



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN REPORT





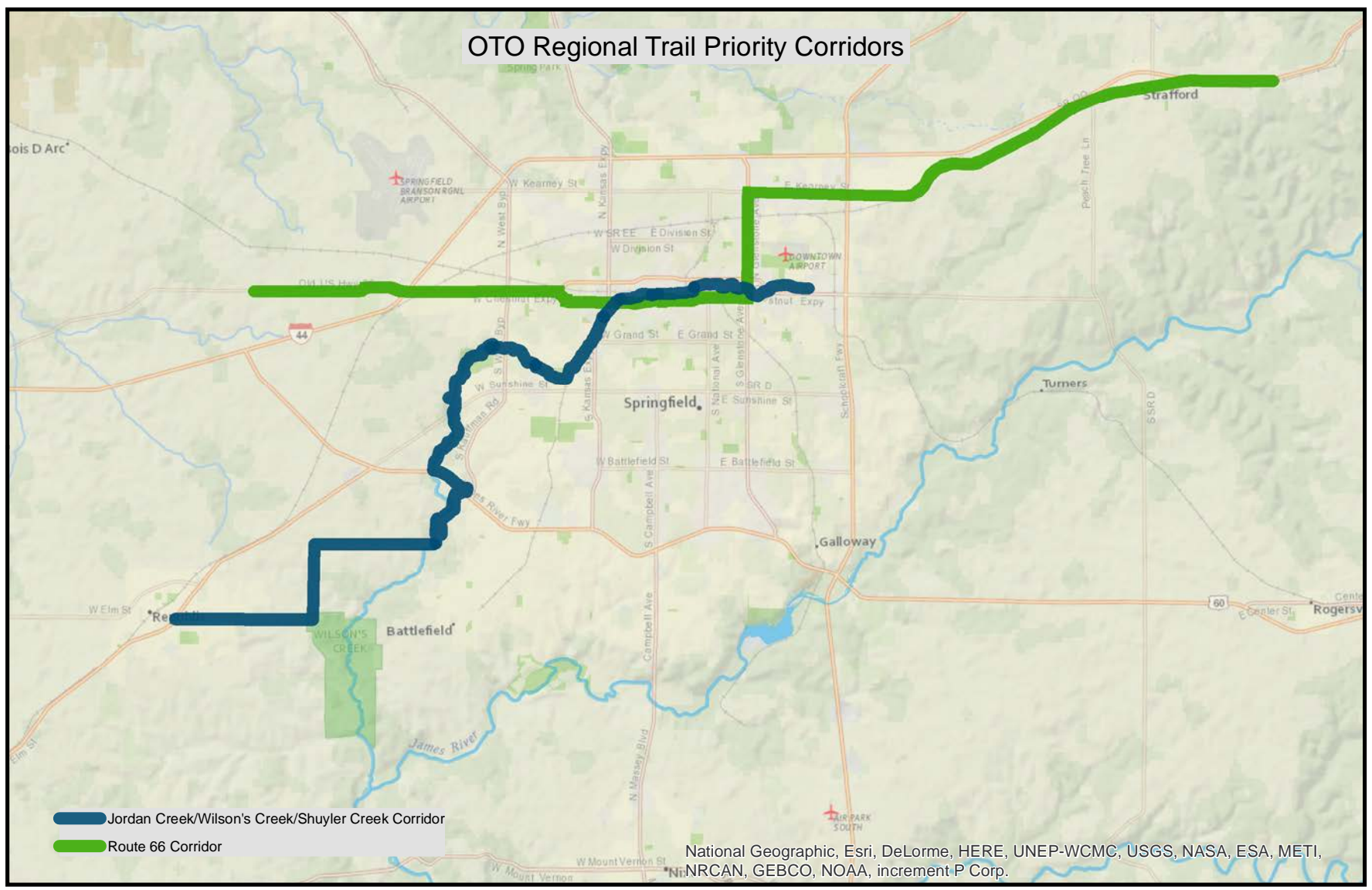
6/30/2014

Implementation in FY 2014

This report outlines the bicycle and pedestrian accomplishments related to the OTO Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Activities occurring during the 2014 Fiscal Year, July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, are included.

