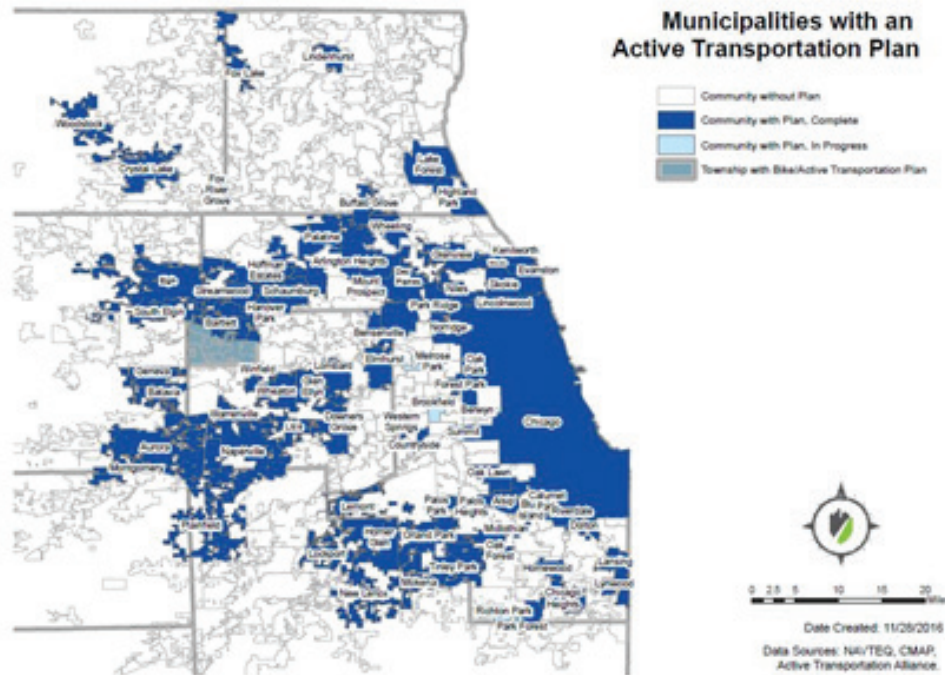


CASE STUDY: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANS

Policy Goal

In recognition of the importance of improving safety and community health, an **Active Transportation Plan will be created** to map out improved options for biking, walking, and transit in the community. Development of the plan should include a health and equity review, crash and safety analysis, and framework for implementation.



What are Active Transportation Plans?

An Active Transportation Plan is a comprehensive set of strategies to ensure better options for biking, walking, and transit. Active Transportation Plans include recommendations for prioritizing infrastructure improvements, and outline recommendations for new policies, processes and infrastructure based on public and stakeholder input.

Why are Active Transportation Plans important?

Active Transportation Plans, Bike Plans and Walk Plans are imperative for moving communities towards improved conditions for biking, walking and public transit. Plans are typically tailored for a specific municipality and they require research and analysis of existing biking and walking facilities and conditions in that community. They also include recommendations for improving and expanding the current network based on extensive research.

Active Transportation Plans are usually written by professional transportation planners. However, a Steering Committee, which includes city/village staff from various agencies, is involved in overseeing the process. Local residents are essential in shaping the process and can get involved through public meetings, surveys, and direct input to city/village staff.

Active Transportation Planning Resources

Active Transportation Plan Index <http://atpolicy.org/active-transportation-plans>

- Visit the Active Transportation Alliance policy website to find a list of and links to Active Transportation Plans developed by the Active Transportation Alliance’s planning consultancy.

Get Involved in your Community's Active Transportation Plan

- Learn more about how the Active Transportation Plan process works through this brochure. There are lots of different ways for individual community members to get involved before, during, and after the planning process is completed.

Case Study: Bensenville

Background

The Village of Bensenville in DuPage County is a diverse community located in Chicago's Northwest Suburbs close to O'Hare International Airport. The community's 2016 Active Transportation Plan is a strong example of how transportation planning can help support public health goals.

A 2011 survey showed that almost 20% of Bensenville adults were getting no leisure-time activity. In addition, only 22% of tenth graders surveyed in 2014 were meeting physical activity recommendations of 60 minutes per day.

Out of the need to promote healthier lifestyle options came B-Well Bensenville, a diverse coalition including the Bensenville Park District, Chamber of Commerce, Police Department, Community & Economic Development Department, and the Village Manager's office.

In 2013, American Planning Association and the American Public Health Association announced a new grant initiative focused on the incorporation of public health into local policy and the built environment. Because the robust coalition was already in place, the group was ready to take advantage of the opportunity to address Bensenville's active transportation needs.

Creating the Plan

With grant support in hand, Bensenville contracted with Active Transportation Alliance to develop their Active Transportation Plan and the team got to work.

A Steering Committee was established for the plan which included Village staff, B-Well Bensenville, DuPage County, and the Bensenville Chamber of Commerce. The committee helped to develop goals for the plan, engage the community, and review the research and recommendations made by the consulting team.

Next came public engagement, which included public meetings and surveys. In an example of creative outreach, the project team worked with the Village to include a survey in every resident's water bill. Outreach also included hosting a table at a weekly farmer's market and at the Village's Annual Walk-a-thon, where hundreds of additional residents were reached. In the end, the consulting team gathered over 100 responses in both English and Spanish.

The consulting team used the guidance from the Steering Committee and feedback from the community to help shape their analysis. Their research included an overview of existing conditions, including analyses of health and demographic data, to help determine barriers and opportunities to biking, walking and transit.



This information, along with data related to bicycle crashes, existing and planned bike infrastructure, roadway jurisdiction, average daily traffic and regional transportation plans, contributed to the overall network recommendation map. The final plan, 114 pages long, was reviewed by the Steering Committee and approved by the Village Board.

Bensenville went on to adopt a Complete Streets Policy and is currently busy planning for specific trail and bike lane improvements to create the connected network as outlined in the plan.

Lessons Learned

- Coalitions can create a space for public and community stakeholders to cultivate new relationships and lay the ground work for collaboration.
- Developing an Active Transportation Plan as a public health strategy opens the door to new partnerships and funding opportunities.
- Creative outreach activities and multiple avenues for participation strengthens community input and buy-in.
- Identifying and supporting internal champions is critical to ensuring progress and follow through on implementation.