



TO: VICTOR CARDENAS, CITY MANAGER
THRU: BARBARA MCBETH, AICP, CITY PLANNER
FROM: LINDSAY BELL, AICP, SENIOR PLANNER
JAMES HILL, PLANNER
SUBJECT: 2023 ACTIVE MOBILITY PLAN
DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2024

MEMORANDUM

Mayor and Council –

Please see the update on progress made with revisions to the Active Mobility Plan, formerly referred to as the Non-Motorized Master Plan.

- Victor

Encouraging health through active lifestyles has been a focus for the City of Novi for many years. The Non-Motorized Master Plan adopted in 2011 served as a foundation for the past 12 years for providing an interconnected and comprehensive system of pathways, sidewalks, and other facilities. The implementation of that plan was tracked annually, and the prioritization of new investments in missing segments was built on that foundation. Many of the strategies recommended were implemented throughout the years, with a total of 16.25 miles of trails/sidewalks completed between 2011 and 2022 by public and private funding in Novi.

Recognizing the success of the 2011 plan and the realization that standards continue to adapt to new technologies and awareness, the City Council contracted with The Greenway Collaborative in November 2022 to produce a comprehensive update to the Non-Motorized Plan. That process kicked off in December of 2022, and continued through 2023.

Work on the latest update to the **new plan, now referred to as the Active Mobility Plan (AMP)**, is near completion. Drafts of the Plan were reviewed by the staff Technical Advisory Committee and the Walkable Novi Committee. At the Walkable Novi Committee's December meeting, the members gave comments and offered some feedback. The consultants have reviewed all of staff's initial comments and the committee's comments and addressed those in the latest draft. The draft Active Mobility Plan, the **Executive Summary and the Active Mobility Network Map can be found at <https://walkbike.info/novi/>**.

The Active Mobility Plan is organized into different focus areas. The Near-Term Network is a set of projects within public areas, requiring minimal road changes, aimed at creating a continuous network for reaching key destinations and trails in the city. It emphasizes walking and cycling using existing facilities, and consists of three main components:

1. Neighborhood Greenway Network: A seamless walking and biking route with added features for a better experience.

2. Connecting to Transit: Making it safe and easy for pedestrians and cyclists to reach the new transit stops in the city.
3. Improved Access to Shopping and Dining: Creating a friendly environment that lets people easily walk or bike to businesses from the street or sidewalk.

The Regional Trail Network component aims to connect Novi to the broader network of existing infrastructure in surrounding communities, potentially creating a 30-mile loop. These connections include creating a trail link across the I-96 interchange at Beck Road, closing sidepath gaps along 12 Mile Road and West Park Drive to Pontiac Trail, and collaborating with Walled Lake to connect to the Michigan Air Line Trail. Additionally, coordination with Maybury State Park and support for connections to Northville are emphasized. Such connections would provide not only an attractive amenity for Novi residents but also an opportunity for economic development, health and wellness, and alternative transportation benefits.

The Major Corridor Classifications serve as a framework for applying current best practices to enhance safety and promote bicycle and pedestrian mobility. These classifications should be consulted when a road is undergoing reconstruction or widening to ensure that all road users are taken into account in the design of improvements, which will result in a more efficient investment than if projects are implemented separately.

While the Active Mobility Plan provides the long-term vision for the network in Novi, individual projects would need to be designed and evaluated for costs of investment as they are proposed. The AMP includes a section on current resources for design best practices for various facilities, as well as funding strategies such as grant programs. Both seasonal and scheduled maintenance tasks are also provided in the plan.

The draft documents have been posted online at <https://walkbike.info/novi/> for public review since January 18. A feedback form was included to receive comments up until the public hearing was held at the Planning Commission meeting on February 7.

The public comments received, in addition to how they could be addressed or how they have already been addressed by the draft plan, were summarized, and shared with the Planning Commission and are attached to this memo. Minor revisions to the plan have been made since the Planning Commission meeting in response to some comments.

The plan was presented before the Planning Commission on February 7 by the consultants and was well received by Planning Commission members and audience members in attendance. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended to the

City Council that the 2023 Active Mobility Report be adopted. The Planning Commission's draft minutes are attached to this memo.

The Active Mobility Plan will be presented to the City Council for review and adoption at an upcoming meeting.

Please feel free to contact staff if you have any questions on this matter.