

Bikeway connection feasibility study

CMAP is currently working with partner organizations to develop a scope of work for a bikeway connection feasibility study in northwest Cook County. This project was inspired by an application submitted by Barrington Hills to CMAP's Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program, but during the scoping of the project and follow-up conversations with the Village, it became clear that this is a multi-jurisdictional project.

The purpose of the project is to determine the best bikeway connection between [Crabtree Nature Center](#) and the [Fox River Trail](#). Crabtree Nature Center is a major facility owned and operated by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County located between Barrington Hills, South Barrington, and Inverness. The Fox River Trail is a 40-mile multi-use path maintained by the Forest Preserve District of Kane County that follows the Fox River. Both are significant regional assets, but are currently not connected to each other by non-motorized transportation facilities, despite their relatively close proximity (approximately 5 miles).

A bikeway connection between these destinations has been recommended in past plans. The Northwest Municipal Conference, as part of their [2010 Bicycle Plan](#), included a connection between these assets. While the alignment was not firmly determined, an off-street trail in the vicinity of Dundee Road through Barrington Hills and East Dundee was envisioned, linking to the Fox River Trail in East Dundee. CMAP's [2009 Northeastern Illinois Greenways and Trails Plan](#) also showed a connection between these destinations, using a variety of other streets in Barrington Hills, South Barrington, Hoffman Estates, East Dundee, and Carpentersville. In discussions with local stakeholders, other routes on municipal or county streets in these communities, such as Penny Road, a county road that runs through South Barrington, have also been identified as possibilities.

The purpose of this project is to examine the feasibility of the various potential bikeway routes – including those identified above, and potentially others – by which Crabtree Nature Preserve and the Fox River Trail could be connected. The project will result in a recommendation for a preferred route (or potentially a limited number of alternatives) to be carried forward for further development.

CMAP intends to contract with a consulting firm to undertake this project. According to the current schedule, an RFP will be released to CMAP's prequalified firms in late March or early April, and work should begin by June.

Due to the multijurisdictional nature of this project, CMAP would like to ask local stakeholders to provide feedback on the draft RFP, as well as serve on a steering committee after the project is initiated. Relevant stakeholders include:

- Barrington; Barrington Hills; Carpentersville; East Dundee; Hoffman Estates; South Barrington
- Northwest Municipal Conference; Barrington Area Council of Governments
- Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways; Kane County Department of Transportation
- Forest Preserve District of Cook County; Forest Preserve District of Kane County
- Illinois Department of Transportation