



2023 ACTIVE MOBILITY PLAN

DRAFT 2023 ACTIVE MOBILITY PLAN

Receive public comment and input on the draft 2023 Active Mobility Plan.

Required Action

Recommend Approval/Denial of the draft 2023 Active Mobility Plan.

Motion sheet

Recommend approval – 2023 Active Mobility Plan

In the matter of the draft 2023 Active Mobility Plan, motion to recommend to the City Council approval of the update to the 2011 Non-Motorized Master Plan, titled the 2023 Active Mobility Plan, including the attached documents:

- a. Executive Summary.
- b. 2023 Active Mobility Plan full report
- c. Active Mobility Network Map

This motion is made for the reasons stated in the Planning Memo, as well as the following:

- The AMP supports the City Council goal to “Work with neighboring communities to complete connections through Novi to local trail systems. Make Novi businesses an appealing rest stop for cyclists using the trails.”
- The AMP supports the City Council goal to “Pursue partnership with Northville for a Trail connection from Novi-Northville....”
- Since 2011, significant advancements in non-motorized transportation have occurred at the national, regional and local levels prompting the need to adopt an updated plan.
- The 2023 AMP builds on the success of the 2011 Non-Motorized Plan, and promotes opportunities to refine the system.
- A safer, accessible and family-friendly network provides far-reaching benefits to the community, including in the areas of public health, environmental sustainability, reduced traffic congestion, economic activity, quality of life, cost savings, and community building.

STAFF MEMO

MEMORANDUM



TO: PLANNING COMMISSION
THRU: BARBARA MCBETH, AICP, CITY PLANNER
FROM: LINDSAY BELL, AICP, SENIOR PLANNER
SUBJECT: ACTIVE MOBILITY PLAN
DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2024

Encouraging health through active lifestyles has been a focus for the City of Novi for many years. The Non-Motorized Master Plan adopted in 2011 served as a foundation for the past 12 years for providing an interconnected and comprehensive system of pathways, sidewalks and other facilities. The implementation of that plan was tracked annually, and the prioritization of new investments in missing segments was built on that foundation. Many of the strategies recommended were implemented throughout the years, with a total of 16.25 miles of trails/sidewalks completed between 2011 and 2022 by public and private funding in Novi.

Recognizing the success of the 2011 plan, and the realization that standards continue to adapt to new technologies and awareness, City Council contracted with The Greenway Collaborative in November 2022 to produce a comprehensive update to the Non-Motorized Plan. That process kicked off in December of 2022, and continued through 2023.

Work on the latest update to the new plan, now updated with the name Active Mobility Plan (AMP), is now near completion. Drafts of the Plan were reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee and the Walkable Novi Committee. At the Walkable Novi Committee's December meeting, the members gave comments and offered some feedback. The consultant has reviewed all staff and committee comments and addressed those in the latest draft.

The Active Mobility Plan is organized into different focus areas. The Near-Term Network is a set of projects within public areas, requiring minimal road changes, aimed at creating a continuous network for reaching key destinations and trails in the city. It emphasizes walking and cycling using existing facilities, and consists of three main components:

1. Neighborhood Greenway Network: A seamless walking and biking route with added features for a better experience.
2. Connecting to Transit: Making it safe and easy for pedestrians and cyclists to reach the new transit stops in the city.

3. Improved Access to Shopping and Dining: Creating a friendly environment that lets people easily walk or bike to businesses from the street or sidewalk.

The Regional Trail Network aims to connect Novi to the broader network of existing infrastructure in surrounding communities, potentially creating a 30-mile loop. These connections include creating a trail link across the I-96 interchange at Beck Road, closing sidepath gaps along 12 Mile Road and West Park Drive to Pontiac Trail, and collaborating with Walled Lake to connect to the Michigan Air Line Trail. Additionally, coordination with Maybury State Park and support for connections to Northville are emphasized. Such connections would provide not only an attractive amenity for Novi residents, but also an opportunity for economic development, health and wellness, and alternative transportation benefits.

