Greenways, should develop an implementation plan which identifies strengths, challenges, necessary easements, and cost for future trail development.
- Promote adherence to the bicycle and pedestrian design standards as set forth in this plan and encourage the continued implementation of additional best practices.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY2012

In FY2012, the Ozarks Transportation Organization adopted *Journey 2035*, which included an update to the Bicycle Pedestrian Plan adopted in December of 2005. While this update was taking place, numerous bicycle and pedestrian projects and activities were implemented in the OTO region.

Engineering

TRAILS

Through a working partnership with the Volunteers for Outdoor Missouri, the Republic Parks and Recreation Department has partially constructed 1.3 miles of nature trail at Brookline Park, which meander throughout open and heavily wooded areas. Plans are to finish the remaining portions of the trail, which will total 3.2 miles, by the spring of 2013.

The Ozark Greenways trail system has also added the following trails and connections:

- Completion of Fassnacht Creek Trail from west of Grant Avenue to east of Campbell Avenue with two underpasses
- Completion of Wilson Creek Trail from Farm Road 150 to Farm Road 156 including a Route 413 underpass
- Commencement of South Dry Sac Trail from Ritter Springs Park to Farm Road 141
- Commencement scheduled for Ward Branch Trail from Bradford Parkway to Republic Road



STREETSCAPES

The City of Springfield has completed the following streetscape projects

- Boonville Ave. North Phase 1 (Blaine Street to Court Street)
- Walnut St Phase 3 (Kimbrough Avenue to John Q. Hammons Parkway)

The City of Springfield has started work on the following streetscapes:

- Walnut St West (Main Avenue to Campbell Avenue)

- Commercial St Phase 4 (Lyon Avenue to Campbell Avenue)
- Boonville Av N Phase 2 (Court Street to Division Street)
- Campbell Av North (Olive to Mill)

The following streetscapes have been scheduled to start by the City of Springfield:

- Campbell Ave South (Mt. Vernon to McDaniel)
- College Station

SIDEWALKS

Sidewalk projects have been underway throughout the OTO region.

- The City of Battlefield has completed sidewalks on Cloverdale, closing a gap along that roadway, as well as having installed sidewalks on Elm between Cloverdale and the Battlefield Municipal complex.
- Battlefield partnered with Greene County to install sidewalks from Farm Road 131 (Western Avenue) west to Cloverdale.
- Ozark has sidewalks under construction, while Strafford is in the design phase and Republic is acquiring right-of-way.
- MoDOT has added and upgraded sidewalks, pedestrian signals, and ramps on Chestnut Expressway from Grant Avenue to Benton Avenue.
- The City of Springfield has started constructing the sidewalks on south Campbell from Cherokee Street to Battlefield Road. The design has been completed for sidewalks along Summit from Talmage to Kearney and for an off-street path and side path on Talmage from Robberson to Summit.
- Springfield Public Works has continued to implement its school sidewalk program.



THE LINK

The Link is a project developed by the City of Springfield to link greenway trails and activity centers using low-traffic, low-speed streets with continuous accessible sidewalk.

Along the Link:

- Sidewalks have been constructed or repaired to provide a continuous, accessible walking path from Missouri State University to Kearney Street.
- Signs and markings are being installed in summer and fall of 2012.



Between Kearney Street and Doling Park:

- Design is nearly complete for sidewalk and trail
- New sidewalk along Summit Avenue north of Kearney Street and a trail from Summit to Robberson Avenue, including a bridge that will improve access to Doling Park.
- Right-of-way and easements are being acquired and construction is expected to begin by spring of 2013.

Design contracts are underway for:

- A crossing of South Creek at Kings Avenue
- A street crossing of Sunset Street at Kings Avenue
- A street crossing of Sunshine Street at Kings Avenue
- A roundabout at the intersection of Maryland Avenue and Walnut Lawn Street

BICYCLE LANES

The City of Springfield has been busy with new bicycle lanes as paving is done throughout the city:

- New lanes on Benton Avenue from Commercial Street to north of Central Street
- New lanes on Boonville Avenue from Division Street to Chestnut Expressway
- New lanes on Division Street from Broadway Avenue to Lyon Avenue
- Shared lane marking on Division Street from Lyon Avenue to Benton Avenue



The City of Springfield is also working to develop a program for bike lanes and shared lane markings to be implemented beginning this summer.

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES

In Springfield, 26 bike racks and 6 lockers were added in center city providing 58 bicycle parking spaces.

Evaluation

OTO BIKE-PED PLAN UPDATE

The OTO, as part of Journey 2035, updated the OTO Comprehensive Bicycle Pedestrian Plan. This update provided a path for future bicycle and pedestrian projects and activities for the region. The Plan recognizes that funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects is tenuous and that every opportunity to incorporate bicycle and pedestrian projects into other construction projects should be taken. The priorities outlined in the Plan are regional in nature and work toward the goal of a regional trail network, as part of a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian system.

SPRINGFIELD BIKE-PED PLAN UPDATE

The City of Springfield is updating its bicycle plan and developing a pedestrian plan to form a Person-Powered Mobility Plan that incorporates off-street paths and on-street pedestrian and bicycle facilities into one mobility network. The plan update is in response to goals for a complete street policy and improved

facilities for walking and bicycling in the Springfield Strategic Plan which is nearly complete. In addition, recent comments from the community of Springfield have shown a desire for more emphasis on pedestrian and bicycle transportation as a part of community planning and transportation projects. The Bicycle-Pedestrian Committee of the Springfield Traffic Advisory Board is taking the lead on this plan update.

Enforcement

20 Springfield police officers participated in a PedNet course to integrate information into the cadet academy and in-service training programs.

Education and Encouragement

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

The City of Springfield Public Works has continued its school walking route map program, which highlights walking routes based on sidewalk placement and busing boundaries for Springfield elementary schools.

The City of Nixa received Safe Routes to School Training through a grant from Safe Routes to School and PedNet.

LET'S GO SMART SPRINGFIELD



This is a new community partnership, led by Ozark Greenways. Let's Go Smart encourages better choices when using any form of travel, whether biking, walking, driving, or using the bus. The program encourages better health, financial savings, and environmental benefits. There are many components related to the campaign, which commenced this past spring.

The Bike Smart booklet was updated and with 5,000 new copies printed. This was previously known as Drive Less, Live More – the One-Mile Solution.

With funding assistance from the Healthy Living Alliance, Ozark Greenways contracted with Mr. Joe Kurmaskie, the Metal Cowboy to visit Springfield April 19th through the 20th. This was a part of a public lunch of the Ozark Greenway's Let's Go Smart, Springfield campaign. Ozark Greenways

staff, as well as Springfield City Planning and Public Works staff, Greene County Highway, Storm Water, and Planning staff, and OTO staff all sat in on conversations with Mr. Kurmaskie to discuss the current status of Springfield regarding bicycle facilities, programs and projects. The public launch, "An Evening with the Metal Cowboy," attracted 130 participants.

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, a Complete Streets Ordinance, the Bike Smart booklet, the Let's Go Smart Springfield campaign, and other general bicycling and pedestrian activities throughout the region. The STAR Team also has members writing articles on bicycling for Greene Magazine, which is published 6 times per year.

EVENTS

Many fitness events are held throughout the region during the year. Though many of these may not appear to have a transportation focus, they do encourage people to get out and move. The ability to help bicyclists



and runners feel more comfortable on the street only helps move them to these modes for daily transportation. Also, being able to introduce children of a young age to these activities can keep them active as adults. Below is a list of just some events held throughout the region.

TRIATHALONS:

- Republic Tiger Triathlon (August 11, 2011) – Inaugural event for children ages 5-12
- Republic Tiger Triathlon (August 12, 2011) – 400 plus participants representing numerous states

5Ks:

- Republic Reindeer Run 5K (December 3, 2011) – Nighttime run and walk
- Republic May Day 5k (May 5, 2012) – 9th annual with approximately 400 or more participants
- Sunshine Run
- Happy Feet
- March Mad Dash for Life

BICYCLING:

- Ozarks 100
- Bike for the Future
- Tour de Cox
- Nixa Bike Ride
- Wildflower Ride



BIKE TO WORK WEEK:

Ozark Greenways sponsored Bike to Work week with fantastic results.



**1500
Participants**



**200+
Schools and
Businesses**



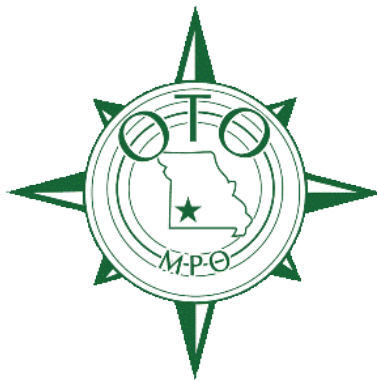
**793 Free Bus
Rides to
Bicyclists**



**10,000+
miles of
driving saved**

LIVABLE STREETS WORKSHOPS:

Missouri Livable Streets sponsored a livable streets design workshop throughout the State of Missouri. The purpose of the course was for planners, traffic engineers, architects and city administrators to learn current best practices in bicycle-pedestrian design.



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

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