



To: Edina Transportation Commission

Agenda Item #: VI. D. v.

From: Wayne D. Houle, PE, Director of Engineering

Action

Discussion

Date: December 20, 2012

Information

Subject: Communications Committee – Draft City of Edina Pedestrian and Bicycling Policy Statement

Action Requested:

No action requested.

Information / Background:

The Communications Committee requested distribution to the ETC of the attached items for discussion at the ETC meeting.

Attachments:

Memo from ETC Communication Committee to ETC
Draft City of Edina Pedestrian and Bicycling Policy Statement

From: ETC Communications Committee

To: ETC

Re: Draft City of Edina Pedestrian and Bicycling Policy Statement

Situation

New bike facilities have highlighted the need to communicate effectively with residents about these facilities. Sidewalk projects demonstrate the same need.

The ETC Communications Committee has met to discuss approaches to improve communication with the public regarding non-motorized transportation. The committee identified a need for an accessible policy statement in support of non-motorized transportation facilities.

The committee developed the attached draft Pedestrian and Bicycling Policy Statement in response to this need.

Background

Non-motorized transportation facilities are supported in the City of Edina 2008 Comprehensive Plan. Supportive statements are found in Chapter 4: Land Use; Chapter 7: Transportation; Chapter 9: Parks, Open Space, and Natural Resources; and Chapter 11: Community Services and Facilities.

Although the Comprehensive Plan was developed with public input and is available online for reference, it is not an effective tool for communicating the City's non-motorized transportation priorities because of its length and fact that statements in support of non-motorized transportation are spread throughout multiple chapters.

The communications committee determined that a clear and accessible policy statement in support of these facilities will aid communication with residents and improve residents' understanding of the City's non-motorized transportation priorities.

Analysis

Relationship to Comprehensive Plan

The City of Edina 2008 Comprehensive Plan sets policies, goals, and principles related to non-motorized transportation that provide the basis for the attached Pedestrian and Bicycling Policy Statement.

Relationship to Living Streets Policy

The City Council directed the ETC to pursue a Living Streets Policy and Implementation Plan in May 2011. Although good progress has been made, it is anticipated that a completed policy and implementation plan may still be 18-24 months away. The attached Pedestrian and Bicycling

Policy Statement can help to guide pedestrian and bicycling policy/plan development and support decisions to recommend and implement pedestrian and bicycle improvements as part of capital improvement projects.

Relationship to PACS funding

The City Council recently instituted gas and electricity customer franchise fees. The revenue from these fees will be accounted for in a new Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety (PACS) fund and dedicated to pedestrian and bicycling improvements. The Pedestrian and Bicyclist Policy Statement provides policy support for the establishment and use of this fund.

The first project related to this fund will be to prioritize sidewalk and bicycle facility projects. The attached sidewalk and bicycle facilities maps should be further refined to aid planning and prioritization. The Pedestrian and Bicyclist Policy Statement provides policy support for these efforts.

Recommendation

Discuss attached draft Policy Statement and provide comment. If so desired, forward to the City Council for comment and approval.

Attachments

DRAFT Pedestrian and Bicycling Policy Statement
Sidewalk map (December 2011)
Bicycle facilities map (November 2012)

City of Edina Pedestrian and Bicycling Policy Statement (DRAFT)

Purpose

The City of Edina is providing this Policy Statement to reflect the City's support for the development and maintenance of a fully integrated multi-modal transportation system in Edina.

Multi-modal transportation networks foster safer, more livable, family-friendly communities; enhance the value of adjacent land uses; and promote economic vitality. Pedestrian and bicycling networks increase the value of transit investments and provide local connections to the regional non-motorized transportation system. Pedestrian and bicycling networks encourage active living; increase civic space and encourage human interaction; and contribute to a reduction in energy consumption, motor vehicle emissions, and wear and tear on local roads.

Authority

The City of Edina's 2008 Comprehensive Plan sets policies, goals, and principles related to non-motorized transportation that provide the basis for this Policy Statement.

Policy Statement

Transportation is essential to quality of life. Walking and bicycling provide necessary transportation for those who cannot drive due to age, ability, or income level. For those who have a choice, walking and bicycling provide efficient transportation for local trips and can be combined with transit to significantly increase trip distance. The City of Edina is committed to enhancing the quality of life through transportation for all who live and work in Edina.

In keeping with this commitment, it is City of Edina policy to provide a safe and convenient environment for walking and bicycling on all public streets in Edina.

In support of this policy, the City of Edina will:

1. Plan, fund, and implement improvements to the local transportation system that equitably balance the needs of motorists, transit users, pedestrians and bicyclists.
2. Incorporate pedestrian and bicycling improvements into all bridge and roadway reconstruction/rehabilitation projects according to the context; prioritize the transportation right of way for mobility (all modes).
3. Go beyond minimum design standards when possible and meet all applicable ADA/PROWAG requirements.

