2019/2020 Local Technical Assistance and Community Planning Programs

Application Number: 29

Project Title: City of St. Charles Bike/Ped Plan

Applicant: City of St. Charles

Project Description:

The City of St. Charles is applying for funding to create a bicycle and pedestrian plan for the community, which will include a complete streets policy.

The City of St. Charles was originally established in 1834, is centered around the Fox River, and has access to hundreds of miles of regional bicycle trails. While the City has beautiful amenities and local events, which combine to draw over 200,000 visitors annually, our community has never created a detailed and inclusive plan for our non-motorized residents and visitors.

The City created a bike plan in 2003, which covered the basic bicyclists needs within the City, such as the designation of bike routes and the identification of a few areas that are disconnected from others. In 2020, the City is looking to create a bicycle and pedestrian plan that includes design considerations to utilize moving forward in our capital improvement plan, determines locations where bike routes may be changed to bike lanes, considers thoughtful planning in relation to where the City shall provide pedestrian crosswalks and the plan will further identify, in detail, gaps in our pedestrian and bicycle network. All of the plan considerations will be prioritized, which will assist the City on how best to invest our resources, utilizing the plan to make data-driven decisions whenever possible.

Other goals that will be included with the plan include the adoption of complete streets policy and improving bicycle and pedestrian safety as a whole, but with a focus on our downtown and our highly traveled corridors, such as S. 3rd Street, Prairie Street and Dean Street. Consideration will also be provided for plan integration with Kane County’s bike share program, which is currently under development.

Furthermore, the updated plan will look to meet the following goals and objectives from the City's Comprehensive Plan (This is a small sampling of MANY goals and objectives this plan update will provide):

Goal 2: Provide a coordinated transportation network for pedestrians and bicyclists in order to connect them to employment, shopping and recreational areas.

Objectives

1. Build on the analysis and continue to implement the recommendations developed as part of the 2003 St. Charles Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan effort to expand the bike path system and create a complete trail system that connects to the regional bike network.

2. Where appropriate, encourage new development/ redevelopment to include connections and amenities for pedestrians, bicyclists and commuters.

3. Improve pedestrian and bicycle circulation and safety throughout the City with an emphasis on safer and more convenient routes for non-motorized traffic.

4. Expand the City's network of trails and sidewalks to provide better connections between residential neighborhoods, parks, schools, Downtown, and other commercial areas.

City staff will be looking for financial assistance, as well as technical plan development assistance, whether that may be provided as direct plan development or as management of the plan development, such as assistance with proposal development and oversight of plan creation by a consultant. Further assistance with public outreach would be beneficial as well.

Project Location: The project location will include the entire corporate limits of the City of St. Charles.