

ST. LOUIS REGIONAL BICYCLE MASTER PLAN

*project
e-newsletter*

IN THE FALL OF 2009, Great Rivers Greenway along with a core stakeholder group comprised of St. Louis City, County, St. Charles County, local municipalities, advocacy groups, East West Gateway Council of Governments, Metro, and other key participants, began the process of developing a bicycle master plan for the region. With Paul Wojciechowski of CH2M Hill as the Project Manager, the 19 month project began in earnest in early 2010.



SCHEDULE

IN EARLY 2010, the team worked with the stakeholders to identify the Citizen and Technical advisory groups while working on establishing the project graphics and coordinating website. In addition, the team worked on engaging both owners and users of the roadway system to begin working together collaboratively.

Simultaneously the CH2M Hill team began the task of gathering existing bicycle and pedestrian plans and other key information that would be critical to the bicycle master plan process. These efforts wrapped up in May of 2010.

June of 2010 saw the rollout of the website, distribution and collection of data from municipal surveys regarding the possible bicycle network. Meetings with the Technical Advisory Committee and Citizen Advisory Committee continued and provided goals and objectives as well as an overall vision for the master plan. Public engagement event planning began over the summer, while the team continued to meet with key stakeholders and began drafting the master plan.



ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

IN OCTOBER, the team kicked off the public engagement efforts with the official Kick-Off Open house Meetings on October 13th and 14th. The initial meeting was held on October 13, at the Maryland Heights Community Center, where 60 attendees provided critical information for inclusion in the plan. The second meeting was held at the Richmond Heights Community Center (The Heights), where 142 people attended and provided engaging input for the master plan. In addition to the two open house meetings, the website offered a virtual open house for those who could not attend. In all 196 people provided responses to questionnaires at the open house and the on-line survey from the virtual open house. The results of the questions asked are located on the website for review.

Meetings continue with the advisory committees and have resulted in a final set of goals and objectives for the Master Plan.



FIELDWORK AND INITIAL ROUTE NETWORK

THE DATA COLLECTION FOR THE DRAFT ROADWAY NETWORK, which was reviewed and commented on by the advisory committees led to data collection last Fall. This effort was completed in October, following the open house meetings. Information from the meetings led to the draft network and data collection in critical areas. Roads were measured and recommendations for bike facilities developed. These recommendations will be reviewed with the advisory committees in January of 2011.



REDEFINING THE ROUTE NETWORK

A CRITICAL STEP IN THE PLAN DEVELOPMENT is to both refine the draft bicycle network and develop a prioritization process for establishing short medium and long term priorities for building out the bicycle network. Revisions to the network based on discussions with the advisory committees will continue into the development of the draft master plan document.



DRAFT AND FINAL PLAN

WORK ON THE DRAFT PLAN DOCUMENT has been initiated with the vision goals and objectives of the plan as being the foundation for an implementable plan that is a living and active document. Implementation measures for tracking the performance of the plan are being developed in coordination with the advisory committees. The final plan document will detail prioritization, funding, design guidelines and standards which will act as a resource to help communities and public entities build the bicycle system.

The master plan document will be the tool that is to be adopted by the region and individual communities as the regional direct of which all will play a part in the success of the plan.

VISION STATEMENT

THE BICYCLE MASTER PLAN WILL CREATE the bicycle component to the regional transportation network that accommodates all users and promotes consistent design and development of bicycle facilities.





VISION, MISSION AND GOALS

The advisory committees worked together to help craft the following critical project goals.

- 1** Provide a prioritized system of routes that are contiguous and connected to other on- and off-road facilities.
- 2** Improve safety for all modes of transportation through the careful design and implementation of bicycle facilities.
- 3** Improve safety for all modes of transportation through the implementation of educational and enforcement programs.
- 4** Expand the public's view that bicycles are a viable / acceptable mode of transportation.
- 5** Increase the commitment of public officials to support and / or initiate public policy for bicycling in all levels of government - state, local, and regional.
- 6** Increase the number of people using bicycles for transportation.

