



# THE MCHENRY COUNTY **connection**

**A PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE, AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN**

McHenry County Council of Mayors

**03.17.2022**



***“The McHenry County Connection aspires to establish a regional active transportation network that will build community equity, provide access for all pedestrians and cyclist, and support commuting, recreation, and tourism.”***

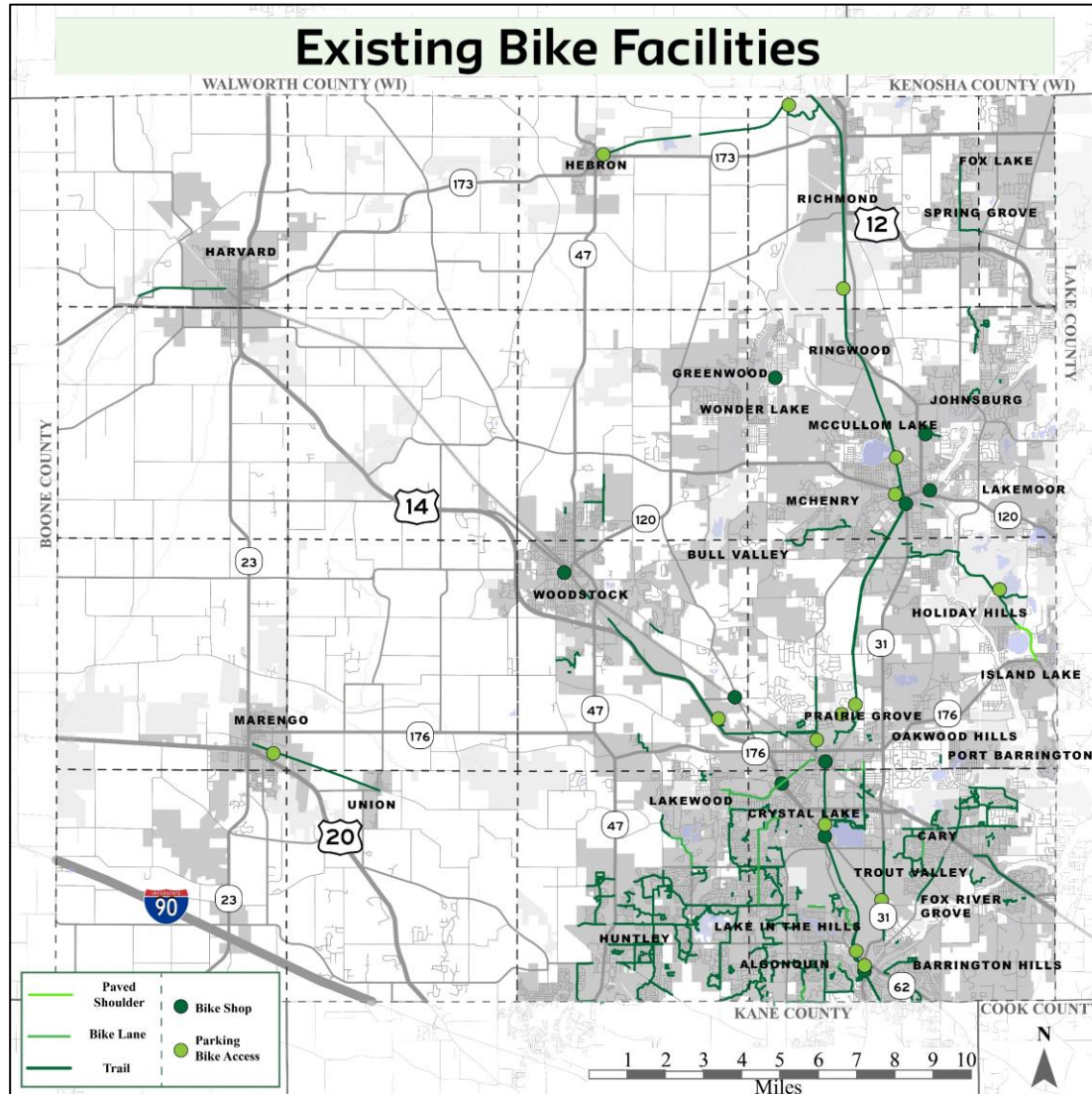


# PROJECT GOALS

- Building the **COMMUNITY & EQUITY** around the multi-modal, transportation system.  
**PEOPLE**
- Increasing **CONNECTIVITY & SAFETY** throughout communities and neighborhoods.  
**ROUTES**
- Promoting the **ECONOMY & TOURISM** of the natural and built environment.  
**WAYFINDING**
- Improving **HEALTH & EDUCATION** of users and groups of all ages and abilities.  
**PROGRAMMING**
- Embracing **SUSTAINABILITY & DESIGN** on future implementation projects.  
**FACILITIES**
- Simplifying **MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE** of system assets.  
**OPERATIONS**



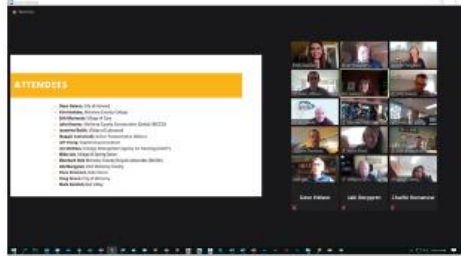
# FRAMEWORK: EXISTING



- **11 miles** of on-road facilities
- **404 miles** of off-road facilities (doesn't include facilities in parks/conservation areas)
- **487 miles** of roadways with sidewalks on both sides; **160 miles** of roadways with sidewalks on one side
- **10** bike shops
- **14** parking lots providing bike access



# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Advisory Committee Meeting #1 Screenshot

## Meeting #1 November 16, 2020

Discussion focused on introducing the project, providing information concerning existing conditions, and eliciting feedback on the engagement process and potential visions, goals, and branding. Input provided helped establish the project's vision and goals which guided the remainder of the planning process.



Advisory Committee Meeting #2 Screenshot

## Meeting #2 January 22, 2021

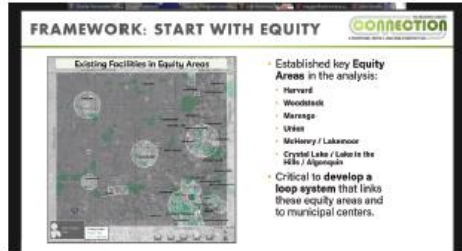
Discussion focused on sharing conclusions drawn from the previous Advisory Committee meeting, results of public outreach conducted thus far, and sharing a draft presentation of the upcoming public meeting. Input on issues and ideas was gathered.



Advisory Committee Meeting #3 Screenshot

## Meeting #3 May 4, 2021

Discussion focused on the recommended facilities, connections between downtown centers and populations, the plan's vision, and potential routes. The Advisory Committee members provided feedback and minor modifications to incorporate into an updated presentation for the second public meeting.



Advisory Committee Meeting #4 Screenshot

## Meeting #4 October 15, 2021

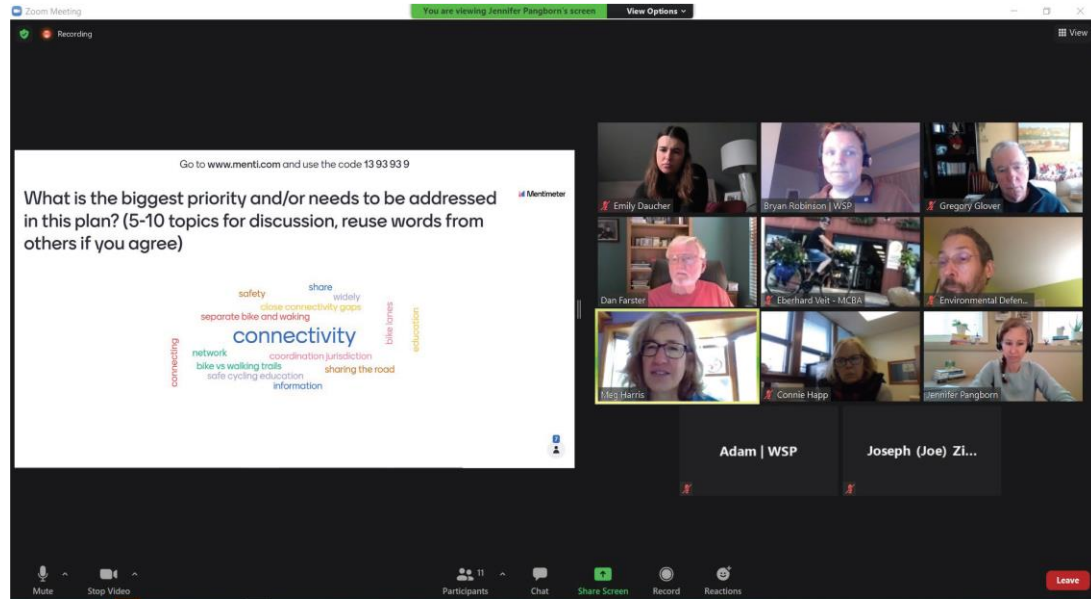
Discussion focused on final plan wrap and consensus and helping to identify any countywide priorities. The previous public engagement and refinement to the recommendations were shared. Priorities were ranked to identify in the final plan section for next steps.