4. Develop and implement clear and effective policies for traffic calming, traffic control devices, on-street parking, and crosswalks.
5. Consider and meet the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists when maintaining transportation facilities; remove snow from sidewalks and bicycle and shared use paths.
6. Consider and meet the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists when enforcing traffic laws and responding to traffic complaints.
7. Include minimum requirements for sidewalks, pedestrian and bicycle access, and bicycle parking in the City's zoning code for all projects requiring site plan approval to ensure a connected non-motorized transportation network.
8. Work with Edina Public Schools and Edina private schools to identify and provide active routes to school.
9. Anticipate future demand for walking, bicycling and access to transit when developing and implementing transportation and land use plans.
10. Establish and use walking and bicycling metrics to evaluate plans and completed projects for impact on goals and conformance to best practices, stated priorities, and guiding policies.
11. Provide ongoing public outreach and education about this Policy Statement and non-motorized transportation projects.

Supporting Policies

Like our roadways, transportation policies are interconnected. Below are links to important federal, state, regional and county non-motorized transportation policies. These links are included for reference and are not a part of the Policy Statement.

USDOT Policy Statement on Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodation Regulations and Recommendations (March 11, 2010):

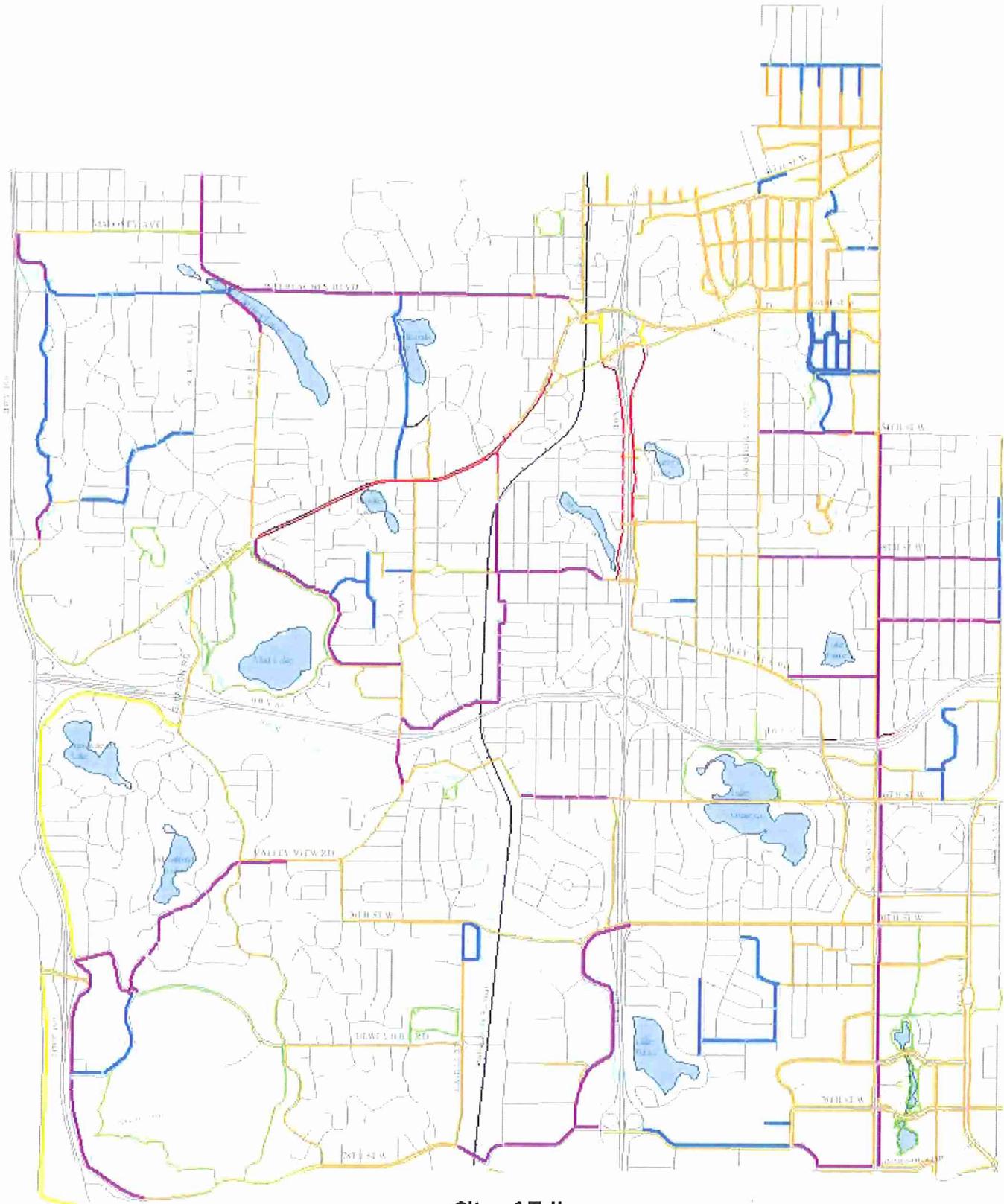
http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/overview/policy_accom.cfm

