

DUPAGE COUNTY HEALTHY ROADS POLICY UPDATE

Implementation Status Report
April 25, 2006



Robert J. Schillerstrom
DuPage County Board Chairman

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Approved by the DuPage County Board Environmental Committee on April 25, 2006 and
by the DuPage County Board Transportation Committee on May 16, 2006



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INTRODUCTION

In 2004, DuPage County Board Chairman Robert Schillerstrom announced a new initiative called the DuPage County Healthy Roads Policy. The concept grew out of discussions before the DuPage County Board Transportation Committee about the possibility of constructing new multi-purpose side paths along County highways when undertaking roadway improvement projects. The purpose of this report is to provide a brief summary of the status of implementing this new policy adopted by County Board Resolution DT-0033-04.

BACKGROUND

The Healthy Roads Policy was an important policy directive for DuPage County because it:

- Made a formal policy statement that recognizes the need for non-motorized transportation and its ability to reduce congestion, benefit air quality, and promote healthy living
- Recognized non-motorized transportation's relationship to maintaining and improving quality of life

The policy established two important priorities:

1. Safety for motorized and non-motorized users
2. Preserving the environmental, scenic, historic and natural resource values of the area as part of County transportation program

In reviewing the report which follows, it is useful to remember the scope of the new policy. The new policy applies only to significant widening or reconstruction of County highways and includes the following key recommendations:

1. Construct sidewalk or multi-use path where right-of-way is available
2. Ensure the construction project is safe for both the user and the community
3. Ensure the construction project incorporates all applicable principles of context sensitive design, and attempts to preserve the environmental, scenic, aesthetic, historic and natural resource values of the area
4. Endeavor to design and construct a project that achieves a level of excellence in the minds of the stakeholders
5. Ensure that a public meeting is conducted during the preliminary engineering design of a project in order to obtain input from all stakeholders in the project area
6. Ensure the project is seen as having added lasting value to both the motorized users and the non-motorized users of the improvement
7. Ensure that the landscape, the community, and valued resources are understood and a consensus reached before detailed engineering is started
8. Explore the feasibility of the use of fiber-optics for utility placement within the highway right-of-way
9. Ensure that best management practices in design, construction and maintenance are used to cost effectively reduce adverse environmental impacts of County highways.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS: RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Below is a brief listing that summarizes implementation of the Healthy Roads Policy to date.

New Bicycle-Pedestrian Facilities on Newly Constructed or Reconstructed Roadways in 2004-2005

New roadway facility construction with bicycle-pedestrian improvements was completed in 2004-2005 for these roadways:

- Ferry Road – side path/sidewalk and trail bridge
- Hobson Road – side path for Southern DuPage County Regional Trail and sidewalk
- Madison Street – side path for Southern DuPage County Regional Trail and sidewalk
- Route 34/75th Street West – side path for Southern DuPage County Regional Trail
- 55th Street/Route 83 Bridge – sidewalks
- Meyers Road Bridge – sidewalks

- Gary Avenue –sidewalk connection to Great Western Trail
- Bloomingdale Road – sidewalk connection to the existing system north of North Avenue
- Main Street Glen Ellyn – sidewalk connection to Great Western Trail
- Army Trail Road (Regency Drive to Swift Road) – sidewalks or side path
- Medinah Road – sidewalks and bicycle-friendly roadway design (most sections)
- Jewell Road (County Farm Road to Gary Avenue) – sidewalks
- Maple Avenue (Benedictine Parkway to College Road) - sidewalks

Public Input

Public meetings held to seek public input on the following projects:

- Medinah Road
- Jewell Road
- 75th Street (east of I-355 to Illinois Route 83)
- Gary Avenue (North of Schick Road to Lake Street)
- Southern DuPage County Regional Trail - 101st Street Trail
- Southern DuPage County Regional Trail – 59th Street Bikeway

New Bicycle-Pedestrian Facilities on Newly Constructed or Reconstructed Roadways – 2006-2007 Projects