Four Advisory Committee meetings were convened with members from:

- Active Transportation Alliance
- City of Harvard
- City of McHenry
- CMAP
- Consultant
- Heartland Realtor Organization
- McHenry County Bicycle Advocates
- McHenry County College
- McHenry County Conservation District
- McHenry County Department of Public Health
- McHenry County Planning & Development
- McHenry County Division of Transportation
- Northwestern Medicine
- Ride Illinois
- Village of Bull Valley
- Village of Cary
- Village of Johnsburg
- Village of Lakewood
- Village of Spring Grove
- Visit McHenry County



# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: FOCUS GROUPS



The project team met in small groups with representatives from different groups and cities around the County. Discussion topics varied from group to group but included formulating and prioritizing recommendations and considering partnering on future projects.

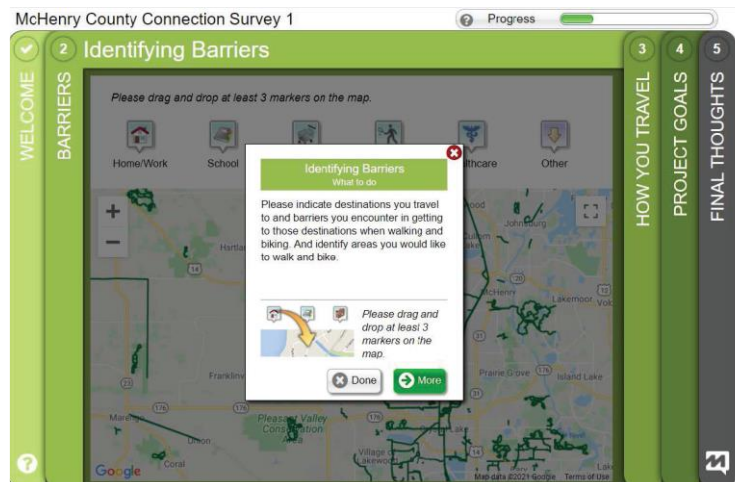
- MCDOT (12/14/2020)
- McHenry County Bicycle Club/
- McHenry County Environmental Defenders/
- McHenry County Bicycle Advocates (12/18/2020)
- City of Harvard (5/3/2021)
- City of Marengo (5/3/2021)
- City of McHenry
- Village of Johnsburg/
- Village of Ringwood (5/3/2021)
- Village of Spring Grove (5/7/2021)
- Village of Wonder Lake (5/7/2021)
- City of Crystal Lake/
- Village of Lake in the Hills (6/1/2021)
- Village of Algonquin/
- Village of Huntley (6/1/2021)
- IDOT (8/6/2021)
- Village of Bull Valley (8/6/2021)
- McHenry Conservation District



# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: MEETINGS & SURVEYS

- **Public Surveys**

- The first survey was available from January 2021 to February 2021. The survey received 721 visitors with 290 people participating in the survey.
- The second survey was available in June 2021. An interactive map was provided showing preliminary biking and walking facility recommendations. The survey received 1,229 visitors with 519 people participating.
- The third and final survey was available from October 2021 to November 2021. The survey received 298 respondents.

