

Schweiter Bikeway – Phase I Overview

06/18/2015

Contents

Project Goals.....	1
Description	1
Transportation Improvements	2
Trip Origins and Destinations	2
Percentage of a community, region, or state population benefits, access.....	2
Funding.....	2
Background.....	3
Project Contacts	4

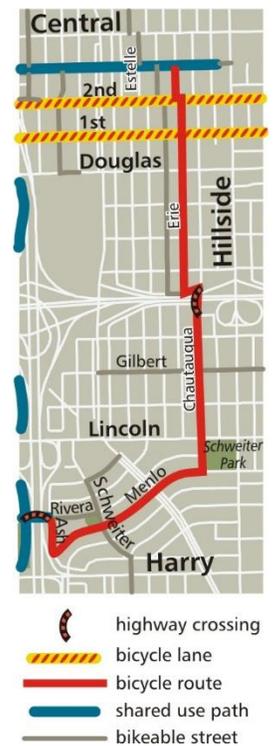
Project Goals

- Increase the safety of all street users
- Provide a north-south bikeway connection to existing bicycle facilities and existing pedestrian bridges over major freeways
- Improve major roadway crossings for people bicycling and people walking
- Implement the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan

Description

Phase I of the Schweiter Bikeway consists of installing a 2.5 mile long bikeway of shared lane markings and crossing improvements from at the intersection of the pedestrian bridge over I-135 near Ash and Rivera, and continuing north to the Third Street path at Third Street and Volutsia. There will be almost no changes to on-street parking as a result of this project.

Shared Lane Markings (a.k.a. sharrows) are pavement marking symbols that indicate an appropriate bicycle positioning in a shared travel lane. They are carefully placed to guide bicyclists to the



best place to ride on the road, avoid car doors and remind drivers to share the road with cyclists. Unlike bicycle lanes, sharrows do not designate a particular part of the street for the exclusive use of bicyclists. They are simply a marking to guide bicyclists to the best place to ride and help communicate to motorists that they should expect bicyclists on the roadway.

Benefits for Motorists:

- Sharrows serve as a reminder that you should expect to see bicyclists on the street.

Benefits for Bicyclists:

- Sharrows serve as a guide, indicating where it is recommended that you ride, which streets and how to position yourself on the roadway. It is recommended that you ride directly over the sharrow symbol.

Transportation Improvements

As part of the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan recommended Bicycle Network, the Schweiter Bikeway will connect existing bikeways and provide access for portions of southeast Wichita. Below is a listing of destinations along the project corridors.

Trip Origins and Destinations

Employment Centers

Along the entire length of the bikeway (from WSU to the Schweiter Neighborhood and I-135 Path) the bikeway will provide access from residential areas to employment centers. Approximately 857 places of employment with approximately 14,530 employees are located within 0.5 miles of the proposed bikeway.

Entertainment and Cultural Destinations

The new bikeway will provide access to many Wichita entertainment and cultural destinations including the Douglas Design District, Rivera Park, and Schweiter Park.

Residential Neighborhoods/Districts

This project will provide access to The Elm, Uptown, East Front, Sunnyside, Schweiter East, and Schweiter neighborhoods.

Wichita Transit Bus Routes

The Schweiter Bikeway will provide access to Wichita Transit Bus Routes, including #13 East Lincoln and #4 College Hill.

Percentage of a community, region, or state population benefits, access

According to the 2010 Census, 105,944 people reside in the 107 Census block groups within 1.5 miles of the proposed bikeway corridor (from WSU to the Schweiter Neighborhood and I-135 Path). This accounts for 28 percent of the City population (382,368).

Funding

- The proposed City of Wichita Capital Improvement Program plans for investing approximately \$413 million in arterial roadways, bridges, and freeways from 2015-2024.
- It costs approximately \$5 million to construct a new five lane arterial roadway.
- The majority (approximately 70%) of the Schweiter Bikeway construction funding is from the Federal Transportation Alternatives Program, administered by the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and programmed in the WAMPO 2014 Transportation Improvement Program. The City of Wichita funded approximately 30% of the project construction costs, with General Fund dollars from the Bike Enhancements Projects line item in the Wichita Capital Improvement Program 2011-2020. The total cost of the project construction is approximately \$100,000.

