Project Overview

What is a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan?

A bicycle and pedestrian master plan is a community’s vision and blueprint for improving walking and bicycling conditions. In 2009, the Town of Normal adopted its first bicycle and pedestrian master plan. The plan included recommendations for new sidewalks, trails, on-street bikeways, and supporting programs and policies. The plan also identified funding sources, prioritized projects, and included other actions and strategies to build walking and biking into the fabric of the community.

In the last ten years, Normal has implemented many projects from the 2009 plan, from new trails and bike lanes to sidewalk infill and other pedestrian improvements.

Why Update the Plan?

Many things have changed in the past ten years. The Town has grown and changed over time, and residents’ priorities for walking and biking may have changed as well. In addition, standards for bicycle and pedestrian planning have evolved, with communities across the country developing new and innovative ways to support walking and biking for people of all ages and abilities. By revisiting and updating the 2009 master plan, the Town of Normal can better align resources and investments to meet the needs of the community and create safer, more enjoyable spaces for walking and riding bicycles.

Project Timeline

2019 SEP OCT NOV DEC 2020 JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JULY AUG

- Online Survey Launch
- Community Workshop #1
- Community Workshop #2
- Examine Current Conditions, Identify Needs and Opportunities
- Develop Vision and Goals
- Develop Draft Recommendations and Prioritize Projects
- Develop Final Bike/Ped & Trails Plans

Normal Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan Update

November 13, 2019
Open House
Plan Vision & Values

What is your vision for walking and biking in Normal?

Grab a sticky note and add your vision for the future of walking and biking in Normal. Tells us what you’d like to see, what you hope to be able to do, or what you’d like for future generations to experience.

What else do you value? Write it in here!

Need some inspiration? Here are a few lead-ins:
• Normal is a place where...
• I envision a community in which...
• My children/my family can...
• I want to be able to...
• Bicycling and walking are...

When it comes to walking and biking, what are your values?

Please place a dot next to the three themes you value most. Your input will help us develop plan goals and prioritize recommended projects.

Connections to Parks  Being Separated from Traffic  Accessibility for People with Limited Mobility

Connections to Employment Opportunities  Health  Access to Transit

Economic Development  Environment  Connections to Schools
Bicycle Friendly Community Feedback

Bronze-Level Bicycle Friendly Community Award

In the Fall of 2014, the Town of Normal was designated as a Bronze-Level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. The League’s Bicycle Friendly Community Program recognizes the efforts of communities across the country to make bicycling safer, easier, and more accessible. The Town again received the Bronze-level designation in the Fall of 2018.

In order to advance to the next level (Silver), the Town of Normal must focus on key actions to support bicycling, from network development to bicycle safety education to planning and policy initiatives.

Recommended 10 Key Steps

The League of American Bicyclists identified 10 key steps to achieve Silver-Level Bicycle Friendly Community status. Place up to three stickers next to the key steps that are most important to you.

- Expand the bicycle network and include separated facilities for busier roads.
- Encourage more businesses, agencies, and organizations to promote cycling to their employees and customers.
- Adopt a comprehensive road safety plan or Vision Zero policy to create strategies to reduce traffic crashes and deaths for all road users.
- Increase bicycle parking and adopt a new bicycle parking ordinance.
- Work with local bicycle groups and interested parents to create Safe Routes to School programming for all schools.
- Increase the number of active local League Cycling Instructors (LCIs) in your community.
- Begin the process of creating a new Bicycle Master Plan or updating your 2009 Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan.
- Encourage and support bike commuters in Normal through trip a reduction or incentive program.
- Adopt a target level of bicycle use (percent of trips) to be achieved within a specific timeframe.

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Bicycle Improvements Toolkit

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to bicycle improvements. Each bicycle facility or intersection improvement must be compatible with roadway characteristics, traffic patterns, and adjacent land use. The following bicycle facilities and intersection improvements highlight the diversity of options available to better support bicycling in Normal.

**BICYCLE FACILITY TYPES**

- **Shared Travel Lanes**
- **Paved Shoulders**
- **Separated Bicycle Lanes**
- **Bicycle Wayfinding & Direction Signs**

**INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS**

- **Bike Boxes**
- **Bike Lanes / Buffered Bicycle Lanes**
- **Shared Use Paths & Trails**
- **Bicycle Parking**
- **Bicycle Signals**
- **Protected Intersections**

Normal Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan Update
Pedestrian Improvements Toolkit

Creating a safe, comfortable, accessible, and attractive environment for walking does not happen overnight. It takes years to develop a high-quality pedestrian system. With the right plans and policies in place, the Town of Normal can direct public infrastructure investments and private development to support people walking, regardless of their age, ability, or use of mobility assistance devices.

NETWORK ENHANCEMENTS

- Sidewalks
  - New Construction
  - Sidewalk Infill & Repairs
- Street Furniture
- Pedestrian-Scale Lighting
- Shade Trees

INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

- Curb Extensions
- ADA-Accessible Curb Ramps
- Marked Crosswalks
- Raised Crosswalks
- Mid-Block Crosswalks
- Median Refuse Islands
- Leading Pedestrian Interval
- Pedestrian Signals & Countdown Timers

Image Source: City of Toronto
Investing in Walking and Biking

How would you spend your money?

Just like parks, streets, and other public facilities, walking and biking improvements and programs must compete for limited resources. Funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects is scarce and often very competitive, and communities like Normal must choose how to best use limited funding and staff resources to support walking and biking.

In this exercise, please vote for up to five improvements or programs you'd like to see the Town of Normal pursue through this plan and subsequent implementation efforts. You can vote for a single improvement or program more than once.
Existing Bikeway Network
WHAT IS LEVEL OF TRAFFIC STRESS?
Level of traffic stress is a tool used to measure the experience of bicycling on different roadway types and in different traffic conditions. By examining factors like speed limit, number of travel lanes, traffic volumes, and bikeway types, the Town of Normal can determine the level of stress (or comfort) of bicycling on the street network. The results can be used to identify improvements to offer comfortable, low-stress bicycle connections to everyday destinations throughout Normal.
Do you have any additional thoughts to share?

Please fill out a comment card and add it to this board.