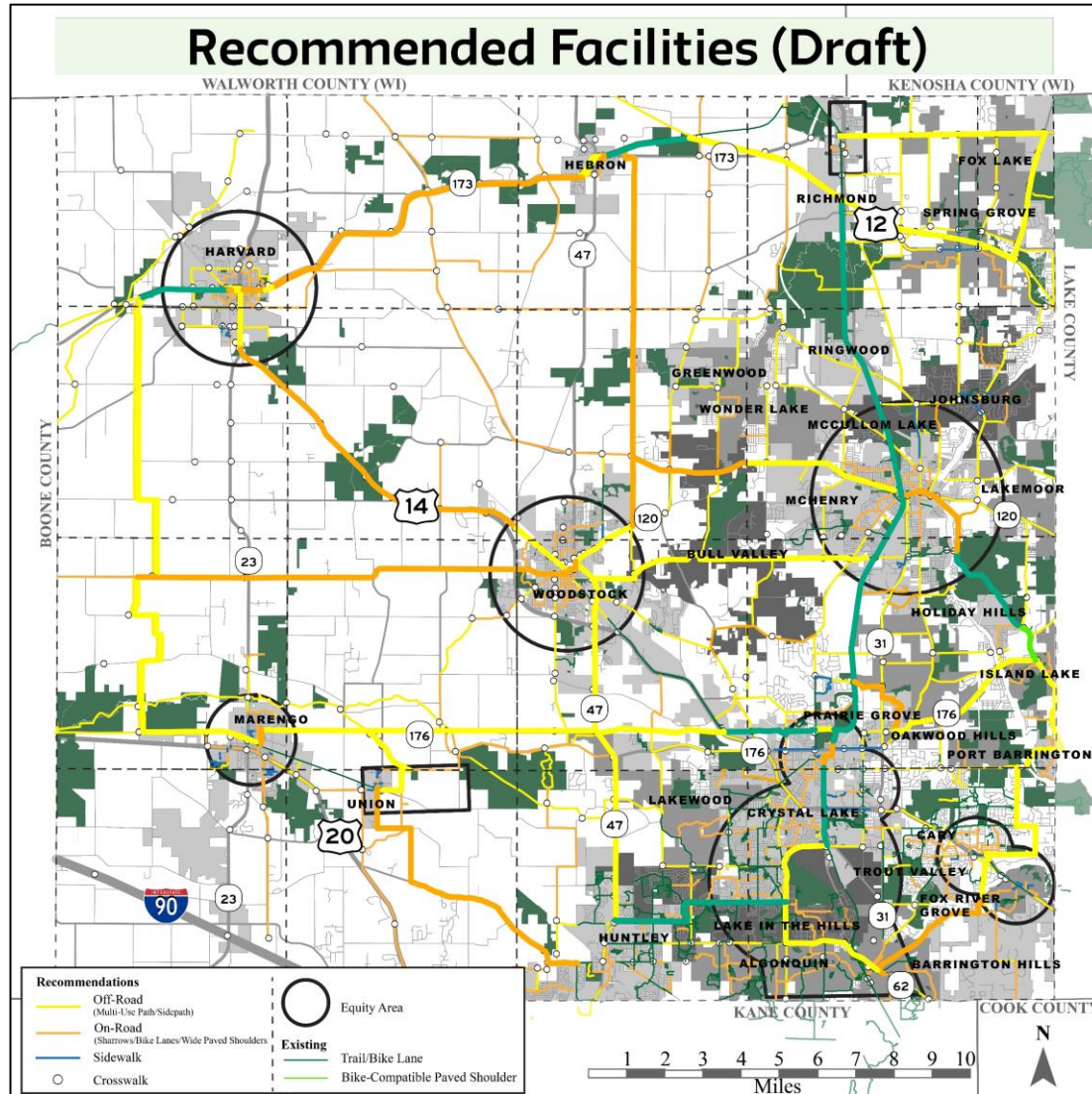


- **Public Meetings**

- Two virtual public meetings were conducted during the project to collect input from attendees and provide insight on the goals, issues, ideas, and recommendations:
- The first virtual public meeting took place on January 27, 2021. The subject matter of the meeting focused on providing the draft goals and existing conditions, sharing public engagement tools, and eliciting feedback concerning attendee's biking and walking habits. More than 80 people were in attendance.
- The second virtual public meeting took place on May 12, 2021. The project team presented results of outreach conducted thus far, including stakeholder's preferences by facility type.



