Appendix L

Bicycle Facilities Assessment

Route: FAU 7448
Section: 09-00093-00-BR
Municipality: City of Decatur

Brush College Road At Norfolk Southern Crossing Study

Bicycle Facilities Assessment

January 2011

Bicycle Facilities Assessment

The location of this bicycle facilities assessment is the Brush College Road corridor and underpass from William Street to Faries Parkway in Decatur. (Reference Corridor Map#1 and Corridor Map#2) There are currently no provisions for bicycles through the project corridor. The occasional bicyclist uses the existing roadway or a very narrow sidewalk along the east side of Brush College Road. Signalized pedestrian crosswalks are present at both the William Street intersection at the south end, and the Faries Parkway intersection at the north end of the corridor.

In November 2010, Mr. Jim Kiefer – Director of Operations for the Decatur Park District (217-422-5911) was contacted regarding plans for a future bike trail at the project location. Mr. Kiefer said that there are currently no long term plans for a bike trail at the project site.

Several efforts were made to obtain input from the Decatur Bicycle Club regarding this segment of Brush College Road. Although no response was received directly from the Bicycle Club, members did provide comments to Mark Smith, Director - Decatur Urban Area Transportation Study (DUATS). According to Mr. Smith, the Bicycle Club conveyed that the study segment is currently a "hostile" environment for bicyclists.

A Decatur Area Bicycle Map was obtained from the League of Illinois Bicyclists website (http://www.bikelib.org/maps-and-rides/maps/decatur/). The map shows "Preferred On-Road Bike Routes" throughout the City and shows "More Comfortable" to "Less Comfortable" routes. The map classifies the section of Brush College Road between Faries Parkway and Cerro Gordo Street as "less comfortable". North of Faries Parkway, Brush College Road is coded as lower than "less comfortable".

There are multiple access streets in and out of the residential areas south of the underpass and north of William Street. Brush College School is located on the west side of Brush College Road just north of William Street. Pedestrian traffic is minimal to and from the north, as all students living north of the underpass are bussed to and from school or dropped off.

An interview was conducted with Mr. Joseph Smith, the Principal of Brush College School, on December 3, 2010. According to Mr. Smith, three students arrive by bicycle, but they come from the west and do not travel along Brush College Road.

East End Plaza is located across the street from Brush College School, on the east side of Brush College Road. Richland Community College is located approximately 0.9 miles north of Faries Parkway on Brush College Road. Other destinations near the corridor include: Pepsi Refreshment Services (< 0.1 miles north of site); ADM BioProducts plant (0.4 miles north of site); ADM Corporate Headquarters (0.5 miles east of site on Faries Parkway); Caterpillar plant (0.8 miles northwest of site on N. 27th Street). The ADM James Randall Research Center (JRRC) is located along this portion of Brush College Road, just south of the Norfolk Southern Rail Yard underpass.

There are currently no facilities for bicyclists along Brush College Road north of Faries Parkway. According to Mark Smith, DUATS Director, the Bicycle/Pedestrian portions of the MPO's 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan are being amended which will augment the currently planned route along William Street. The amendments include planned provisions for alternative modes of transportation (bikeways) along Faries Parkway. Additionally, the future plans lay out a bikeway from William Street on the south, through the study area, extending north along Brush College Road to IL Route 48. There are planned to be two segments extending from North Brush College Road east on both Reas Bridge Road and Garver Church Road. It should be noted that the DUATS Policy Committee has adopted the policy of providing adequate means for alternative transportation on all new or major reconstruction projects.

Based on the long range plans to include bikeways along Faries Parkway and William Street, it is recommended that provisions for a shared-use path be included with any improvements along this segment of Brush College Road. The roadway also provides the only access across the Norfolk Sothern Railroad Yard in this area. Although it is anticipated that experienced bicyclists will ride almost exclusively on the roadway, it would be difficult to include dedicated bike lanes on the proposed roadway and tie into the existing roadway at Fairies Parkway. Current traffic counts warrant a four-lane section along this segment of Brush College Road. The DUATS organization has discussed the matter and have indicated that a shared-use path will satisfy the needs of pedestrians and the occasional bicyclist.