OTO Regional Trail Priority Corridors

-  Jordan Creek/Wilson's Creek/Shuylar Creek Corridor
-  Route 66 Corridor



Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Report

IMPLEMENTATION IN FY 2014

NEW IN
FY'14

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PRIORITIES ADDED TO OTO PRIORITY MAP

For the first time, OTO added two regional trails to the OTO Priorities of Regional Significance Map. One is the Route 66 Trail which stretches from Strafford on the east, through Downtown Springfield, and out Missouri 266 to the west. The second starts with the Jordan Valley Trail in downtown Springfield and connects with Republic via sidepaths on Routes M and ZZ alongside the Wilson's Creek Battlefield. These trails require several segments to create a complete linkage across the OTO region.

SPRINGFIELD RENEWS BRONZE BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY DESIGNATION

The League of American Bicyclists has extended Springfield's Bicycle Friendly Status through 2017. A Bicycle Friendly Community since 2010, Springfield is just one of seven communities in Missouri to receive this designation.

BICYCLING AND WALKING PART OF STATEWIDE FUNDING DISCUSSION

As Missourians discussed what to fund should additional monies become available, many multimodal projects made the list. Transit, sidewalks, and trails became part of a proposed multi-million dollar funding package to fix Missouri roads. As current state statute prevents the use of state motor vehicle revenues on other modes, this was an important step forward. *Note: This funding package was not approved by the voters in August 2014, however, the State of Missouri still has a prioritized multimodal project list.*

TIGER VI

Missouri State University applied for a TIGER grant to fund a multimodal parking facility near the new University Welcome Center. This facility will house the University's carshare program, connect parking and students to the MSU Bear Line and CU Bus systems, as well as provide space for a potential bikesharing program.

Engineering

TRAILS

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.

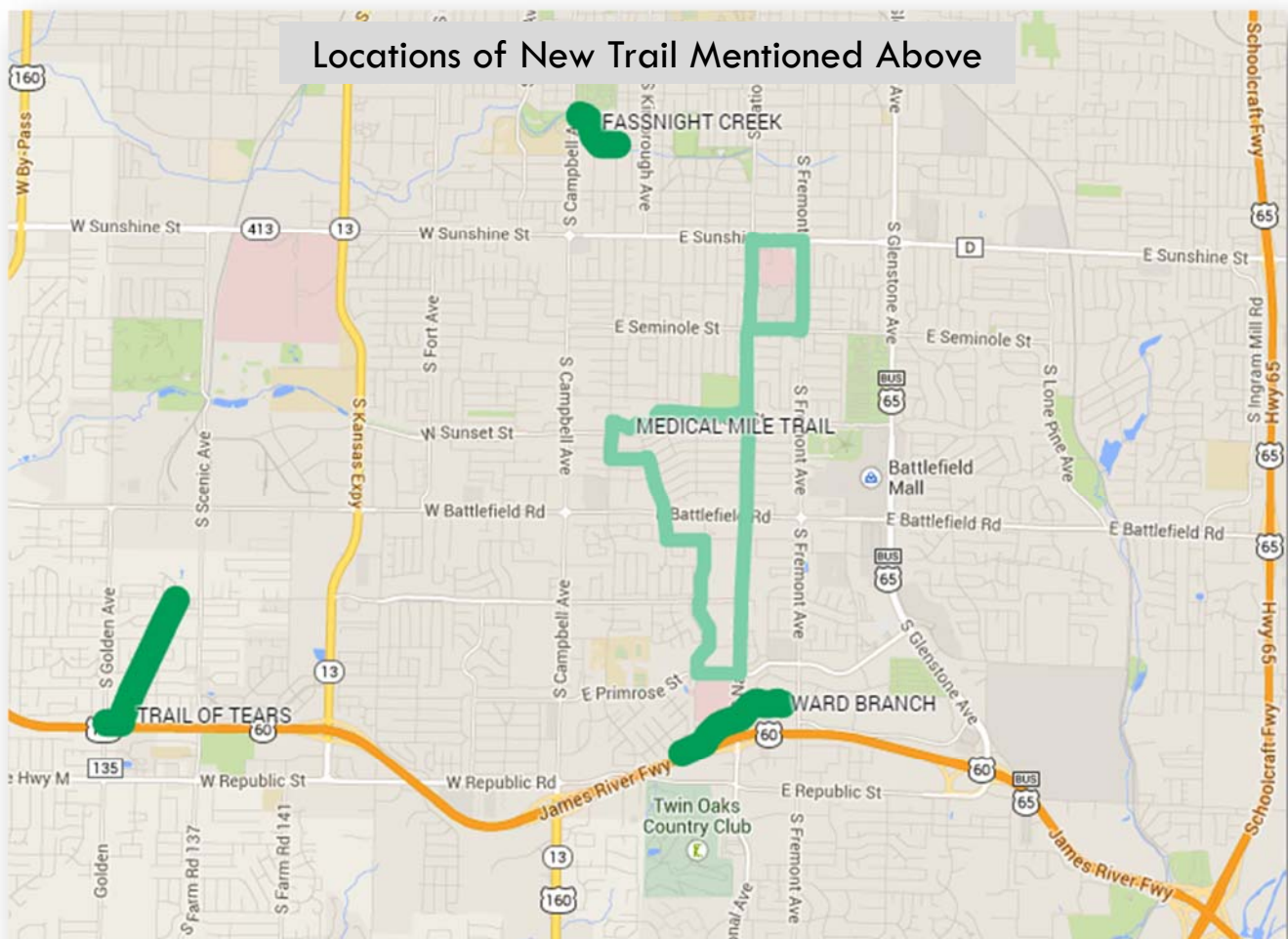
- South Creek Trail at Scenic Avenue was rebuilt to improve flow of South Creek to reduce standing water on the trail
- Just under a mile (0.83) of new rustic trail on the Cherokee Trail of Tears was



