



Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

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MDOT Active Transportation Plan – Northeast Steering Committee
June 28, 2023 at 10 am

Meeting Notes

Meeting Attendees:

Nico Tucker (NEMCOG), Denise Cline (NEMCOG), Jackie Bondar (Oscoda County), Pam Kirchoff (Alpena County Parks and Recreation), Christopher Martin (Baldwin Township), Steve Defour (Oscoda County Road Commission), Kelli Stockwell (City of Onaway), Wayne Koppa (Crawford County), Fred Lewis (Plainfield Township), Charles Wiltse (Ogemaw County), Kim Awrey (City of Gaylord), Gus Oliver (Tawas City), Nathan Skibbe (Charter Township of Alpena), Michelle Knepp (Oscoda County), Montiel Birmingham (City of Alpena), Greg Kinser (DNR), Dean Martin (Mackinaw City), and Mary Catherine Hannah (Alpena County).

Project Overview:

Nico Tucker gave an overview of the project. The MDOT North Region Active Transportation Plan covers 21 counties in Northern Michigan. NEMCOG is working with Networks Northwest and MDOT to collaboratively develop the North Region Active Transportation Plan. The goal of this plan is to highlight major gaps in the nonmotorized transportation network in the North Region so they can be filled during future projects to enhance connectivity and mobility across a system for all users. Each region is working with a steering committee to develop their own portion of the North Region Plan. The North Region MDOT Active Transportation Committee (which met last month) is overseeing the entire project (some members of this committee are also on that committee).

Tasks:

Trail Inventory: NEMCOG has been working to update the trail inventory throughout the region. They will be preparing county-level maps for the steering committee to review. These maps will also be used to engage stakeholders to provide insight into local conditions and challenges.

Steering Committee Purpose: The purpose of the steering committee is to review and correct the inventory, assist with county-level stakeholder engagement meetings, identify needed future projects, and to review goals and strategies to include in the plan.

Once both regions are finished with their portions of the plan, Networks Northwest will transmit their information and data to NEMCOG, and NEMCOG will assemble the final plan.

Alcona * Alpena * Cheboygan * Crawford * Emmet * Montmorency * Oscoda * Otsego * Presque Isle

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Schedule: The Northeast Active Transportation Steering Committee will meet every other month. Nathan Skibbe suggested holding a meeting in July (mid to end of the month) to give the group a chance to review existing plans and the inventory maps. Nico will set a meeting at the end of July.

Intersection of Active Transportation Plan and Recreations Plans: Mary Catherine Hannah asked how the plan will relate to the recreation planning that is happening in the communities. Denise Cline stated that the plan will overlap in the trails category and that we will make sure that the non-motorized goals and projects in the MDOT plan will also appear in the community recreation plan. In addition, Nico spoke to the fact that some of the goals and project will also overlap with the Alpena Area Transportation Study.

It was noted that, while the focus of the plan is connecting the overall non-motorized system as it relates to transportation, NEMCOG recognizes that some of the input and strategies will likely be related to individual trail systems. These types of strategies will be included in the plan since they are part of the interconnected network (even if they only serve as a destination point).

Point Person per County: The Committee discussed designating a point person in each county to be the contact as NEMCOG works toward scheduling the county-level public input meetings. NEMCOG is making a list of points of contact.

Public Input Meetings: The public input meetings will be held in the evening and refreshments will be provided. The purpose of the meetings will be to allow the public to review the non-motorized maps in their county and to allow them to mark the maps up with ideas and to give input on issues. NEMCOG is planning to hold these meetings in August and September.

Online Survey: After the public input meetings, NEMCOG will create a survey to be put out across the region for the public to provide feedback on specific issues and projects that were brought up in the public input sessions.

Plan Development: The development of the strategies and the plan itself will take place in the next fiscal year (after October 1).

Meeting adjourned at 10:40.

Link to our Active Transportation Page where we will post information:

<http://www.discovernortheastmichigan.org/northregionplan.asp>

Link to recent example of Active Transportation Plan:

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/-/media/Project/Websites/MDOT/Travel/Safety/Road-User/Bicycling/Planning/Non-motorized-Regional-Plans/Superior-Region-Nonmotorized-Plan.pdf?rev=1d81e4b01f494080a5902df9e641e21c&hash=AEB4F4EFAC28BE44322418197C9F4C96>

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