New construction on roadways planned or underway for 2006-2007 includes:

- Five Corners intersection Glen Ellyn – sidewalks, cooperative work with Village for historic area improvements
- Army Trail Road (Schmale Road to Regency Drive) – sidewalks
- Naperville Road/Warrenville Road and I-88 Interchange (side path connector west of interchange)
- Geneva Road from Gary Avenue to West Street (sidewalks)
- Bikeways on 59th Street, Clarendon Hills Road, Hobson Road, and 91st Street
- Sidewalk infill projects at various locations

In addition to roadway projects, separate bikeway and trail projects are planned for construction this year including roadway improvements to create safe bicycle routes on 59th Street, Clarendon Hills Road, Hobson Road east, and 91st Street. Trails adjacent to roadways are being construction along 83rd Street, 75th Street and 101st Street. All projects are part of the Southern DuPage County Regional Trail.

IMPROVED MEASURES TO MINIMIZE NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Other actions being taken to minimize any negative environmental impacts from County roadway projects have included ongoing installation and monitoring of erosion and sediment control measures (e.g., oil and grit separators; street sweeping; native plantings; erosion

control blankets, barriers, and seeding; inlet filters). Also, the Division of Transportation has constructed water quality and stormwater improvements in connections with two projects. The Army Trail Road Water Quality Improvement Project was constructed to treat run-off and provide stormwater detention. A similar project was also completed in connection with the Jewell Road project.

OTHER PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Pedestrian Crossing Railroad Safety Project The purpose of this project was to evaluate safety issues at pedestrian crossing of railroads along County roadways. This study, which analyzed 10 intersections, was completed in Spring, 2005. DuPage County has received a \$479,000 Surface Transportation Program grant to implement improvements at 6 crossings and engineering is underway to design those improvements (For further information on this project, please contact John Loper of the DuPage County Department of Economic Development and Planning).

Energy Efficient LED Traffic Signal Upgrade Project The purpose of this project is to replace incandescent traffic signal bulbs with LED bulbs that use 85% less energy, enhance safety through better light quality and visibility, improve reliability and decrease operation and maintenance costs. In 2005-2006, 109 intersections will be upgraded with 70% of the installations completed to date. DuPage County has received two grants totaling \$306,000 to complete this project from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. (For further information on this project, please contact Ruth Myers of the DuPage County Department of Economic Development and Planning)

Pedestrian Safety Education Brochure on Pedestrian Traffic Signals A new public information brochure to educate the public on the manner that pedestrian signals operate was produced by Ruth Myers in 2005.

Fiber Optic Lines The feasibility of installing fiber optic lines on all roadway projects has been reviewed for each new project undertaken on an individual basis. However, there were no projects where making provisions for fiber optic lines has been deemed appropriate to date.

Cook-DuPage Corridor Study DuPage County and other key regional partners are participating in a new three-year study called the *Cook-DuPage Corridor Study*. The purpose of the *Cook-DuPage Corridor Study* is to examine a broad range of transportation system improvements to address the mobility needs in the western suburbs of Chicago. The study covers a large portion of the Chicago metropolitan extending from approximately 30 miles from Cicero Avenue (IL 50) in the city of Chicago/town of Cicero to the Kane/DuPage county line. Metra's Milwaukee District-West and Burlington Northern Santa-Fe commuter lines form the north and south boundaries respectively. The corridor spans all or portions of 51 municipalities in suburban Cook and DuPage counties and the far west side of Chicago, an area that includes over 1 million residents and 750,000 jobs.

The Cook-DuPage Corridor will analyze multi-modal opportunities including several major transit and highway proposals to address congestion and improve mobility. The study will also analyze non-motorized assets for each community including sidewalks, walk-ability, bikeways, and non-motorized access to transit.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information or to offer suggestions or comments on the Healthy Roads Policy implementation, please contact Deborah Jan Fagan, Chief Planner and County Trail System Coordinator, DuPage County Department of Economic Development and Planning, 421 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, Illinois 61087 or by email at dfagan@dupageco.org.