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completed on abandoned Missouri Pacific Rail from Golden Avenue north of James River Freeway to Farm Road 164.

- Almost half a mile (0.41) of new trail on Fassnight Creek is under construction with completion expected in summer of 2014.
- Another half-mile of the Upper Ward Branch Trail from Belvedere Court to Bradford Parkway at Independence, with a crossing under National is under construction and should also be completed summer of 2014.
- Work has started on a third-mile of new Ward Branch Trail, which goes from Monastery Drive, under Republic Road and James River Freeway, to just north of the Freeway. Work is expected to be complete in 2015.
- More trail is under design, including a connection under Chestnut Expressway, over half a mile of Jordan Creek Trail from Fort to Main, over 1.5 miles of new trail connecting Rutledge Willson Park with the South Creek Trail, and a half-mile of the Trail of Tears between Farm Road 156 and Battlefield Road.
- Dedication of the Medical Mile Trail, which consists of sidewalk decals along National and low volume streets between the Mercy Health Campus and the CoxHealth Campus.



STREETSCAPES

The City of Springfield has completed the following streetscape project:

- Mill Street from Campbell to Boonville

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

- Boonville Avenue from Tampa Street to Chestnut Expressway
- Route 66 Roadside Park and adjacent streetscape
- McDaniel Street between South and Jefferson

The following streetscapes are under design or are ready for construction by the City of Springfield:

- Jefferson Avenue from Phelps to Water and from Water to St. Louis Street
- Olive Street from Jefferson to St. Louis
- Phelps Street from Campbell to Boonville
- Commercial Street from Benton to Washington
- Route 66 streetscape on College from Grant to Main
- Main from Mill to College

SIDEWALKS

Sidewalk improvements are a continual activity in the OTO area.

- MoDOT has focused on ADA projects, including along Route 14 in Ozark and Nixa
- Ozark has started work on their Safe Routes to School grant to construct sidewalks connecting to East Elementary.
- Pedestrian improvements have been made on Kearney from Kansas Expressway to Glenstone
- City Utilities and the City of Springfield have partnered to improve pedestrian access to transit stops
- The City of Strafford has completed work on sidewalk along Chestnut, Washington, Bumgarner, and Pine
- In Republic, 3200 feet of sidewalk is under construction along West Elm from Main Street to Sherman Avenue
- A project is set to be underway to remove barriers and complete sidewalk gaps on both sides of Glenstone from Walnut to Battlefield, and on the south side of Sunshine from Glenstone to Eastgate
- Springfield completed 4.8 miles of school sidewalk
- 3 miles of school sidewalk are under construction in Springfield, as well
- New sidewalk was built on both sides of Campbell between Cherokee and Battlefield

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.

