

Executive Summary

Introduction	1-1
Document Organization	1-2

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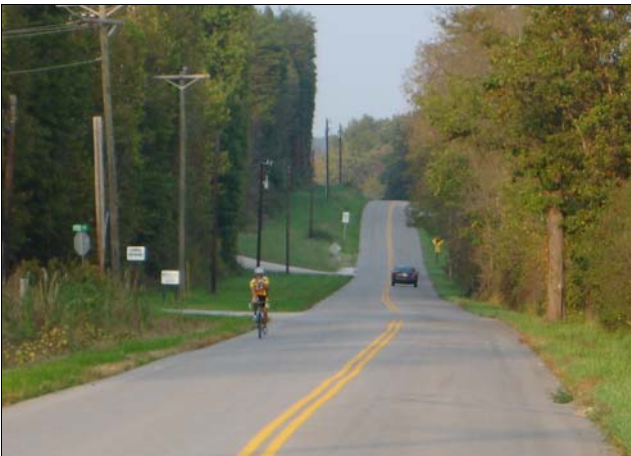
INTRODUCTION

Building upon the success of the *City of Bloomington Alternative Transportation & Greenways System Plan* completed in 2001, the Monroe County Plan Commission initiated a *Monroe County Alternative Transportation & Greenways System Plan* in 2005. The creation and outcome of this plan are intended to aid in the:

- Reduction of vehicular trips,
- Expansion of recreational opportunities,
- Protection of environmentally sensitive corridors, and
- Connection among existing or proposed area facilities.

Alternative transportation is defined as modes of travel other than private automobiles, including but not limited to walking, bicycling, and horseback riding.

The *Monroe County Alternative Transportation & Greenways System Plan* is a vision document. Like the *Bloomington Alternative Transportation & Greenways System Plan*, it is intended that this plan be adopted and used in daily and long-term decision-making by County officials and staff. The alternative transportation and greenways vision articulated in this document is the basis for the plan concepts, goals and objectives, opportunities, and priority strategies. This vision and subsequent supporting recommendations from this plan should be widely promoted, with a long-term goal of making alternative transportation a way of life for many Monroe County residents. This plan also provides a foundation and reference for funding applications, such as the Transportation Enhancement program through Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT). This plan is designed to be flexible and allow changes and modifications when situations change. This plan should be reviewed and updated regularly in order to remain relevant and effective.



Alternative transportation is defined as modes of travel other than private automobiles, such as walking or biking. Photo courtesy Storrow Kinsella Associates.

DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

This document is organized into five sections, including this “Executive Summary” section. Section 2, “Context & Framework” describes the *Alternative Transportation & Greenways System Plan* planning process along with the Monroe County demographic, physical, and economic conditions. Section 3, “System Plan” articulates the benefits of alternative transportation and prefaces the plan recommendations. The plan recommendations begin with three overarching plan concepts, the plan vision statement, and nine goals with supporting objectives, and conclude with the identification of four distinctive alternative transportation and greenway opportunity classifications and design guidelines for recommended facilities within each of these identified classifications. Section 4, “Action Steps” outlines recommended strategies to implement this plan. This implementation includes five strategic approaches to alternative transportation system development, a recommended plan and alternative transportation system management structure with suggested policies and tasks, potential partnerships, and possible project funding sources. Section 5, “Appendix” contains supporting documentation collected and created throughout the planning process.

This plan identifies the opportunities to create a comprehensive alternative transportation network in Monroe County. The overall intent of this plan is to state the County’s alternative transportation vision, define specific goals and measurable objectives to achieve this vision, document the alternative transportation possibilities and opportunities (conceptually, physically, and organizationally), and then outline a framework for project decision-making.

Monroe County Alternative Transportation & Greenways System Plan Vision Statement

The Monroe County alternative transportation network should be an integrated, multi-modal system that provides diverse and effective alternatives to the private automobile for all Monroe County residents and visitors.

Ultimately, the outcomes of this planning process are anticipated to further enhance the County's image, promote healthier lifestyles for citizens, expand tourism opportunities, advance the local economy, provide additional transportation and recreation options, and enhance Monroe County's quality of life. It is with this direction and intentions in mind, that this plan was developed over an eight-month process.

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