The Major Corridor Classifications serve as a framework for applying current best practices to enhance safety and promote bicycle and pedestrian mobility. These classifications should be consulted when a road is undergoing reconstruction or widening to ensure that all road users are taken into account in the design of improvements, and result in a more efficient investment than if projects are implemented separately.

While the Active Mobility Plan provides the long-term vision for the network in Novi, individual projects would need to be designed and evaluated for costs of investment as they are proposed. The AMP includes a section on current resources for design best practices for various facilities, as well as funding strategies such as grant programs. Both seasonal and scheduled maintenance tasks are also provided in the plan.

The draft documents have been posted online at <https://walkbike.info/novi/> for public review with a feedback form to receive comments since January 18, 2024. Comments received as of February 1st are included in this packet.

The Planning Commission is asked to review the draft Active Mobility Plan, receive additional comments at the public hearing scheduled for February 7, 2024, and make a recommendation for adoption to City Council.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions on this matter.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA
GOOGLE FORM AND EMAIL**

Timestamp	How satisfied are you with the the active mobility plan recommendations? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "Not Satisfied at All" and 5 being "Extremely Satisfied"	Are there any specific items that need to be addressed? Please reference the page number below:	What is your top priority? Please tell us what item you would like to see funded and built first.	Tell us anything else you feel is important:
1/19/2024 14:11:49	4	Please Reconsider the path over the highway at Beck Road. This does not seem like the best place for a bike crossing.	Finish Sidewalks that are not paved or connected to the major roadways. Like ten-mile road on the south side of the road between Meadowbrook and Novi road	continue to listen to the residents as you move forward.
1/19/2024 14:26:42	1	1. While the Novi Citizens rank maintenance of and snow removal on these walkways as top priorities (Infographics Summary - un-numbered paged 4) I see nothing regarding these items in the Executive Summary.	Proper maintenance and snow removal of the current system first.	2. The executive summary contains no cost impacts to the City budget. How are you going to pay for these changes, now and in the future (maintenance & snow removal). 3. How does this impact normal traffic flow?
1/19/2024 15:14:36	5	I have no specific items for more attention.	We enjoy walking for exercise and outdoor time. Generally, we have our dog with us. Being able to pick different rou	One thing that would be desirable is to have "doggie bag" stations along the paths and sidewalks. There are occasions I find dog waste along the sidewalks. It might motivate the dog walkers to pick up deposits if a dog bag were available, along with a sign to encourage their use.
1/19/2024 15:22:28	3	It wasn't clear as to what the plan is for South Lake & East Lake Drive with respect to walking/biking lanes, street lights, road condition improvements and police presence for speedy & distracted drivers	Wide & safe sidewalks, street lights along South Lake Dr, East Lake Drive and near Pavilion Shore Park area. It's Novi's nicest park area and roads need improvement as well as adding safety (ie, street lights, sidewalks, etc. The amount of pedestrians that walk, run & bike around the Lake seems to be growing exponentially so safety needs to accompany that as well.	Creating a more walkable environment from the Novi Parks to the shopping & restaurants. Street lighting & wide sidewalks would promote more physical activity (ie walking to shops & restaurants). Proper street lighting is the key to creating a sense of safety.
1/19/2024 17:48:25	5		Connection of Cheltenham Drive to the ITC corridor. If that connection is not feasible, a connection from Heartwood Drive to ITC would be a viable option provided the Edinborough and Cheltenham subdivisions are connected by a very short trail (~40-50 feet) from Donnington Court to Inverness Court. That would allow both subdivisions safe access to the ITC trail.	I would love to see the proposed connection from the existing ITC corridor trail to the AirLine train in Wixom happen very soon as well.
1/21/2024 0:09:06	3	None to point out.	Connecting sidewalks. Lots of sidewalks are piecemeals or deadends leading people trying to maneuver through the city only by car. Novi as a whole is not walkable/bikeable.	Set a goal and update residents on goal markers made throughout projects. The city does little to actually update residents on how projects are moving along.