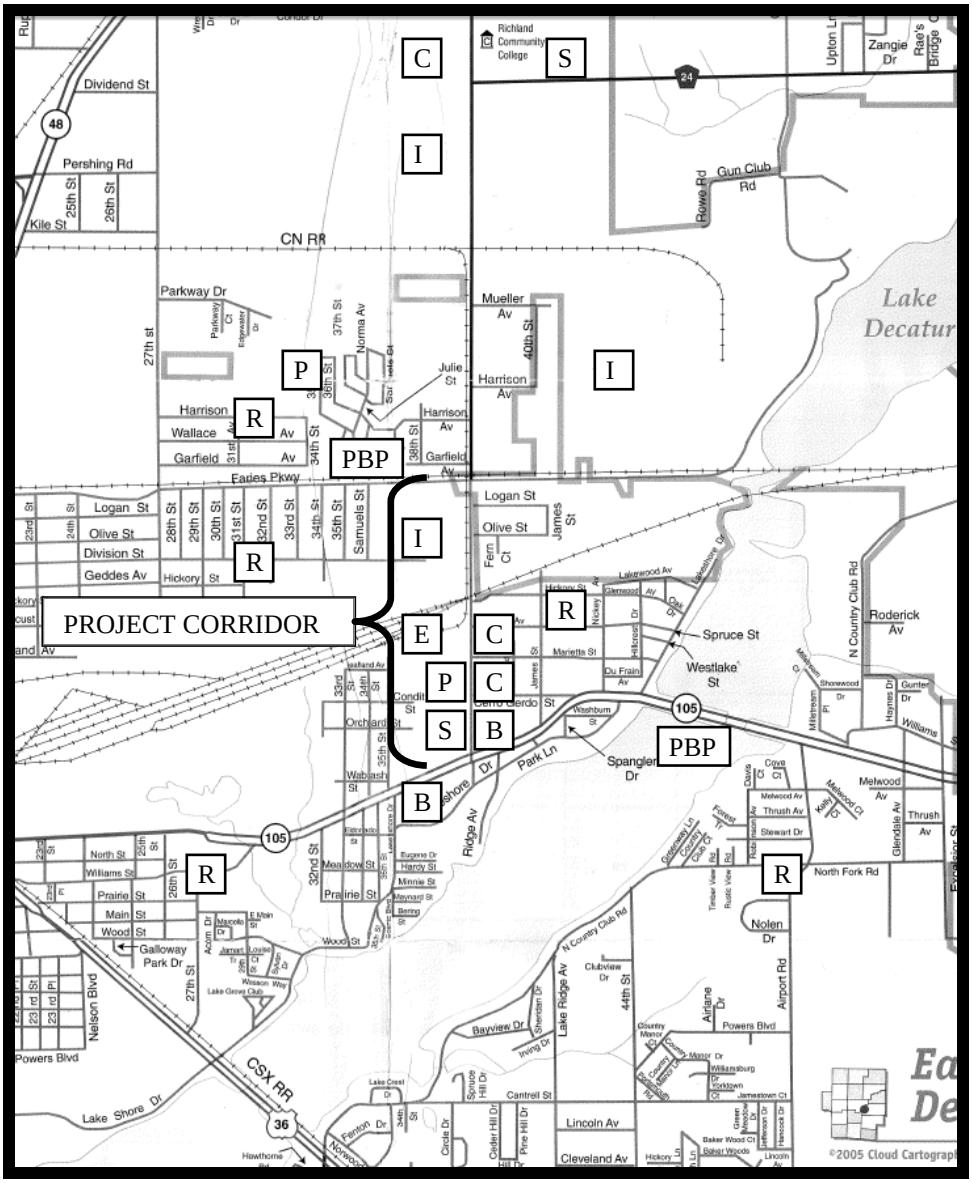
Considering the limited generators in this area, it is anticipated that there will be less than 100 users per peak hour and an 8'wide shared-use path is recommended in accordance with Figure 42-3A of the IDOT Bureau of Local Roads & Streets Manual. The roadway improvement study will evaluate the feasibility of placing the shared-use path along the east side of Brush College Road. Interference with existing structures or right-of-way issues may require that the path location be altered or moved to the opposite side of the roadway. It is anticipated that a traffic signal may be added at the entrance to the ADM JRRC/Marietta Street and Brush College Road intersection. In that event, bicyclists will be able to cross the roadway at that location.

Notes on Changes Within the Project Area

Refer to the attached aerials of the project area. Note that the residential area shown on the north side of Faries Parkway/East Garfield Street and east of Spencer Park was formerly a trailer park. This land has been acquired by ADM and the trailer park has been removed. The cultivated area shown just to the north of the former trailer park is now an ADM rail yard.

CHECKLIST FOR BICYCLE TRAVEL GENERATORS IN PROJECT VICINITY

Generators	Yes	NA	Generators	Yes	NA
Residential Areas	✓		Shopping Centers		✓
Parks	✓		Hospitals		✓
Recreational Areas		✓	Employment Centers	✓	
Churches	✓		Government Offices		✓
Schools	✓		Local Businesses	✓	
Libraries		✓	Industrial Plants	✓	
Existing Bicycle Trails		✓	Public Transportation Facilities		✓
Planned Bicycle Trails	✓		Other (_____)		



R	Residential Areas	BP	Existing Bicycle Trails	G	Government Offices
P	Parks	PBP	Planned Bicycle Trails	B	Local Businesses
P	Recreational Areas	M	Shopping Centers	I	Industrial Plants
C	Churches	H	Hospitals	T	Public Transportation Facilities
S	Schools	E	Employment Centers	L	Libraries

CHECKLIST FOR ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLIC COORDINATION

Generators	Yes	NA	Generators	Yes	NA
Metropolitan Planning Organization (if applicable)	✓		League of Illinois Bicyclists	✓	
Local Municipalities	✓		Illinois Department of Natural Resources		
Park or Forest Preserve District	✓		Illinois Trails Conservancy		

Project Corridor Map #1

Project Corridor Map#2

Looking North along Brush College Road

Decatur Pathways 2035
2035 Bicycle Plan
Legend
20-year MPA Boundary
2003 Urbanized Boundary
Interstate
Arterial
Collector
Local
City Bike Paths
Type of Bikeway
Existing Bikeways
Proposed Bikeways
Proposed City Bikeways
Level
Recommended Priority Bicycle Corridor (trail or other bicycle accomodation)
Roadway Corridor Most Suitable for On-Road Bicycle Travel
Recommended Spot Location Improvement
Downtown Decatur Transportation / Transit Center
Miles
0 0.5 1
Connect to Heartland pathways North and South Trails and to Clinton Lake
Accommodate Bicycles as part of new Rail's Bridge Road (SE Bikeway)
BOIS DU SANGAMON NATURE PRESERVE
DECATUR AIRPORT
Improve Lake Decatur Crossings
SPITLER WOODS STATE PARK
Long Creek
Forsyth
Warrenton
Harristown
Mt. Zion
Decatur
Improve Bicycle Access over I-72
MACON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Improve Access to Transportation/ Transit Center
SAND CREEK OPEN SPACE RESERVATION
Construct Bicycle/ Overpass/Underpass as part of the SE Bikeway
Connect to CH 32
Data Sources: Illinois DNR, IDOT, US Census, Macon Co., DUATS

Decatur Area Bicycle Map

League of Illinois Bicyclists

Map By: Daniel Begert
League of Illinois Bicyclists

August 2010

Preferred On-Road Bike Routes

- More Comfortable
- Less Comfortable

Thin grey casings on roads indicate the presence of sidewalks

Thick black casings indicate bike lanes or bikeable shoulders

Off-Street Bike Trail

Difficult Intersection

0 1/4 1/2 1 1 1/2 2 Miles

Hospital · Post Office · School Property · Advertiser's Store Location · Local Street
Library · Swimming Pool · Park Land, Open Space · Main Arterial or Highway

Decatur Urbanized Area Transportation Study (DUATS) Agencies

City of Decatur Illinois · Forsyth Village of Forsyth, Illinois · Village of Mt. Zion 1881 · Macon County Highway Department · Illinois Department of Natural Resources · Macon County Conservation District · Decatur Park District

Decatur Bicycle Club

The Decatur Bicycle Club is a bicycle touring club serving Decatur, Illinois, and the Macon County area.

Our feature event is the Bob Galloway Memorial Amish Country Bicycle Tour held each fall.

Our ages range from the 20's to the 60's and families are welcome!

We are interested in accommodating new members and want to get to know YOU!

For more information, visit DecaturBicycleClub.org

❶ Open M 10-6, W-F 10-6, Sat 10-4, Closed Tue & Sun
217-429-SPIN (7746)
Spin City Cycles
429-SPIN.com
Decatur, Il.
135 S. Oakland Ave.

❷ Decatur Indoor Sports Center
1295 W. Wood St. • 429-3472
Fitness Center • Indoor Track
Rock Wall • Batting Cages
Indoor Golf Center

❸ check us out online: decaturbicycle.com
SINCE 1979
DBS
DECATUR BICYCLE SHOPPE
1230 East Pershing Rd
call: 875-3271 or stop by: open T-F 10-6, Sat 10-4, Closed Sun & Mon

Decatur · Oreana · Mt Zion · Lake Decatur

Forsyth Park · Hickory Point Golf Course · Garman Park · Sunnyside Park · Fairview Park · Millikin University · Scovill Golf Course · Kiwanis Park · Rock Springs Conservation Center · Cresthaven Park · East Mound Park · Richland Community College · Northlake Park · Nelson Park · Mueller Park · Lincoln Park · Scovill Gardens Park and Zoo · Red Tail Run Golf Course · South Shores Park · Cannon Park · Big Creek Park & Riding Stables · Spitler Woods State Park

Stevens Creek Bike Trail · Fairview Park / Rock Spring Trail · Lincoln Park Trail