

City of Fulton, Hickman & Fulton County Pedestrian & Bicycle Plan

Introduction

Purchase District Health Department received a small grant to work with one of their communities to develop a community pedestrian plan. This initial grant was intended to engage community members in Fulton and Hickman, Kentucky as well as in the county, to identify priorities for creating a safe and attractive walking and biking environment for people of all ages and abilities. A Walkability Checklist, endorsed by the Federal Highway Administration and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, was done for both towns for potential sidewalk areas and both yielded a score of 11-15, indicating a need for “a lot of work”. A steering committee with representation from both towns and county was formed in February 2015.

Process

On 2-23-15 a steering committee of 9 diverse stake holders met for the first time: city and county officials, members of different agencies in the county, a school superintendent, pastor, transit executive director, and Chamber of Commerce executive director. Possible locations for sidewalks and bike path areas were discussed. A subcommittee was formed to obtain photos for high need pedestrian/bike paths. On March 2nd, 2015 the steering committee reconvened to develop a Pedestrian and Bicyclist Plan Survey for a better understanding of the levels of walking and cycling of residents in their towns and county and also develop a mission statement. The steering committee sent three representatives to the State Transportation training for Pedestrian Plan on March 10, 2015. May 21st, 2015 the subcommittee met and went to the different locations and took pictures of different possible areas and then at our next planning meeting, presented the possible locations. June 8th, 2015 the Steering Committee Members decided on three locations, as well as, finalized the Pedestrian and Bicyclist Plan Survey. The three locations identified as highest needs were:

1. Sidewalk need in Hickman: on 7th street from the corner of Moscow Ave. to the corner of Valley Rd.
2. Sidewalk need in Fulton: on MLK/307 starting on Mears St. to Thedford St. at Dollar General
3. Fulton County on-road bicycle facility: 94/Moscow Ave. starting at Allison Ave. to St. Rt. 1129

It was important to the steering committee to have citizen input to determine:

- modes of transportation used during the past year, determine the prevalence, frequency, and distance of walking and bicycling
- explore the reasons for not walking or bicycling
- Gather recommendations for increasing the ease of walking or bicycling

The steering committee decided to use two modes of presenting this Pedestrian and Bicyclist Plan Survey. One way was to distribute e-mail lists through Survey Monkey and the other way was to hand out paper surveys, in the areas of the recommended sites. Surveys were distributed in housing authority areas, public health departments in towns, and organized bike ride, and a Back to School event. Generally, feedback received from the surveys indicated strong public support for the proposed project.

- Out of 225 surveys, only 43.5% indicated they walked 15 minutes or more.
- Out of those 225 responses, 48.0% indicated their community was difficult to walk in.
- 31.0% indicated there was no safe place to walk.
- 72.3% indicated it was difficult to walk in their community because there were no sidewalks.
- 63.5% indicated they would like to bicycle more.
- When asked what changes would you recommend be made in your community to make it easier for you to walk/bike more, they ranked: improve bike trails and improve existing sidewalks 1st, create new sidewalks 2nd, and create new bike lanes 3rd.

Purpose & Need

The purpose of the proposed City of Fulton/Hickman and Fulton County Pedestrian Plan was to develop bike/walking pathways that benefit the population of Fulton County, including both Fulton and Hickman, to encourage physical exercise, insuring the safety of the population, and promote tourism. The need is expressed through unsafe walking conditions in both towns as well as lack of bicycle facilities for safe bicycling. Citizens are either forced to walk on the streets, gravel, grass, or else call transit to take them a short distance which would be doable to walk if infrastructure were provided. Placing a sidewalk in both identified sites and also replacing the deficient sidewalk in Hickman would certainly help in addressing safety issues and reduce pedestrian risks. Each time a pedestrian crosses a street there is a potential conflict with traffic. A striped crosswalk would need to be placed on MLK/307 at Thedford St. in Fulton, to allow the pedestrians to cross over to the Dollar General Store. In Fulton County on 94, according to the Strava app, there are many bicyclists that travel this route which have no markings or signage for bicyclists. To encourage active and healthy lifestyle by improving transportation options such as marked bike paths allow people to bike safely.

Existing Conditions

A review of existing plans identified deficient sidewalks where in both locations; a sidewalk was started then stopped and not continued.

- In Hickman there is a sidewalk replacement need as well as a need of additional sidewalk. It is located on 7th street starting at Moscow Ave. to the corner of Valley Rd.

This area is heavily used by pedestrians that would provide walk ability to the only town's grocery store, EW James & Sons, C & A Bar & Grill, a renovated building that is being used as a gym, and Field Petroleum. It would also connect to other businesses, City Hall, bank, convenience store, clinic and pharmacy, as well as churches, and residential area. The deficient sidewalk that is in place now is broken, chipped, disintegrating and in one place the sidewalk is absent.

