



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force

**From:** John O'Neal, CMAP Staff

**Date:** Wednesday, September 12, 2012

**Re:** Potential Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects Arising from LTA Plans

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This memorandum lists a number bicycle and pedestrian projects, which have been recommended or are supported in municipal comprehensive plans produced through the Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program. The LTA program was designed to assist communities in the implementation of GO TO 2040. Some of these LTA-related projects may be appropriate for the [GO TO 2040 focused programming approach](#) in the future. (Page numbers cited are those of the LTA municipal comprehensive plan. Links to plans discussed below are provided at the end of this memorandum.)

### Bicycle facilities

Many LTA plans recommend bicycle improvements. Often, these involve connections to regional trails, either linking two trails or providing access to a trail from a community that does not currently have much access. Recommended projects include:

- Addison. The Addison Comprehensive Plan (currently draft) identifies a potential connection along a ComEd easement through the southern part of the community that would link the Salt Creek and East Branch DuPage trails (pp. 30-31).
- Berwyn. The Berwyn Comprehensive Plan supports the recommendations of the Berwyn Active Transportation Plan, adopted earlier in 2012 ([http://www.berwyn-il.gov/pdf/berwyn\\_active\\_transportation\\_plan\\_111611.pdf](http://www.berwyn-il.gov/pdf/berwyn_active_transportation_plan_111611.pdf)).
- Blue Island. The Blue Island Comprehensive Plan emphasizes the importance of the Cal-Sag Trail (p. 62), including access to this facility from all parts of the community. The plan also recognizes the City's policies regarding Complete Streets and recommends the implementation of Complete Streets treatments in the Uptown area (p. 29).
- Carpentersville. The Old Town Plan for Carpentersville is highly influenced by its connections to Fox River Trail (pp. 30-32, 35-36). The plan recommends making better connections west across the Fox River to connect to the trail systems in Raceway Woods.

- Joliet. The redevelopment plan for the Old Joliet Prison and U.S. Steel Site includes recommendations for connections from prison site to I&M Canal Trail. This would require a bridge or tunnel over the active rail line to the east of the trail. (Report is not yet published.)
- Norridge. The Norridge Comprehensive Plan recommends a Complete Streets approach on Montrose Avenue, with striped bicycle lanes and streetscaping improvements. This street was chosen as a priority because it is a recommended bicycle route in the WCMC bicycle plan, and because it provides a needed connection to the Cook County Forest Preserve on the west and a major mixed-use redevelopment site on the east (pp. 57, 62).
- Will County (Fairmont). The Fairmont Neighborhood Plan recommends small-scale infrastructure improvements through this community, which has very few sidewalks today. The most significant project involves construction of sidewalks and an on-street bicycle lane on Green Garden Place (pg 64-65) through the center of the community. This will provide access to the I&M Canal Trail on the north and the Old Joliet Prison redevelopment on the south, and will also support the redevelopment of a vacant site in central Fairmont.

## **Pedestrian facilities**

Nearly every plan produced through the LTA program recommends improvements to the pedestrian environment, enabled by infrastructure improvements as well as land use planning. These include:

- Addison. The Addison Comprehensive Plan (currently draft) reinforces the conclusions of previous plans that pedestrian improvements are needed before transit service on Lake Street can be successful (p. 30). These pedestrian improvements should be focused in higher-density mixed-use nodes planned in several locations along Lake Street.
- Berwyn. In the Berwyn Comprehensive Plan, pedestrian improvements are prioritized on Cermak<sup>1</sup> (p. 29) and in locations consistent with the Active Transportation Plan ([http://www.berwyn-il.gov/pdf/berwyn\\_active\\_transportation\\_plan\\_111611.pdf](http://www.berwyn-il.gov/pdf/berwyn_active_transportation_plan_111611.pdf)).
- Blue Island. The Blue Island Comprehensive Plan recommends that the City focus infrastructure investment in places where housing investment and targeted code enforcement are also occurring. As part of this strategy, pedestrian improvements are recommended near Vermont Street station and in Uptown (pp. 63-64).
- Norridge. The Norridge Comprehensive Plan recognizes that pedestrian conditions on Harlem Avenue create a significant barrier, but that limited right of way restricts options; the plan recommends working with IDOT to study this issue (pg 58).
- Will County (Fairmont). See bicycle facilities section.

## **Other**

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<sup>1</sup> In the Berwyn Comprehensive Plan, pedestrian improvements on Cermak arise largely in the context of the plan's discussion of the importance of improved bus service on Cermak Road, including ART/TSP treatments (pp. 19-20). The plan recommends establishing higher-density mixed-use nodes in a number of locations along Cermak Road, rather than the continuous (and often vacant) small-lot retail that characterizes this road today. These mixed-use nodes are envisioned to include ART stations or stops and be designed in a way to encourage transit use.

Other projects that do not fit neatly into bicycle or pedestrian project classifications include the following:

- Park Forest. In Park Forest, a marketing campaign to reduce use of private cars and encourage transit, non-motorized transportation, and car-sharing is recommended (p. 33); funding recently received by the Village from a philanthropic organization will provide staff support for this activity.

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**Links to plans:**

[Addison](#) (Please note that this is an earlier draft with edits)

[Berwyn](#)

[Blue Island](#)

[Carpentersville](#)

Joliet – not yet available (ULI product)

[Norridge](#)

[Park Forest](#)

[Will County \(Fairmont\)](#)