# FRAMEWORK: FACILITIES MAP



- Built around the **vision of the “Loop”** preferred by the community; with a focus on linking municipal centers.
- Developed **primary, secondary, and tertiary** connections.
- Priority facilities connect **high-demand locations** across McHenry County.
- Established **typologies** that can apply to both on-road and off-road
- Focused on **linking to “equity” areas** as identified through the analysis for funding potential.



# FRAMEWORK: TYPOLOGIES

## ✓ **Urbanized Corridor**

- ✓ UC-I-A (Type A: Typical Buffered)
- ✓ UC-I-B (Type B: Typical Separated)
- ✓ UC-2 (Typical)

## ✓ **Neighborhood Corridor**

- ✓ NC (Typical)

## ✓ **Multi-Use Path**

- ✓ MP (Typical)

## ✓ **Rural Corridor**

- ✓ RC-A (Type A: Typical On-Road)
- ✓ RC-B (Type B: Typical Off-Road)

## ✓ **Rail With Trail**

- ✓ RWT (Typical)

## ✓ **Rural Trail**

- ✓ RT (Typical)

## ✓ **Urbanized Crossing**

- ✓ UC (Typical)

## ✓ **Rural Crossing**

- ✓ UC (Typical)



# TYPOLOGIES: CROSSINGS

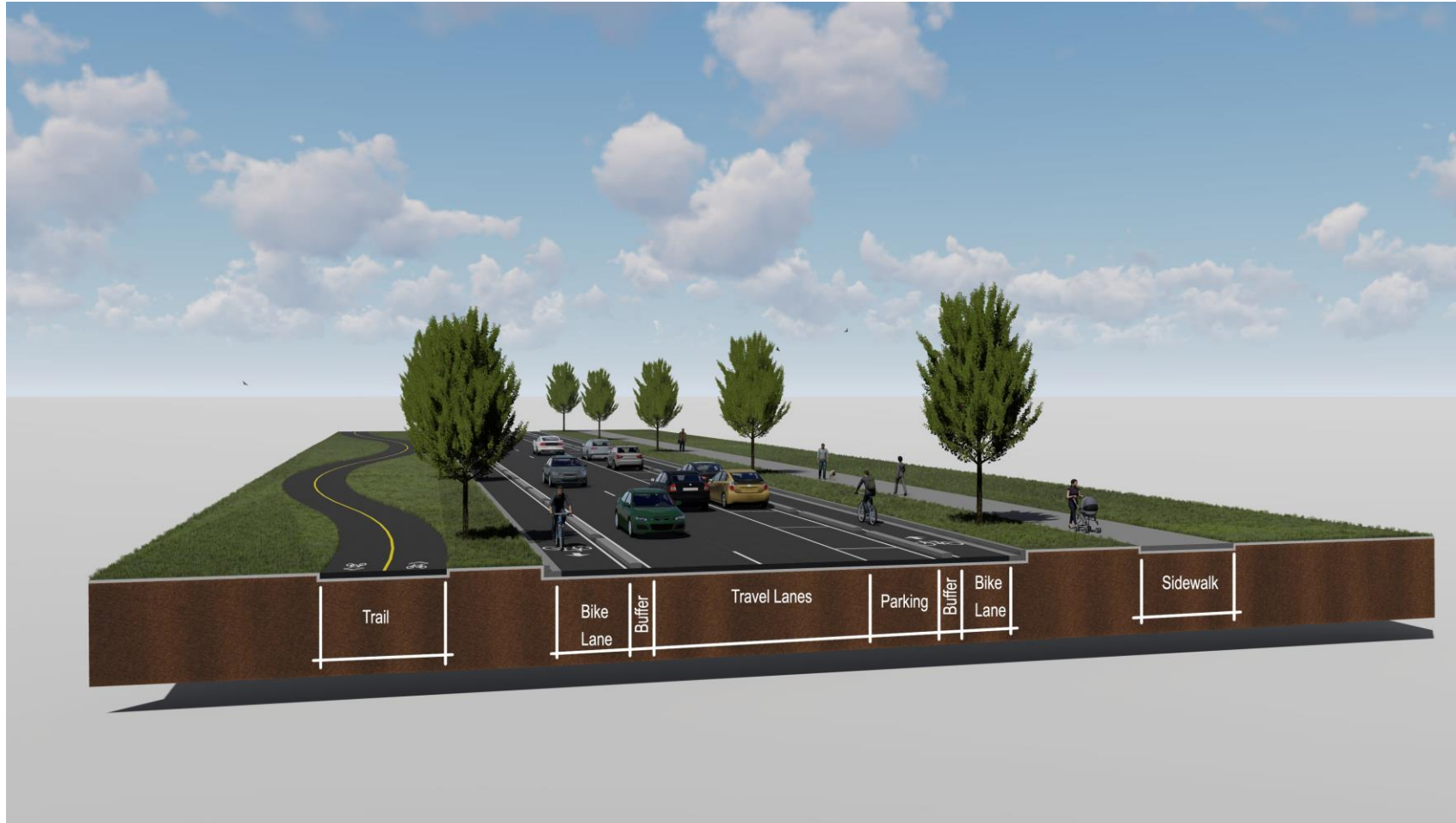
## ✓ Urbanized Corridor Type I (UC-I-A) – Typical Buffered





