

**Rockford Area Transportation Study (RATS) Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan  
Township Highway Commissioner Survey**

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**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 township highway commissioners 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.

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**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"/>				

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

- 6. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 1. \_\_\_\_\_

## Township Highway Commissioner Survey

- 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 (lots with less than 22, 000 square feet)?

Yes       No

### *Operation and Maintenance*

- 3) Is your township responsible for the maintenance of existing sidewalks?

Yes  No

- 4) Does your township have a policy that requires snow removal on sidewalks by property owners?

Yes  No

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### **Bicycle Facilities**

- 1) According to the RATS Long Range Transportation Plan, bicycle systems help to encourage a healthy lifestyle, 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) a) Would you be willing to support the construction of new off-road bicycle paths in your township?  Yes  No

b) On-road bicycle facilities (i.e. bike lanes and signed routes)?  Yes  No

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### **Funding**

- 1) a) Does your township dedicate transportation funds to rebuild and construct new sidewalks?

Yes  No

b) If so, what is the annual amount of transportation funds spent on sidewalk construction? \$\_\_\_\_\_per year

What is the source of this funding?  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 2) Does your township dedicate transportation funds to bicycle improvements?

Yes  No

Township Highway Commissioner Survey

b) If so, what is the annual amount of transportation funds spent on bicycle improvements?      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year

What is the source of this funding?

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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.*

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General Comments: