

Memorandum

July 31, 2009

TO: CMAP Transportation Committee
FROM: Lori Heringa, Senior Planner
RE: Northeastern Illinois Regional Greenways and Trails Plan
Public Review Comments and Recommendations

The Transportation Committee released the draft Northeastern Illinois Regional Greenways and Trails Plan for a two week public review period beginning June 12th, 2009. The review period was subsequently extended to July 24th, 2009. The comments have been compiled; we heard from forest preserve and conservation districts, one township, Metra, County of DuPage, a watershed planning committee, an ecosystem partnership, and an advocacy organization.

The list that follows focuses on the major recommended additions or changes and how we propose to address them.

- Recommendation (DuPage County staff): Change the title of the chart, "Trail Mileage by County," to indicate it includes greenways plan trails and note that jurisdictions may have additional miles of trails not in the plan.
 - Response: Changed title of table and added text
- Recommendation (DuPage County staff): Add an action recommendation that encourages building multi-purpose trails along water-based greenways.
 - Response: Recommendation will be incorporated with additional phrase "where appropriate"
- Recommendation (Forest Preserve District of Will County and McHenry County Conservation District staff): Add 4 trails to Will County's list of priorities, and 3 to McHenry County's.
 - Response: Additions are appropriate and will be included
- Recommendation: (Metra staff): Change wording of the action recommendation: "collaborate with owners of rail right-of-way and with highway agencies to encourage planning and development of trails within existing and future rights-of way" to "adjacent to" existing and future rights-of-way.
 - Response: Re-phrased the sentence to include "within *or* alongside"
- Recommendation: Add additional primary network trails that are 3-5 miles in diameter throughout the region in order to attract bicycle and pedestrian use (Openlands staff).
 - Response: The intention of identifying the primary system is to show the major existing and proposed trails, connections between them, and connections among forest preserves and conservation districts, as a planning tool at the regional scale. An action recommendation could be added that encourages formation of subregional groups to identify 10 – 15 mile loops and develop an action plan using the greenways plan as a guide for connecting to the regional system.
- Recommendation: Recommend what dimensions or scale constitutes effective greenways (Openlands staff)
 - Response: This is beyond the scope of the project. Also, appropriate dimensions would differ based on different contexts and conditions. A more localized or focused approach (for example, watershed planning) would be more appropriate. An action recommendation can be included to address this.
- Recommendation: Incorporate the recommendations and visions in this plan into the strategies for long range and comprehensive land use and transportation planning for the region.
 - Response: There will continue to be close coordination.

All comments we received were useful and will contribute to making a better Northeastern Illinois Regional Greenways and Trails Plan.