



Michiana Area Council of Governments Active Transportation Steering Committee Meeting Notice

Wednesday, September 30, 2015
9:00 AM (EDT)

Nappanee Public Library
157 N Main St, Nappanee, IN 46550

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Defining Active Transportation Activity
3. Purpose and Outcomes of the Plan
4. Planning Process Outline
5. Review of Other Regional Plans
6. Brainstorming Activity
7. Next Steps
8. Meeting Adjournment



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Active Transportation Steering Committee Meeting Meeting Summary

Participants:

Barb Fredman, Friends of Granger Paths
Bob Sanders, Kosciusko County Council
Chris Vanden Bossch, Bike Michiana
David Foutz, Elkhart County Council
Diana Lawson, Elkhart County CVB
Greg Demopoulos, Kosciusko County Velo
Gina Leitchy, Eyedart Creative Studio
Kyle Hannon, Greater Elkhart Chamber
Larry Magliozzi, St. Joseph County Area Plan
Leslie Biek, City of Elkhart

Liz Gunden, Elkhart County Planning
Mark Brinson, City of Goshen
Ralph Booker, Marshall County
Rick Gaul, City of Plymouth
Robin Vida, St. Joseph County Health Dept.
Ron Robinson, Kosciusko County
Steve Peterson, Bike Elkhart
Therese Dorau, City of South Bend
Tim Dombrosky, City of Warsaw

On the phone:

Craig Allebach, Town of Winona Lake
Jessica Latus, Health by Design

MACOG Staff:

James Turnwald, Executive Director
Zach Dripps, Principal Planner
Caitlin Stevens, Regional Planner
Bob Niezgodski, Planning Intern

Agenda & Summary

Pre-Event Activity

Members of the Active Transportation Steering Committee were given three sticky notes and asked, “*What does Active Transportation mean to you?*” They posted the sticky notes in the front of the room. There were several common threads identified. (See below)

- Non-Motorized Transportation modes such as; bicycling, walking, kayaking & Canoeing.
- Reasons to personally participate in Active Transportation such as: Health, Fun, Recreation, Fitness, Choice, Freedom, getting to a Destination & being Sustainable.
- Personal concerns such as; Safety & Accessibility.
- Infrastructure types such as Trails, Rails, Smart Streets & Roundabouts.



1. Welcome & Introductions

Zach Dripps welcomed everyone to the meeting. All participants introduced themselves.

2. Defining Active Transportation Activity

Zach gave a presentation on active transportation and the group discussed their thoughts on active transportation. Below are bullet points from the discussion.

- Individuals tend to think about active transportation in terms of recreation and not in a utilitarian way.
- There is a mix of urban and rural areas in the region which may need different or distinctive approaches to analyzing and promoting active transportation.
- In some areas in the region transit links will be important to consider, but there are many communities that are not served by transit where transit links won't need to be addressed.
- Safety, perception of safety, & diversity of ages could be addressed in the plan.
- Need to identify safer routes to ride bicycles on, particularly in rural areas.
- Need more places to lock bicycles up at. Particularly at destination locations.
- Need to think about ways to improve the public perception & respect for and of bicyclists.

3. Purpose and Outcomes of the Plan

Zach gave a presentation on the purpose and outcomes of the Plan.

- Identify needs, resources, and strategies for improving and increasing all active modes of transportation in the region.
- Realize benefits in access to destinations and services, mobility, quality of life, safety, air quality, health, and economy.
- Serve as MACOG's overall strategy for funding and implementing active transportation facilities and programs.
- Provides guidance to support communities in the region that are expanding the bicycle and pedestrian network.

4. Planning Process Outline

Zach gave a presentation on the planning process (see presentation).

5. Review of Other Regional Plans

Caitlin Stevens reviewed and gave a presentation on three active transportation plans that were conducted in other parts of the country. The three plans were the Oregon Metro Regional Active Transportation Plan, The Memphis MPO Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and the SACOG Regional Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Trails Master Plan. Stakeholders were encouraged to look at these plans.

6. Brainstorming Activity

The steering committee broke into groups of four to brainstorm two questions;

- What outcomes they would like to produce from the Active Transportation plan?
- What would be useful components to you, your staff, organizations and people you work with and your community decision makers?

After the groups met each group leader read out there groups outcomes and useful components to everyone. A master list of these areas was created. Each stakeholder was then asked to place three dots on the master list to help rank the importance of each identified area. Below is the master list of identified areas and the number of dots each category received.

Outcomes & Useful Components

- Sense of Place
- Safety **(1 Dot)**
- Health
- Tangible Infrastructure/Inventory of Corridors **(2 Dots)**
- Best Practices for Design/ Policy **(4 Dots)**
- Education/Encouragement **(2 Dots)**
- Mode Shift **(1 Dot)**
- Defining Connectivity **(4 Dots)**
- Regional Destination Branding **(3 Dots)**
- Evaluation of Plans/Policies
- Identifying Benefits (Health, Economic Analysis) **(5 Dots)**
- Expanding Buy-In (government, Public, Business) **(7 Dots)**
- Coordination of Entities **(1 Dot)**
- Integration of Facilities/Network **(2 Dots)**
- Way finding **(2 Dots)**
- Implementation Plan **(5 Dots)**

7. Next Steps

The stakeholder group was informed of the next steps in the process which are the identification of participants for focus groups, data gathering/analysis, project website development, and Local Public Agency and focus group meetings. The stakeholder group gave a ideas on areas to convene the focus groups around and topics to address during the focus group meetings. Potential areas to convene the focus groups around are the areas identified in the DOT Mayors Challenge below.




