

R E S O L U T I O N

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force

SUPPORTING CREATION OF THE EISENHOWER REGIONAL TRAIL

WHEREAS, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) has established the CMAP Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force for the purpose of advising the Chicagoland region on bicycle and pedestrian issues; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has initiated a study to improve the Eisenhower Expressway in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, emerging research in Europe suggests that providing a direct off-road trail from suburban areas to the central city core can significantly increase regional bicycle commuting; and

WHEREAS, there is an existing major regional trail, the Illinois Prairie Path, that feeds into the Eisenhower corridor and stretches 51 miles westward through western Cook, DuPage and Kane Counties linking 19 communities, numerous bus and commuter rail connections, and major north-south regional trails, providing an integrated network through much of this subregional area; and

WHEREAS, creating an extension of this trail can potentially connect western Cook County communities to the City of Chicago, DuPage County, Kane County, and hundreds of miles of other existing and proposed north-south regional trails such as the DesPlaines River Trail, the Salt Creek Greenway Trail, the Fox River Trail, the Chicago Boulevard Bikeway, and the Chicago Lakefront Trail; and

WHEREAS, this recommendation supports the Task Force's recently adopted **Northeastern Illinois Regional Greenways and Trails Plan** which contains the objective of expanding the existing regional trail system and creating linkages; and

WHEREAS, IDOT's current study could be the first step in creating a new Eisenhower Regional Trail, and

WHEREAS, IDOT's study is currently in the process of identifying the purpose and need for the project and this represents an appropriate time for the task force to provide early input.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force respectfully requests that IDOT and the Eisenhower Expressway/I-290 Corridor Group and its associated advisory committees, analyze the potential for a major new off-road trail connecting to the Illinois Prairie Path and other local bikeways within the study corridor as a first step in creating a direct non-motorized link between Chicago and the western suburbs.

Enacted and approved this ____ day of _____, 2010 at Chicago, Illinois.

Tom Rickert, Chairman
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force