- The Link is now marked from Doling Park to the Missouri State University campus
- Additional bike route markings have been installed from Talmage to Kearney
- The Talmage Trail was completed connecting the Link to Doling Park
- Fourteen Link signs with maps and four aid (air/repair) stations have been installed along the Link, with others planned. The Healthy Living Alliance sponsored these installations.

BICYCLE FACILITIES

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

- Madison and Holland near MSU, and on South Avenue from McDaniel to Madison
- Grant from northern city limit to Talmage
- Bennett from Weller to Glenstone
- Portland from Fort to Grant
- Benton from Central to Chestnut
- Fort from Portland to Washita and from other streets to Weaver at Seminole

The City of Springfield has tripled marked bicycle facilities as part of an aggressive program to provide bicycle accommodations along bicycle routes.

Almost 20 bike racks were installed providing nearly 40 parking spaces.



Evaluation

OTO BIKE-PED IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

OTO continues to produce this implementation report on an annual basis to monitor activities from within the OTO area.

OTO BIKE-PED PRIORITIES

OTO adopted two priority trails to incorporate into the Priorities of Regional Significance Map. One is the Route 66 Trail which stretches from Strafford on the east, through Downtown Springfield, and out Missouri 266

to the west. The second starts with the Jordan Valley Trail in downtown Springfield and connects with Republic via sidepaths on Routes M and ZZ alongside the Wilson's Creek Battlefield.

SPRINGFIELD BIKE-PED PLAN UPDATE

The City of Springfield finalized a draft of the Person-Powered Mobility Plan. Next steps include presentation to City Council and adoption of a Complete Streets ordinance.

REPUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The City of Republic is nearing completion of their Transportation Plan, which will include guidance relating to bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure needs.

HEALTHY LIVING ALLIANCE WALKABLE NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT

The Healthy Living Alliance partnered with Missouri State University to conduct walkability audits in 11 neighborhoods. Over 2,200 street segments were assessed by more than 400 volunteers. HLA also attended 16 neighborhood and community events, reaching over 2,500 attendees, and getting input on what's important to make their neighborhood more walkable.



SWMOCOUNTS.ORG HEALTH DASHBOARD

With participation from three regional health departments and access to state and national databases, SWMOCOUNTS.org allows anyone to track the community's progress on essential indicators such as obesity and air quality.

BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES APPLICATION

The Springfield area renewed its Bicycle Friendly Status through the League of American Bicyclists through 2017.

Enforcement

Partnerships with area police departments continues to be a goal for the OTO region. The Greene County citizens mounted patrol help watch the Ozark Greenway trails and the Park Rangers continue to monitor the trails and trailheads throughout the Springfield-Greene County area. This past year, the Park Ranges did receive new, upgraded bikes.

Education and Encouragement

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

A four-week walk and bike safety education program was presented in four elementary schools in Springfield in October and November, funded by a 2008 Safe Routes to School Grant.

MoDOT has assembled a mobile bike-safety trailer for schools to use in educating students.

HEALTHY LIVING ALLIANCE

The Healthy Living Alliance began in 2011 with a grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health, is a network of people and organizations working to encourage healthy, active living in Springfield. Their partnership with the community is evident throughout this report. Through partnership and their own outreach, HLA has brought healthy eating and activity habits to thousands in the Springfield region.

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.

Ozark Greenways, through the Healthy Living Alliance, received \$91,000 from a CDC grant to implement a Let's Go Smart Marketing campaign and other associated activities. As the grant nears completion, Let's Go Smart has produced a number of public service announcements, developed an interactive website with a facility map, and maintains an active blog.

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, support of a Complete Streets Ordinance, 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 Ozark Living Magazine (formerly Greene Magazine), which is published 6 times per year. OTO Staff member, Natasha Longpine, was featured with an article about the importance of public involvement.

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.

Safe Kids Day 2014 had over 500 children and families that participated. The event provides safety information, helmet giveaways, bicycles as prizes, and a great chance for the community to learn about safety at home.