# TYPOLOGIES: CROSSINGS

## ✓ Urbanized Corridor Type I (UC-I-B) – Typical Separated





# TYPOLOGIES: CROSSINGS

## ✓ Urbanized Corridor Type I (UC-I-B) – Typical Separated





# TYPOLOGIES: CROSSINGS

## ✓ Neighborhood Corridor (NC) – Typical





# TYPOLOGIES: CROSSINGS

## ✓ Multi-Use Path (MP) – Typical





# TYPOLOGIES: CROSSINGS

## ✓ Rural Corridor (RC-A) – Typical On-Road





# TYPOLOGIES: CROSSINGS

## ✓ Rural Corridor (RC-B) – Typical Off-Road





# TYPOLOGIES: CROSSINGS

## ✓ Rail with Trail (RWT) – Typical





# TYPOLOGIES: CROSSINGS

## ✓ Rural Trail (RT) – Typical





# TYPOLOGIES: CROSSINGS

## ✓ Urbanized Crossing (UC) – Typical





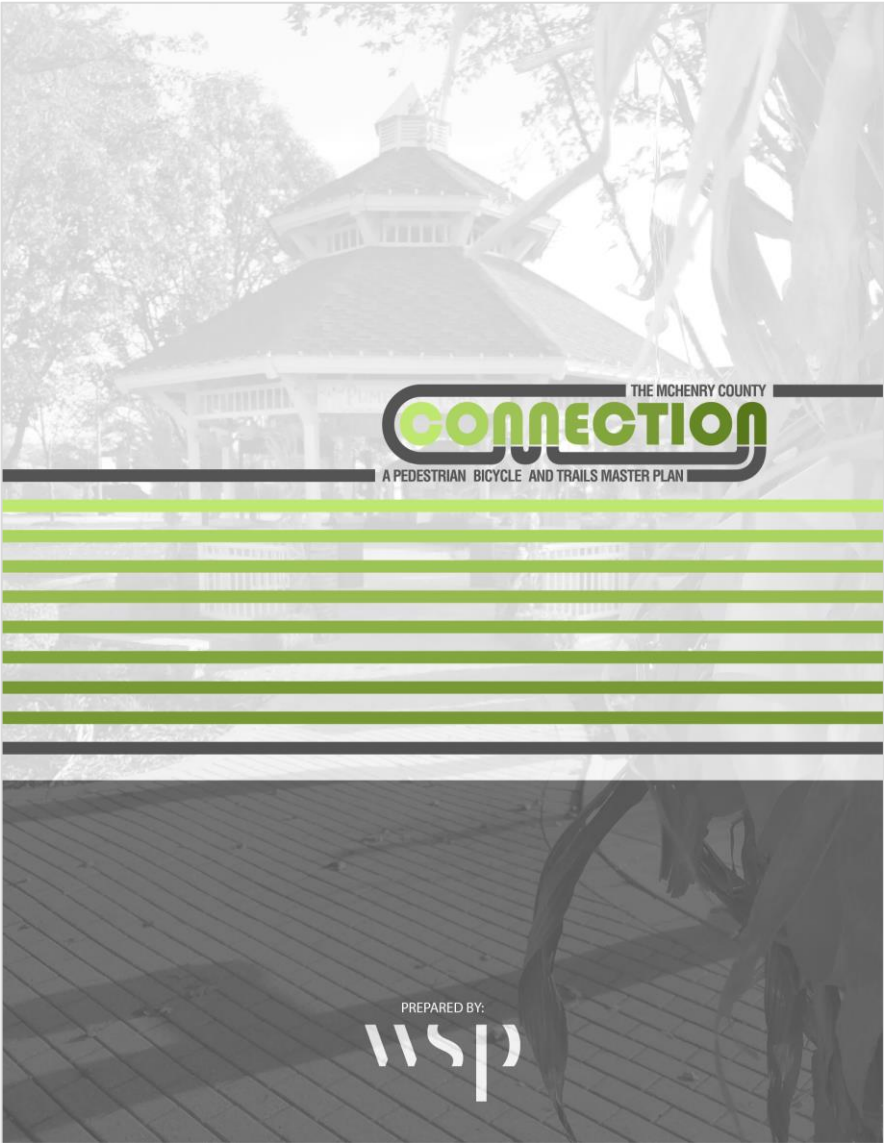
# TYPOLOGIES: CROSSINGS

## ✓ Urbanized Crossing (UC) – Typical





# SUPPORTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS



## 0.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Proposed urban corridor with on-street separated bike facilities, sidewalks, and separated trail facilities.

### Overview

The McHenry County Connection Pedestrian, Bicycle and Trails Master Plan provides a framework for improving biking and walking infrastructure in McHenry County. Through a thorough analysis of existing conditions and datasets and inclusion of stakeholders throughout the planning process, a comprehensive set of infrastructure, policy and maintenance recommendations were developed to set a path for McHenry County and its partners in pursuit of improving biking and walking conditions for all roadway users. A visioning and goal-setting exercise was undertaken early in the process with the public and the project’s advisory committee providing a basis for which further analysis and recommendation concepts were developed while assuring the Plan meets the County and stakeholder’s needs.