- In Fulton the sidewalk need is located on MLK/307 St. starting at Mears St. to Thedford St. This sidewalk will connect the 350 residents of the Housing Authority and the residents of east Fulton to the downtown area which has many local shops, city hall, the post office, the electric company, library, banks, pharmacy, restaurants and our downtown grocery store. Many of Fulton's activities throughout the year such as festivals and other events are held in their 4 parks downtown. Not only would this sidewalk connect them to downtown but this sidewalk will go from the housing authority past one of the downtown parks, a barbeque business, gas station, storage facility, and a Dollar General Store where many of them go for groceries also.
- In Fulton County on 94/Moscow Ave. starting at Allison Ave. to St. Rt. 1129 there is no on-road bicycle facility marked even though it is a heavily bicycled route according to the Strava Map. This road is also heavily traveled by cars and trucks.

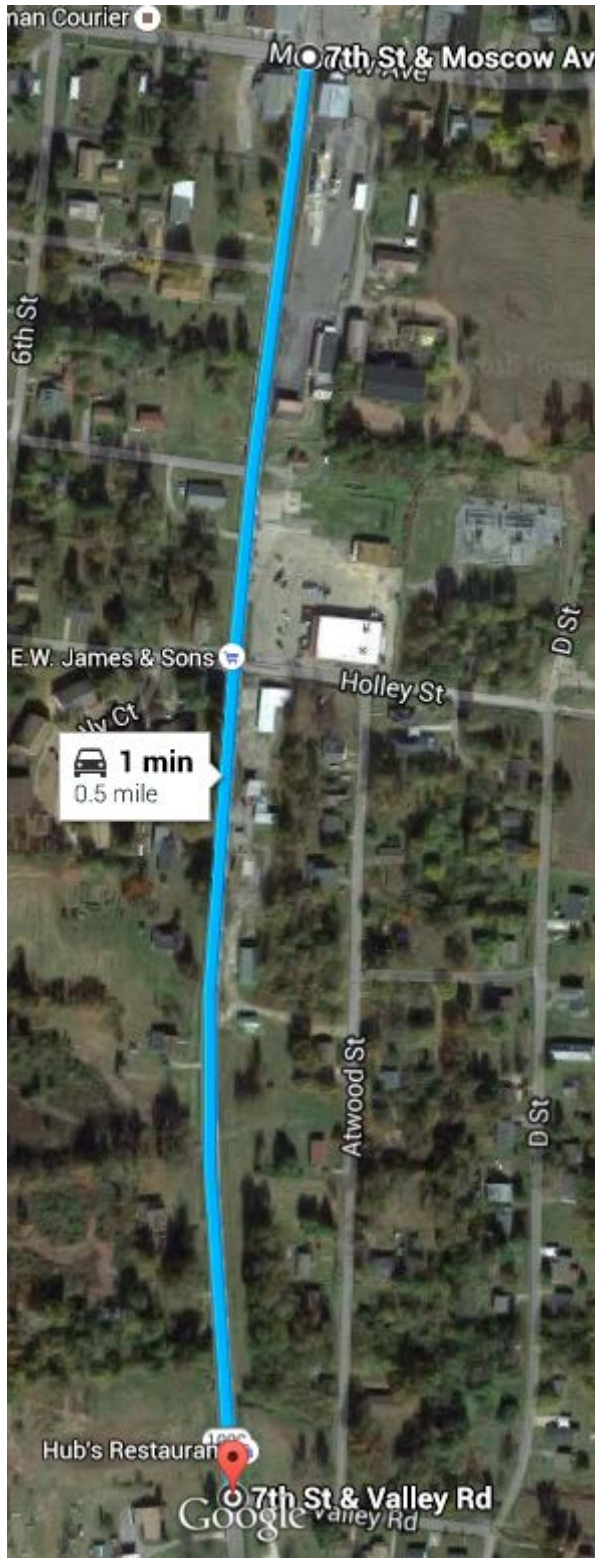
Residents expressed their preferences in the Pedestrian and Bicyclist Plan Survey by showing 54.4% responded their community was difficult to walk in; 74.1% responded having no sidewalks made it difficult to walk; 83.6% responded there was no marked bike trail that they could access in Fulton County. When asked if they would like to bicycle more 67.3% responded yes. 145 people took the survey.