EVENTS

EDUCATION CLASSES

- Two Bicycle Traffic Skills classes
- Four Bicycle Commuter Classes
- Ron Effland, with MoDOT, has finished the League of American Bicyclists Training classes to become a League Certified Instructor, providing the region with another qualified individual for training.

TOUR DE OZARKS:

Tour de Ozarks is a bicycle and brews festival, benefiting Ozark Greenways, and held in the spring. This year, it was May 10th on the Square in Springfield. Activities included tricycle races, Let's Go Smart Bus demonstrations with City Utilities, a family fun ride, two longer rides, and a tour of the Link.

BIKE TO WORK WEEK:

Ozark Greenways sponsored Bike to Work week May 12 through May 16 and even with the rain, over 1000 participants were counted. The results for 2013 were not ready for last year's report, but showed 1500 participants representing 200 organizations and 10,000 miles not driven in single occupancy vehicles.



100 MISSOURI MILES:

The end of 2013 marked the conclusion of Missouri's first 100 Mile program, an effort by Governor Nixon and the First Lady to encourage Missourians to get out and be active on Missouri's state trails. The program began its second year in March. In 2013, Greene County was fourth in the state for the number of participants at over 1,000 and 5th in the state for the number of miles logged at over 103,000 miles.



WALK THIS WAY:

Mark Fenton visited Springfield on the invite of Ozark Greenways and the Healthy Living Alliance. He toured the Link and spoke at the Ozark Greenways annual meeting about what he saw could be done in Springfield regarding community thought and design around active mobility. He also spoke with community leaders to offer additional specifics.

AWARDS

- Springfield was recognized as a Bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists
- The Missouri Bicycle and Pedestrian Federation honored Springfield Public Works Interim Co-Director, Jonathan Gano, with a Distinguished Service Award

OTO BIKE/PED PLAN OVERVIEW

BIKE/PED PLAN GOALS AS APPROVED IN JOURNEY 2035

1. **Develop a comprehensive regional bicycle and pedestrian network by identifying both on-street and off-street facilities within the OTO**
Implementation Status – Ongoing. This network can be found on the OTO Bike/Ped Plan Map on the OTO website. OTO staff works with area jurisdictions to Evaluate any new infrastructure for inclusion. This past year, OTO staff mapped all new sidewalks built as of March 2014.
2. **Integrate the bicycle and pedestrian network with the existing transportation system**
Implementation Status – Ongoing. Through Engineering, additional connections have been made between the trail and street network. The Link and improvements made at CU Transit stops also tie the networks together. By adding trails to the Priority Projects of Regional Significance Map, OTO shows that integrating these systems is a priority.
3. **Enhance and promote bicycling and pedestrian safety**
Implementation Status – Ongoing. Safety is being enhanced through Engineering and Education efforts. OTO will be undertaking a review of safety activities in the Ozarks to further assess needs in these areas.
4. **Identify and target sources to fund pedestrian and bicycle facilities and programs**
Implementation Status – Ongoing. OTO continues to make funding available to the region for bicycle and pedestrian improvements, as well as assist in seeking new funding through programs like TIGER. Transportation Alternatives Program funding, which replaced Enhancements, is providing the region with dedicated funding for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. A new application and funding should be available during the next fiscal year.
5. **Promote bicycling and walking as a means of transportation integral to daily activities**
Implementation Status – Ongoing. While Engineering efforts make this easier, Education and Encouragement promotes this to the OTO region. Programs like Let's Go Smart educate the traveling public on the transportation options they have available.
6. **Support bicycling and walking for the promotion of tourism in the OTO region**
Implementation Status – Ongoing. Through the continued Engineering efforts to create a comprehensive and connected system, tourists to the region can enjoy the bicycle and pedestrian network while such a connected system can serve to attract tourists, as well. As the Greene County Destination is completed, additional efforts should be taken to implement its recommendations.

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.

Photos courtesy of Ozark Greenways, Springfield SafeKids, Healthy Living Alliance, and the State of Missouri.



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.

Ozarks Transportation Organization

205 Park Central East, Suite 205
Springfield, MO 65806
(417) 865-3042
(417) 862-6013 Fax
www.OzarksTransportation.org