MnDOT Complete Streets: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/completestreets/>

Metropolitan Council Transportation Policy Plan, Chapter 9:

http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/transportation/tpp/2010/9_Bike&Ped.pdf

Hennepin County Complete Streets Policy: <http://www.hennepin.us/completestreets>

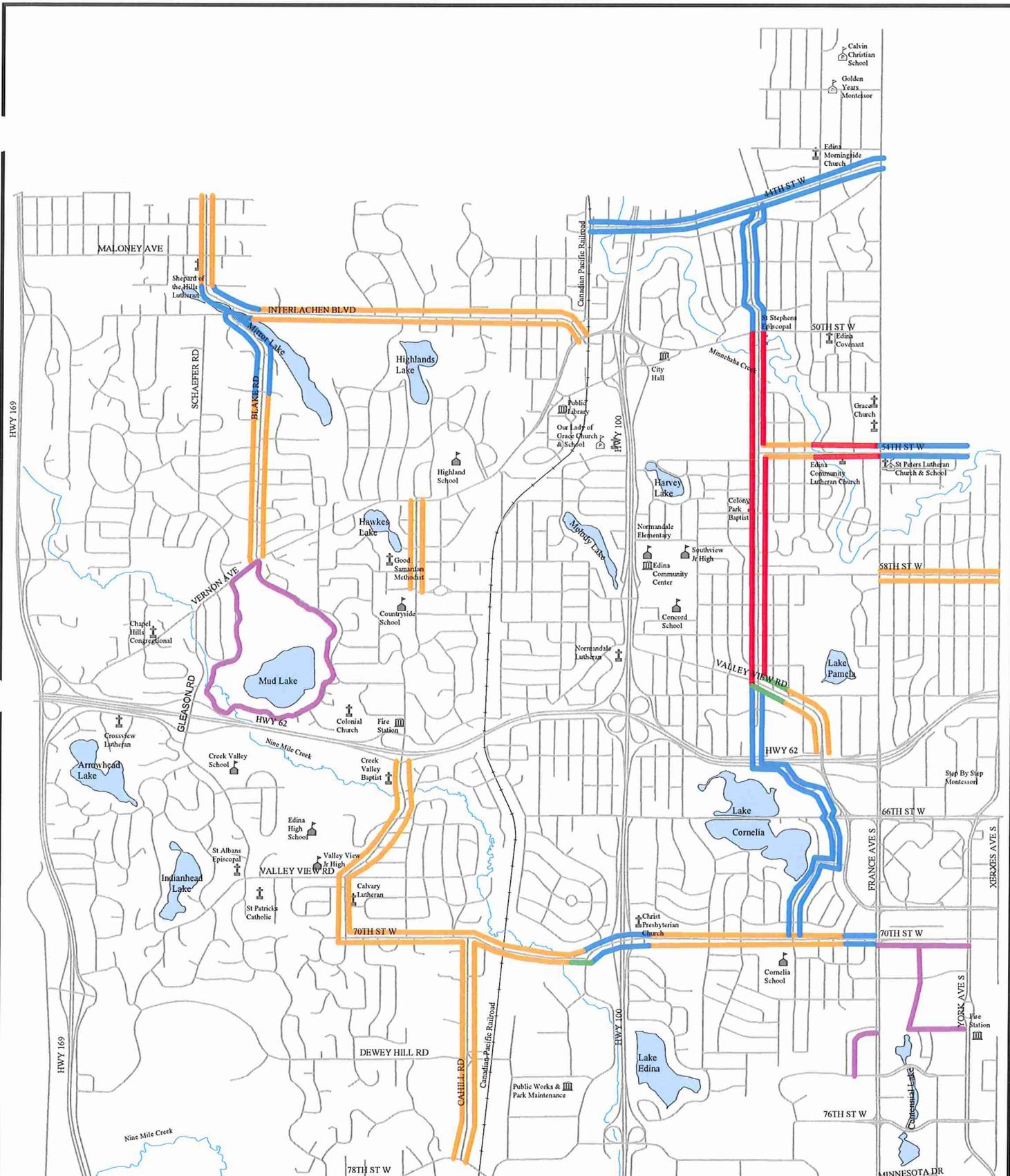


**City of Edina
Draft Pedestrian Facilities - Fig 8.8**

	Existing Bituminous Sidewalk		Proposed Business/Park/School Sidewalk
	Existing Concrete Sidewalk		Proposed Sidewalk on Roads Classified Collector & Above
	Existing Park Pathway		Proposed State-Aid Sidewalk



Engineering Dept
December, 2011



Bicycle Facilities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Advisory Bike Lanes — Bike Lanes — Bike Paths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Green Shared Bike Lanes — Share the Road
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