Name

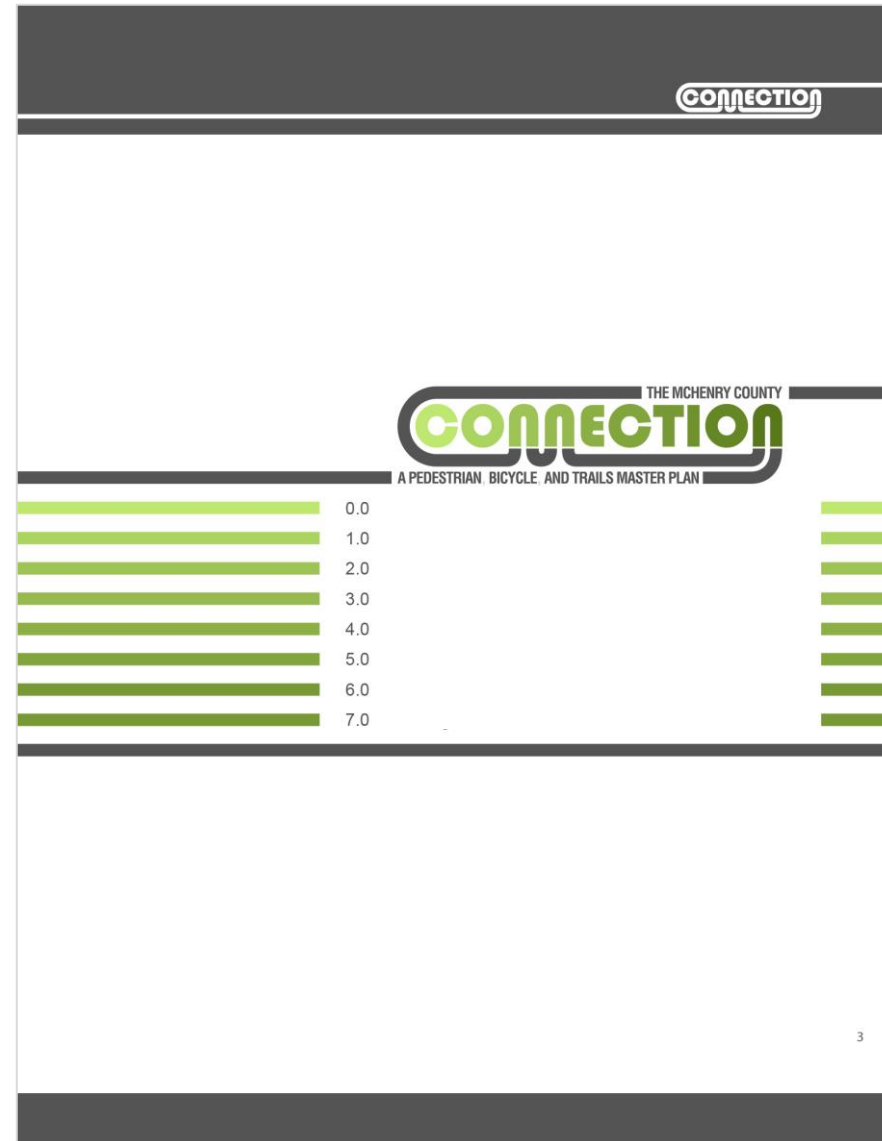


Name



# SUPPORTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ 0.0 Executive Summary
- ✓ 1.0 Introduction + Existing Conditions
- ✓ 2.0 Vision + Goals
- ✓ 3.0 Master Plan Framework
- ✓ 4.0 Facilities + Sustainability
- ✓ 5.0 Programming + Wayfinding
- ✓ 6.0 Management + Maintenance
- ✓ 7.0 Implementation Steps





# SUPPORTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS: FOCUS ON EQUITY





# SUPPORTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS: FOCUS ON EQUITY





# SUPPORTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

## Programming + Wayfinding (Design Guidance / Strategies)

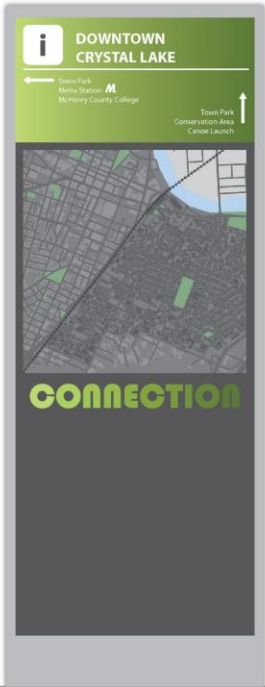
- ✓ Lighting
- ✓ Seating
- ✓ Bicycle Parking / Corrals
- ✓ Programming
- ✓ Wayfinding Signage





# SUPPORTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

## Informational Signage



## Decision Signage



## Locational Signage





# SUPPORTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

## Management + Maintenance

### (Design Guidance / Strategies)

- ✓ Determine where is best for Complete Streets Policies.
- ✓ Work to incorporate essential elements into local codes.
- ✓ Adopt a bicycle parking ordinance in supportive communities.
- ✓ Maintain open dialogue with County and Municipalities about maintenance.
- ✓ Establish implementation committee to foster on-going progress.
- ✓ Work with local non-profits, advocacy organizations, economic development organization, and conservation district.
- ✓ Develop a snowplow prioritization plan
- ✓ Consider an “adopt a trail” program to support implementation
- ✓ Prepare wayfinding and signage plan for the network
- ✓ Identify opportunities for partnership on green infrastructure projects
- ✓ Support educational programs focused on biking and walking
- ✓ Develop maintenance plan for bicycle facilities and sidewalks



# SUPPORTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

## Implementation Steps

- ✓ Further coordination MCDOT
- ✓ Partner with agencies (such as McHenry County Conservation District) to implement recommendations
- ✓ McHenry County Councils of Mayors to adopt plan
- ✓ Coordinate with IDOT on all on-going and future projects
- ✓ Develop Complete Streets Policy to support implementation







**THANK YOU!**