DOT Mayors Challenge Safer People Safer Streets Areas

- Complete Streets
- Fix Barriers
- Gather Data
- Design Right
- Create Networks
- Improve Laws
- Educate & Enforce

It was recommended to identify barriers to active transportation & to identify how to get buy in from the public. It was recommended to ask the questions, what keeps you from riding your bike to work and what keeps you from biking, at each meeting. One stake holder encouraged everyone to look at the website for the organization bikes belong which is now People for Bikes. There website is peopleforbikes.org.


8. Meeting Adjournment



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN


**STEERING COMMITTEE
KICKOFF MEETING**


September 30, 2015
9:00 am
Nappanee Public Library



Agenda

- » Defining Active Transportation
- » Purpose and Outcomes of Plan
- » Planning Process Outline
- » Review of Other Regional Plans
- » Brainstorming Activity
- » Next Steps





DISCUSSION

- » What does Active Transportation mean to you?

Defining Active Transportation

» “Active Transportation” is a means of getting around that is powered by human energy, primarily walking and bicycling. Often called “non-motorized transportation,” we prefer the term “active transportation” since it is a more positive statement that expresses the key connection between healthy, active living and our transportation choices.

» Partnership for Active Transportation



Defining Active Transportation

» “human-powered transportation that engages people in healthy physical activity while they travel from place to place. People walking, bicycling, the use of strollers, wheelchairs and mobility devices, skateboarding, and rollerblading are all active transportation. Active transportation supports transit.”

» Oregon Metro Regional Active Transportation Plan



Defining Active Transportation

» “Multimodal transportation solutions that connect people of all ages and abilities to where they need to go using active modes such as walking, bicycling and taking public transit”

» Puget Sound Regional Council Active Transportation Plan



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

SUMMARY

- » Was there anything new in those definitions we did not discuss?

Purpose of an Active Transportation Plan


- » Identify needs, resources, and strategies for improving and increasing all active modes of transportation in the region



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Purpose of an Active Transportation Plan

- » Realize benefits in access to destinations and services, mobility, quality of life, safety, air quality, health, and economy



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Purpose of an Active Transportation Plan

- » Serve as MACOG's overall strategy for funding and implementing active transportation facilities and programs

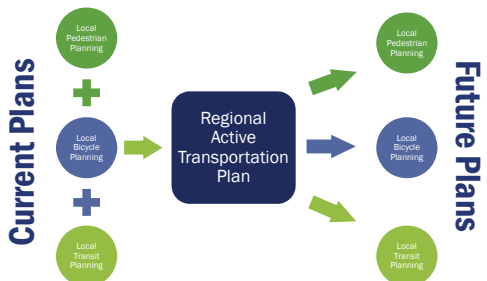


Purpose of an Active Transportation Plan

- » Provides guidance to support communities in the region that are expanding the bicycle and pedestrian network



Integration of Local and MACOG planning



Advisory Groups

Steering Committee

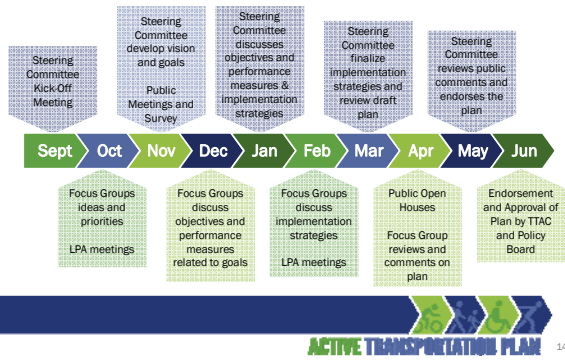
- » Guide the planning process
- » Shape focus & deliverables
- » Technical review
- » Approve plan for Public Review

Focus Group

- » Provide support to the Steering Committee
- » Generate ideas, recommendations, strategies
- » Familiarize and promote plan in their communities



Tentative Planning Process Timeline



Oregon Metro Regional Active Transportation Plan

- » Stakeholder involvement
- » Integration increases access
- » Identification of regional destinations
- » Formation of network vision
 - » Access, Safety, Equity, Increase Activity



Memphis MPO Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

- » Public participation
- » Goals
 - » Safety, Connectivity, Accessibility, Mode Shift
- » Implementation
 - » Engineering, Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Evaluation & Planning



SACOG Regional Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Trails Master Plan

- » Clear goals, strategies, and actions
- » Diverse focus areas
 - » Coordinated Efforts
 - » Performance Measures
 - » Planning Understanding Impacts
 - » Education
 - » Transit Connections
 - » Supporting Infrastructure and Programs




Review of Other Regional Plans

- | | |
|---|---|
| » Accessibility | » Health |
| » Safety | » Equity |
| » Connectivity | » Reliability |
| » Mode Shift | » Complete Streets |
| » Funding | » Performance Measures/Measure of Effectiveness |
| » Integration of Modes | |
| » Gap and Needs Analysis | |
| » Programs and Policies | |
| » Quality of Life, Economic Prosperity, Environment | |



BRAINSTORMING ACTIVITY

- » What outcomes would you like to produce from the Active Transportation plan?
- » What would be useful components to you, your staff, organizations and people you work with, and your community decision makers?




DISCUSSION

- » After discussing wanted outcomes, what focus group topics do you think are most valuable for the Active Transportation Plan?

Next Steps

- » Identification of participants for Focus Groups
- » Data Gathering/Analysis
- » Project Website Development
- » Local Public Agency and Focus Group Meetings



Next Steering Committee Meeting

- » Week of November 16th – 19th
 - » Recap of Focus Group Meeting
 - » Discuss Focus Group Priorities
 - » Develop Vision and Goals
- » Send a Doodle Poll to decide on Date and Time
- » Planned to be at Nappanee Public Library



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

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