

KANE COUNTY BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kane County has a significant network of existing regional bicycle trails and many shorter local trails. Local residents realize that using the Kane County trail network is healthy, an inexpensive hobby, environmentally friendly and fun way to travel.



Fox River Trail Paralleling Rt. 31

Traditional transportation planning focuses on the development of automobile infrastructure. The Kane County Division of Transportation (KDOT) recognizes the need to plan for bicycle and pedestrian facilities as both a transportation mode and a recreational amenity in a county experiencing rapid development. Failure to plan for bicyclists and pedestrians may reduce the county's ability to expand the network in the future.

Several communities and park districts within the Kane County Council of Mayors planning area have developed their own bicycle and pedestrian plans. However, there is no single plan that synthesizes these individual plans by creating a larger network. The

broad objectives of the *Kane County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan* are to collect all previous bicycle and pedestrian planning studies, comprehensively identify all bikeways, and strategically plan bikeway projects that will create a countywide network. This network will improve public safety, encourage alternative modes of transportation, and increase recreational opportunities in the county. The goals of the plan are as follows:

- Develop a regionally coordinated network of non-motorized facilities and coordinate bicycle and pedestrian facilities through sub-regional and local actions.
- Improve the inter-modal efficiency of the transportation system by enhancing the connections between non-motorized and motorized modes.
- Improve bicycle and pedestrian safety.
- Incorporate bicycle and pedestrian elements into transportation, land use, and development planning and implementation actions on local levels.
- Promote bicycling and walking to increase their use as transportation modes.

Consistent with these goals, the *Plan* identified all existing and proposed bikeways in the study area through an exhaustive inventory process. The *Plan* inventoried over 85 miles of existing regional trails and measured the Bicycle Level of Service for on-street facilities. The *Plan* proposes best practices policies to institutionalize bikeway facility planning and development in all governmental agencies. It provides physical design guidance to create countywide standards for safe bikeway facilities construction and improve safety at intersections of trails and arterial streets.



Fox River Trail in Geneva

It also proposes policy and physical recommendations to expand the bikeway network in a systematic manner and increase intermodal opportunities.

A primary component of the *Plan* addresses pedestrian transportation. It proposes best practices and policies to expand the sidewalk network and incorporate pedestrian infrastructure in developments. The *Plan* describes systems of way-finding signage and provides a strategy to guide visitors in downtown areas and on bikeways. Funding sources have been identified that can provide financial support for the implementation of projects.

Implementation of the *Kane County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan* will provide a positive impact on the future residents of the county. The anticipated results of a bicycle and pedestrian plan are decreased automobile congestion, improved air quality, improved physical health, and an increase in quality of life by providing alternative transportation options and more recreational opportunities.