

**Rockford Area Transportation Study (RATS) Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan
Community Leader Survey**

Background Information

Significant changes in land use development patterns are occurring in the Rockford-Belvidere area. Recently, citizen expectations for an improved quality of life, including a desire for healthy and environmentally friendly opportunities to walk and to bicycle, have created the need for a pedestrian/bicycle plan to help meet the present and future needs of the communities.

The Rockford Area Transportation Study (RATS) has initiated an effort to update the bicycle and pedestrian elements of the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

In order to develop this plan, RATS is conducting a survey of community leaders throughout the Rockford Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). We seek your cooperation in our efforts to get your opinion concerning bicycle and pedestrians facilities in your community.

Demographics

1) Are you an appointed or an elected official?

Appointed Elected

2) What is your jurisdiction?

Pedestrian Facilities

1) Sidewalks can encourage walking within a community by providing a connective network of routes between local destinations and other modes of transportation. Please rate the importance of the following criteria by which your community should consider the construction of sidewalks: (5=Very important and 1=Not important)

	Not Important		Neutral		Very Important
	1	2	3	4	5
a) Proximity to Schools	<input type="checkbox"/>				
b) Proximity to Major Employers	<input type="checkbox"/>				
c) Proximity to Commercial Centers	<input type="checkbox"/>				
d) Proximity to Transit Routes	<input type="checkbox"/>				
e) High Neighborhood Population Density	<input type="checkbox"/>				
f) Proximity to Parks, Forest Preserves, and Conservation Districts	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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In addition, please RANK the above six criteria from 6 to 1 with 6 being the criterion most important to you.

6. _____
5. _____
4. _____
3. _____
2. _____
1. _____

- 2) Do you feel that sidewalks should be placed on both sides of the streets in all new developments with 2 or more units per acre?

Yes No

- 3) Do you feel that street furniture (i.e. lighting, benches, and landscaping) is present adequately in your community that would encourage you to walk?

Do Not Agree Agree Strongly Agree
1 2 3 4 5

- 4) Are there places within your community where residents feel they are unable to walk due to the lack of sidewalks?

Yes No

- 5) Are your community's schools adequately served by the sidewalk network?

Do Not Agree Agree Strongly Agree
1 2 3 4 5

- 6) Are your community's commercial and retail centers adequately served by the sidewalk network?

Do Not Agree Agree Strongly Agree
1 2 3 4 5

Bicycle Facilities

- 1) According to the RATS Long Range Transportation Plan, bicycle systems help to encourage healthy lifestyles, as well as being a reliable means of transportation for the young, old, low-income, and disadvantaged residents of the metropolitan planning area.
 - a) Would you be willing to support initiatives to better serve the transportation needs and choices of these groups?
 Yes No

 - 2) Are there places within your community where residents feel they are unable to bike due to the lack of facilities?
 Yes No

 - 3) Would you be willing to support the construction of new on-road bicycle facilities (i.e. bike lanes and signed bike routes)?
 Yes No

Off-road bicycle paths?
 Yes No
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Funding

- 1) Is money set aside within your jurisdiction's budget for pedestrian improvements?
 Yes No

For bicycle improvements? Yes No
 - a) If yes, do you feel that the money adequately provides for pedestrian facilities?
 Yes No

For bicycle improvements? Yes No

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b) If not, should your jurisdiction set aside money for pedestrian improvements?

Yes No

For bicycle facilities? Yes No

Policy

1) a) Do you believe transportation choices, such as bicycling and walking, should be provided by the local governments to meet the needs of the community?

Yes No

b) If yes, should new pedestrian and bicycle facilities be provided?

Yes No

Should existing roadways be retrofitted to add bike lanes on streets with adequate width?

Yes No

2) Should your local government promote bicycling and walking as transportation choices to improve public health and the overall quality of life within the community?

Yes No

The Rockford Area Transportation Study Long Range Plan encourages the following objectives:

- All new developments with densities of 2 or more units per acre to have a pedestrian system, preferably sidewalks on both sides of the street.
- Programs to add and repair sidewalks.
- Sidewalk and street connection that meet the Americans with Disabilities Act standards.
- Corridor Studies that promote pedestrian sidewalks and bicycle paths.
- The overall development and implementation of the Regional Bikeway and Pedestrian Plan.

Do you believe that your community should:

2) Support “complete streets” measures that would require all new or reconstructed roadways to accommodate bicycles and pedestrians, unless an exception is granted?

Yes No

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- 3) Develop new guides and standards for pedestrians and bicyclists?
 Yes No
- 4) Prepare local land use plans and regulations that encourage *pedestrian* oriented development?
 Yes No
- 5) Prepare local land use plans and regulations that encourage *bicycle* oriented development?
 Yes No
- 6) Support education programs to encourage the use of pedestrian and bicycle facilities in your community?
 Yes No

The results of this survey will be compiled and included in the RATS Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan. On September 16, 2006, RATS will be hosting a morning bike ride and an afternoon workshop to discuss these results and to gather input on the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan. If you are interested in attending:

Please RSVP to Leslie Kirchler, T.Y. Lin International, at 773-792-9000 or lkirchler@tylin.com by September 14, 2006.

General comments: