

Comprehensive Policy Plan  
"Circulation"

Policy Letter 303: Bikeway Facilities/Planning

**BACKGROUND:**

Perhaps since the late 1970's, bikeways in the City of Fargo have evolved from a single six-foot wide recreational trail along certain parts of the Red River into a more sophisticated bikeway system that is growing faster than the growth of the City. Demands placed on the bikeway system are not only directed toward facility expansion but also include requirements to design bikeways that are appropriate for the transportation and recreational needs of bicyclists at various skill levels. As we approach the 21st Century, more coordinated planning efforts between the City, the park district, the public schools, the metro COG, adjacent communities, and various public and private interest groups is needed to accommodate the many people we have in the community.

Critical to future bikeway development is the ongoing program to install improvements and ensure maintenance and replacement occurs at the appropriate locations. Design for bikeways will possibly be determined on a case by case basis for individual road and subdivision development projects. Enhanced coordination is necessary to ensure bikeway continuity and siting of paths along the river. Also, an aggressive maintenance program is needed to address the bikeway needs of the community.

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

The City of Fargo should continue to work with other jurisdictions to develop an integrated area-wide plan for bicycling. The plan should ensure appropriate facility maintenance and continuity of bikeways for bicycle transportation and recreation with other jurisdictions, communities and specific bicycle interest groups.

**CONCLUSION:**

Planning for development of bikeways must continue to be part of the developer's land use plan, institutional plans, and the City Area Plans. The Metro COG is the local planning agency with the overall responsibility for the metropolitan bikeway planning. Coordination must continue to focus through the Metro COG. The bikeway system design analysis and review for safety features and the public safety awareness program for bicyclists cannot be overemphasized. This non-motorized mode of transportation and recreation will continue to expand in the Fargo-Moorhead area.