Background

On **February 5, 2013**, the Wichita City Council unanimously endorsed the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan as a guide for future planning and decision making regarding public infrastructure investments, operations, and policies. The Wichita Bicycle Master Plan recommends the development of bicycle facilities along Green Street, Volusia Avenue, Chautauqua Avenue, 15th Street, and 18th Street as part of the Bicycle Network, 10-Year Priority Bicycle Network, and the Top 10 Recommended Priority On-Street and Side Path Bicycle Facilities. The planning process for the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan lasted more than two (2) years, and included more than 50 public meetings and events. More than 4,000 people were engaged in the planning process. The planning process included presentations to multiple neighborhood associations and other organizations; and multiple outreach efforts. More information about the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan can be found on the City of Wichita [web page](#).

On **April 16, 2013**, the Wichita City Council approved a memorandum of agreement with the Wichita Health and Wellness Coalition to undertake multiple bicycle and pedestrian related projects. The agreement identified how the \$687,220 of CDC Community Transformation Grant – Small Communities funding from the Health and Wellness Coalition and the \$66,012 of City funding would be utilized. One of the projects included in the agreement was for design work for multiple bicycle facilities, including the bicycle facilities along Green Street, Volusia Avenue, Chautauqua Avenue, 15th Street, and 18th Street.

On **June 4, 2013**, the City of Wichita was awarded federal Transportation Enhancement funding from KDOT for the construction of multiple bicycle facility projects, including the Green Street, Volusia Avenue, Chautauqua Avenue, 15th Street, and 18th Street bicycle facilities.

On **August 6, 2013**, the Wichita City Council approved the contracts for the development of designs for multiple bicycle facilities, including those on Green Street, Volusia Avenue, Chautauqua Avenue, 15th Street, and 18th Street.

On **September 17, 2013**, the Wichita City Council approved the revised budget, adopted the amending resolution, and authorized the necessary signatures to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds for the design and construction of multiple bicycle facility projects, including those on Green Street, Volusia Avenue, Chautauqua Avenue, 15th Street, and 18th Street. The City funding of \$500,000 for bicycle projects was included in the Bike Enhancements line item within the [2011-2020 Adopted Capital Improvement Program](#).

On **August 4, 2014**, the Schweiter Bikeway designs were presented at an Open House for the public and to the District I Advisory Board. The open house was held at the Atwater Neighborhood City Hall (2755 E 19th Street, Wichita, Kansas 67214). Notices about the open house were hand delivered by City staff to each of the properties adjacent to the proposed Schweiter Bikeway Phase I route. Due to budget constraints, staff recommended that the Schweiter project be divided into multiple phases. The displays at the August 4th Open House were for Phase I – from the I-135 Path to the 3rd Street Path.

On **August 4, 2014**, the Schweiter Bikeway Phase I designs were presented to the District Advisory Board I at their regularly scheduled meeting. Members of the public and District I officials commented on the proposed project and the designs. One of the recommendations was to have the bikeway travel south from East Rivera St. and Ash St. along Ash St. to Melno St, then travel east on Menlo St.

On **August 19, 2014**, the Wichita City Council approved the supplemental design agreement for \$33,200 to develop construction level designs, and \$154,452 of construction funding to construct the Schweiter Bikeway Phase I project (referred to as the Green St. from WSU to I-135 Path Connection).

On **January 16, 2015**, the City of Wichita closed bids for the Schweiter Bikeway Phase I project ([Solicitation FB440247](#)).

In **early May 2015**, construction started on the project. City staff anticipate that construction will be completed by June 2015.

On June 18, 2015, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held. Mayor Longwell and Council Member Williams were featured speakers. Approximately 100 people participated in the event.

Project Contacts

If you have any questions or would like additional information about the project designs, please contact Paul Gunzelman at (316) 268-4393, or via email at pgunzelman@wichita.gov.

If you have any questions about the Wichita Bicycle Master Plan please contact Scott Wadle at (316)352-4855, or via email at swadle@wichita.gov.