1/22/2024 10:02:43	1	Plan #3 violates our neighborhood rights. We will not allow this path through our properties.		The city needs to respect out property rights.
1/22/2024 13:41:43	4	Left out the city's dog park east of Novi Road , n of nine mile		A c:lose look at where people are actually using the system. Which points have the highest use, many of the areas in the plan are known only to adjacent residents .. Example of under utilized area are the paths already in place on the hospital property. Definitely need increased visibility for crossings of major roadways. This will be crucial in the 8 mile area as propelNorthville develops it's new plans
1/26/2024 12:07:30	2	No cohesion, especially with the new SMART routes. A good number of SMART stops are located at currently vacant lots. Who thought this up? Do Novi Land investors ride the bus as many are located near "For Sale" signs? Yet there are social media calls to improve bus stops in Novi even though most have no parking and no walkable access for Novi Riders.	Determine who runs Novi transit. Is it Smart? RTA? or the City. - Develop a plan that supports the Citizens, especailly the needy ones. This is tough. They are on the peripheral sides of the city. Manufactured homes on Napier, and 13 mile. Cheaper apartments at the far north of the city. Running a Bus route with ADA support for those living 3/4/ of a mile away, does not help. Especially running through non-residential areas.	
1/27/2024 0:57:21	5		Would like to see neighborhoods connected. With crossing lights, walks, bridges, whatever needed to allow us to get across major roads to be able to use the sidewalks! I'd like the city to be responsible to clear those sidewalks in the winter! Too many not accessible.	
1/27/2024 15:12:26	5	Future undertakings to improve mobility should follow a concerted effort to secure the safety and viability of existing mobility paths. Put simply, displaced or disintegrating concrete/asphalt slabs, paths with overgrown vegetation or fallen trees and dangerous automobile driving behaviors (e.g., ignoring stop signs at exits of subdivisions, excessive speeds along 10 mile) should be addressed by the appropriate city service (e.g., forestry, police)	Lead an effort (like that in Sterling Heights) where the city takes the initiative to identify subdivision sidewalks that pose a hazard to pedestrians and works with responsible homeowners to facilitate repairs (not unlike how the city negotiated with a single waste company for the betterment of the residents).	I've lived in Novi since 1993. It's a great city with great residents, great schools and great city government and great city services. Better communicating some of the city services might help. For example, texting a picture/message to the city when a resident sees and issue is a convenient way to communicate issues. I don't think that many residents know how helpful our city representatives are trying to be. Thank you for asking for input. Willy Biberstein (call if you have questions)

COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA EMAIL:

John Patterson:

Although it was a little hard to read the maps I appreciate any effort to make walking areas really safe and available especially surrounded by nature thank you for all the work

Pete McLallen:

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the WalkBike Plan for Novi:

While the Novi Citizens rank maintenance and snow removal of these walkways as top priorities (Infographics Summary - UN-numbered paged 4) I see nothing regarding these items in the Executive Summary.

The Infographic pages should be numbered.

The Executive Summary also does not contains any cost impacts to the City budget. How are you going to pay for these changes, now and in the future (maintenance & snow removal)? I would suggest that any attempt to pay for this by raising taxes would fail. Therefore the Mayor and the City Council would have to figure out what services they would have to cut in order to cover these costs. You can't call this an "Executive Summary" without including financials.

I see nothing about the negative impact of more bike lanes and crosswalks interfering with normal traffic flow. You have to present the good with the bad particularly in an executive summary.

The Network Map is far too busy. It has good information but I would suggest that it needs be interactive with multiple layers.

I was an Exec with Chrysler and had to review and create many plans including Executive summaries of each. I'm sorry but IMHO this plan is far from ready. I have many other questions and suggestions. Let me know if I can help.