Recommendations

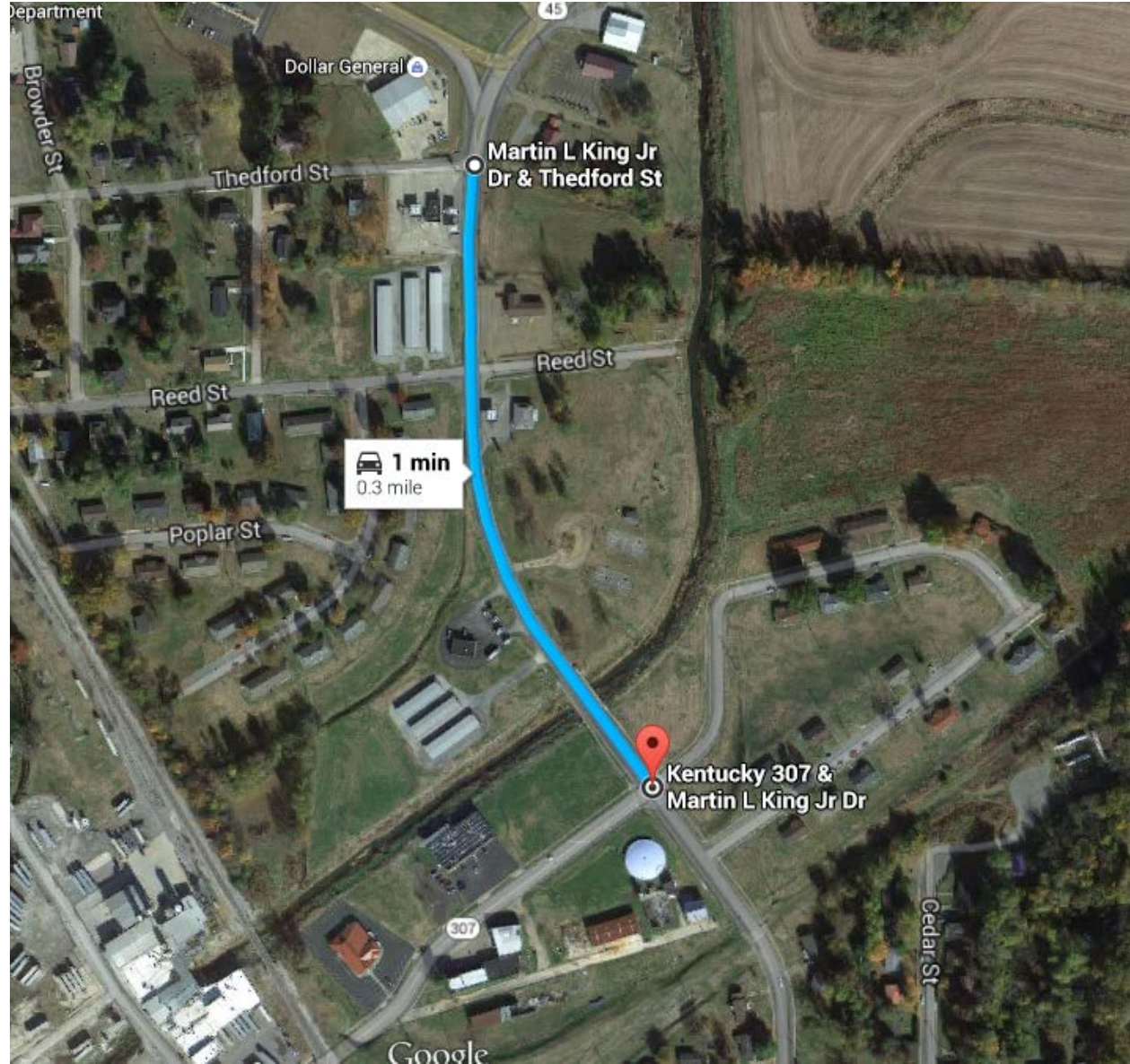
In light of consideration of the planning group's consensus, city officials and local input through surveys, the planning group recommends two sidewalks, one striped crosswalk, and one on-road bicycle facility. There should be no cost accrued to either city or county. The following summary outlines the list of projects for this Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan.

1. In Fulton construct a sidewalk 0.3 miles on MLK/307 St. starting at Mears St. to Thedford to connect to existing sidewalk that was incomplete. Put a striped crosswalk at Thedford St to cross MLK/307 road to allow safe pedestrian access to the Dollar General.
2. In Hickman replace a deficient deteriorating sidewalk plus construct an additional sidewalk where it is incomplete 0.5 miles, located on 7th street starting at Moscow Ave. to the corner of Valley Rd.
3. In Fulton County to achieve an acceptable bicycle lane accessible to town, an on-road bicycle facility 3.9 miles needs to be constructed along with signage.

Sidewalk needed in Hickman:



Sidewalk needed in Fulton with Striped Crosswalk:



On-Road Bicycle Facility needed in Fulton County:

