



# 2011 Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Update

## **DRAFT PUBLIC MEETING COMMENTS**

The June 7, 2011 Public Meeting provided stakeholders with an opportunity to examine exhibits showing the existing bicycle and pedestrian network and provide input on proposed improvements. Participants had many suggestions on how to improve bicycling and walking within the DSATS Planning Area.

We received the following feedback for proposed *programs and policies*:

1. The downtown areas for each community are major destinations for bicyclists. Repeated requests were made to make downtown neighborhoods more bicycle friendly by encouraging the use of Sharrows or implementing other “share the road” strategies.
2. Encourage public/private partnerships for creating more bike paths, improving existing trails, and providing connections to trails in the Right of Way.
3. Encourage merchants to provide more bicycle racks.
4. Major Pedestrian Routes: need better connections from the businesses to the sidewalks within the Right of Way.
5. Create a public education program on bicycle safety.

The following is a draft list of *potential projects* that were mentioned at the public meeting:

### System-wide

1. Improve system-wide signage for bike routes. Missing signs disorient riders about how to stay on the trails or make connections to other bicycle paths.
2. Provide centerline striping on the bicycle paths.
3. Create an iphone application for trail maps in lieu of creating paper maps. Bicycle users and pedestrians are more likely to carry their phone with them rather than carry a paper map.
4. Along the major trails provide stand-alone, system wide maps showing each trail, “You are Here”, etc.
5. North-south connections are missing within DeKalb, Sycamore and Cortland that can improve regional connectivity. Recommendations for proposed paths are listed below.

### Existing Bicycle Path Improvements

1. Reconstruct Peace Road Bike Path (DeKalb Sycamore Trail) between Pleasant Road and Bethany—participants noted that the path was in poor condition and had lots of bumps.
2. Add signage for the on-street Sycamore Bike Path. This was described as having inadequate signage many times at the meeting.
3. Reconstruct Sycamore Community Park Path and improve signage--participants noted that the path was in very poor condition and users could easily get lost.

### New Bicycle Path Recommendations

1. Extend the DeKalb Nature Trail from First Street west to Bethany Road using the old railroad bed.



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2. Provide connection from Prairie Park to NIU Campus Path underneath the UP Railroad. Safety concerns were cited using the existing on-street connection, which makes use of the viaduct at Pearl Street.
3. Provide widened shoulder or bike path on west side of Airport Road to accommodate bicyclists trying to reach the Great Western Trail. Airport Road is too narrow and traffic volumes/speeds are too high to share the road with bicyclists from the park entrance to IL 64.
4. Provide bike path on Fairview Drive from Annie Glidden Road to Peace Road. This will provide bicycle access to major employers in southeastern DeKalb and an east-west connection in southern DeKalb.
5. Annie Glidden Road from Fairview Drive to trail north of Dresser Road needs to be improved accommodate bicyclists.
6. Add bike path on 1<sup>st</sup> Street from Harvestore Drive to Coltonville Road, Continue on Coltonville Road to Peace Road.
7. Add bike path on Peace Road from Pleasant Street to Macom Drive.
8. Provide connections from north Sycamore to downtown, via:
  - Peace Road from IL 23 to Il 64; and
  - Il 23 from Peace Road to downtown (State Street)
9. Widen sidewalk to bike paths along Bethany Road from 1<sup>st</sup> Street to Peace Road.
10. Provide north-south connection to Cortland by constructing bike path on Somonauk Road from Bethany to IL 38.
11. Provide east-west connection to Cortland by constructing bike path on Barber Greene Road from Peace Road to Somonauk Road.
12. Provide bike path on Cortland Center Road from Loves Road to Dove Street.

### Intersections/Spot Improvements

1. Add parking at the trailhead to the Great Western Trail.
2. Kishwaukee River Crossing in Prairie Park: the area experiences frequent flooding and the bike path bridge traps debris adjacent to the path.
3. Sycamore Road (IL 23) at Greenwood Acres: Retaining wall and traffic signal at the corner reduce the usable path width. Participants feel this is a dangerous location and the path should be widened here.
4. Peace Road at Pleasant Street: Install pedestrian signals.
5. 1<sup>st</sup> Street at Kishwaukee River—the jog in the path needs additional signage.