
MEMORANDUM

To: Greg Hannan, Community Development Director
From: Emily Fernandez, Community Project Planner
CC: Nick Sugar, City Planner; Brad Kosco, City Engineer; Thom Sheridan, City Manager
Date: December 4, 2023
Subject: Sidewalk & Trail Master Plan 2025-2029: Scope of Work

Background

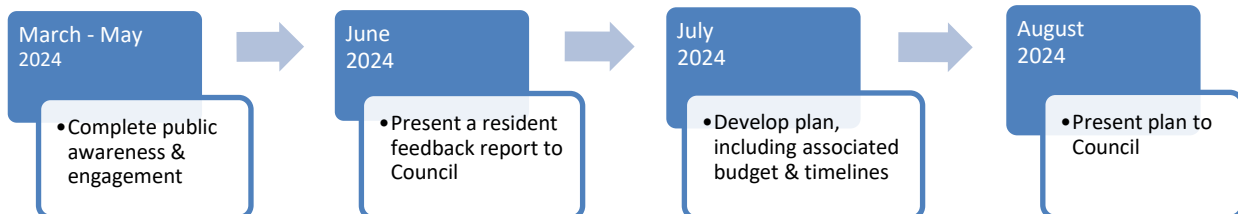
The Sidewalk & Trail Master Plan represents the continued effort to provide safe and practical community-wide non-vehicular connectivity in the City of Hudson.

The current 2021-2025 plan was developed from June to October of 2020. Public engagement included individual ward sessions, a website landing page, an online survey, farmers market engagement, and periodic updates to City Council and other City Boards. A resident feedback report was presented in August 2020 and the final plan was presented in October 2020.

The 2021-2025 plan was largely focused on sidewalk connectivity with significant progress on sidewalks completed or underway. The next update will continue to research additional segments with a focus on arterial and collector streets. The plan could be an opportunity to expand the scope and develop a similar strategy for trails and overall connectivity enhancements such as wayfinding.

Proposed Scope of Work

Staff proposes the following scope of work that would be completed from Spring through Summer 2024, with a draft plan anticipated in Summer 2024.



Public Awareness & Engagement

Generate Awareness: Staff would update the previous project webpage and make the public aware of the planning effort through various City media channels (Facebook, e-news, etc) before commencing public engagement.

Complete Engagement: Staff would complete various public engagement activities which could include:

- ***Ward Meetings:*** These would be initial conversations in order to gather high-level feedback about areas to explore. A virtual format was used in 2020 due to Covid concerns. The virtual format could be used again because it is accessible and generally allows higher attendance.
- ***Farmers Markets:*** Staff to attend multiple markets throughout the summer to generate awareness and seek public input through various mapping activities.
- ***Bike & Brainstorm:*** Staff, Council, and/or Mayor could collectively lead a bike ride discussion. Focus on bike paths.
- ***Walk & Talks:*** Staff, Council, and/or Mayor could collectively lead walking discussions.

Create Resident Feedback Report: Staff to compile engagement input and present summary of findings to Council.

Plan Development

Staff to develop the plan based on Council and resident feedback. Key elements could include:

Critical Connections: Staff requesting Council input on connections that would be critical in the update. Considerations:

- Connections between key amenities like downtown, schools, parks, or sidewalk connectors between neighborhoods
- Review of multi-purpose paths within the city and to regional destinations including CVNP along Hines Hill and/or Boston Mills
- Considerations for additional key corridors including Ravenna St, Barlow Rd, or Stow Rd
- Goals for Veterans Trail and review of downtown routing

Priority Rankings: Staff to develop a scoring method to rank all segments by priority based on key factors including input from the community engagement process. The following is the scoring used in the previous plan update (see attachment *Sidewalk & Trail Master Plan 2021-2025*).

Item	Description	Segments WT. Value
1	Connects a neighborhood to a school	Yes = 15, No = 0
2	Links multiple existing or funded connections	Yes = 10, No = 0
3	Connects to a Park	Yes = 10, No = 0
4	Connects to a Regional Trail	Yes = 10, No = 0
5	Top 5 Resident Feedback Report Survey	Yes = 10, No = 0
6	High Speed; ≥ 35 MPH	Yes = 10 No = 0
7	High Traffic; > 5,000 Average Daily Traffic	Yes = 10 No = 0
8	Intersecting Neighborhood Streets	2 points per street

The method could be reused or revised as needed. The final plan would include the priority rankings of the identified segments. In July 2023, Council discussed multiple items which will be tracked for possible revision to the scoring (prioritizing higher speed roads, reducing emphasis for connection within subdivisions, prioritizing connections for resident use versus within business parks, etc).

Budget & Timeframe: Priority segments would be assigned to targeted years for Design and Construction, along with an estimated budget for each. The budget estimates would be developed by Engineering staff.

Plan Enhancements

In addition to items above, staff could incorporate the following elements with public input:

Wayfinding: Within the plan, map suggested navigation routes and identify key locations to be considered for signage. Staff anticipates completing wayfinding designs in 2024 focused on the downtown district. Public input from the Sidewalk & Trail Master Plan could help inform the wayfinding work. Examples of signage to support connectivity:



Bike Friendly Community Designation: The League of American Bicyclists offers a Bike Friendly Community designation for cities that meet certain requirements related to bike infrastructure, education, and safety. The 2016 Leadership Hudson class made ‘Pedal Hudson’ its class project and completed a Bike Friendly application on behalf of the City. The effort resulted in a Bronze level award in 2016 but Hudson’s status has since expired. Bike Friendly designation is a way to formally recognize the City’s efforts toward bike infrastructure, bike education, and bike safety. Similar to awards like ‘Tree City’, the designation can be a source of pride for current residents and a notable perk for potential new residents or businesses.



The plan could note an intent for Hudson to become recertified as Bike Friendly and the public engagement effort could be captured in an application to seek Bike Friendly designation again. The application deadline of June 2024 aligns with the Sidewalk & Trail Master Plan timeline.

Discussion

Staff is requesting Council feedback to assist with the plan update including:

- Suggestions for public engagement activities
- Considerations of priority rankings and critical connections
- Considerations for Bike Friendly Community application