

February 2016 Project Update

ST. CROIX COUNTY _____ **Bicycle and Pedestrian** _____ PLAN

The development of the St. Croix County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan is in full swing. From the project kick-off in July, 2015, the Project Team (County staff and consultants) has been busy determining needs across the county and regularly seeking input from stakeholders.

Accomplishments in 2015

During the first six months of the project, the Project Team analyzed the context and existing conditions in the county, including reviewing and inventorying all available municipal bicycle, trail, and comprehensive plans; calculating the suitability of roadways for on-street bikeways; and analyzing crash data. The Project Team also performed multiple days of field reconnaissance, traveling along hundreds of miles of County highways, town roads, and city streets to identify barriers and opportunities for biking and walking. Based on the results of the context and existing conditions analysis, the Project Team began developing recommendations for paths, paved shoulders, bike lanes, and other specific treatments along specific segments of roadway (these recommendations are currently under review by the Advisory Team).

Throughout this period, a multi-faceted public outreach process was implemented. This process included two public Open House meetings and a half-day Project Workshop attended by a wide variety of stakeholders. The public also had the opportunity to provide input via an online map (referred to as the WikiMap), which allowed users to identify challenging locations, draw routes they would like to bike or walk, and point out destinations. Finally, bi-monthly progress meetings were held with a Project Advisory Team consisting of stakeholders from across the county (these meetings will continue to be held throughout the duration of the project).

Project Timeline for 2016

January/February – The Project Team is revising infrastructure recommendations (e.g., paths, paved shoulders, etc.) based on comments from the Advisory Team and is preparing policy and program recommendations. The Advisory Team will meet in February to review the finalized infrastructure recommendations and discuss prioritization. The policy and program recommendations will be presented to and reviewed by the Transportation Committee and Community Development Committee.

March/April – The Project Team will develop planning-level cost estimates and prepare design guidelines for paths and on-street bikeways. In April, the Advisory Team will meet to review policy and program recommendations. In addition, a Project Workshop (including elected officials, County and municipal staff, and advocates) will be held to provide input on key policy and program recommendations. Two Open House

meetings will be held to gain public feedback on the Plan's recommendations. The Project Team will begin assembling the draft Plan document.

May/June/July – The Project Team will continue preparing the draft Plan document, including an internal County staff review period and an interim review with the Advisory Team. Beginning in June, the draft Plan document will be posted online for public review and feedback. Public comments will be incorporated into a revised draft Plan document toward the end of this period.

August/September – The revised draft Plan document will be presented to the Advisory Team, Transportation Committee, and Community Development Committee for review and approval. After incorporating any final comments, the final Plan document will be presented to the County Board for review and adoption.