

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT:** SUBDIVISION CODE TEXT AMENDMENTS REFERENCING BIKEWAYS

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Ames utilizes the Subdivision Code in Chapter 23 of the Ames Municipal Code to define the development requirements for both subdividing of land and standards for public infrastructure improvements. The Subdivision Code specifies what types of improvements are required to conform to City standards and it has references to the specifications for improvements. The City also relies on the standards included in Chapter 23 for implementation of its missing infrastructure requirements for site plan review that were recently adopted in Chapter 22 Streets and Sidewalks.

The City's bicycle facility standards are included as requirements for Bikeways referenced under the street improvement requirements of Section 23.403 (15). These Chapter 23 requirements need to be updated to reflect the most current bicycle facility improvement planning for the City. City Council initiated a text amendment to update bicycle facility references on October 13, 2015.

The Subdivision Code includes a broad definition of bicycle facilities under the term Bikeway. Bikeways include any bike path separated from highway, street, or alley for bicycle use and any bike lane that is part of a highway, street, alley or any other public way reserved and marked for bicycle use. Section 23.403 (15) specifies when Bikeways are to be required of project:

*Bikeways: A bicycle path shall be constructed in an area to be subdivided in order to conform with the Bicycle Route Master Plan adopted by the City Council. The dimensions and construction specifications of any such bicycle path shall be determined by the number and type of users and location and purpose of the bicycle path.*

**The primary need for this text amendment is to update the reference for bicycle planning in addition to Route Master Plans.** The City now uses the Ames Area Metropolitan Organization (MPO) Long Range Transportation Plan to identify many of its transportation infrastructure needs, including pedestrian and bicycle improvements. The Plan is a federally mandated plan for the planning and programming of transportation funding for infrastructure improvements within the MPO planning area, which includes Ames, Gilbert, and immediately surrounding county areas. The Plan includes an assessment of existing conditions, public input on needs, and uses reasonable growth projections based on the input of the City of Ames Planning Division to formulate an analysis of the corresponding transportation needs.

Federal rules require an update of the Transportation Plan every five years. The Ames Mobility 2040 plan was recently adopted and went into effect on October 12, 2015. The complete plan can be viewed at this [link](#). For reference, staff has included relevant

Figures (maps) from pages 207 and 208 of the Ames Area MPO Mobility 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan for reference. As the Long Range Transportation Plan is updated in the future, such changes will be automatically incorporated by reference into the Subdivision Code without future text amendments to specific diagrams or maps of the plan.

To update our coordination of transportation planning with infrastructure requirements, staff is proposing a text amendment to revise the references in Section 23.201 and 23.403 as follows:

*(4) Bikeway: A public way designed to be used for bicycling. "Bikeway" shall include: any Bicycle ~~Path~~ Facility, including a path or ~~shard~~ use path, which is a public way separated from any highway, street or alley and designed for the use of bicycles; and any Bike Lane, which is a portion of a highway, street, alley or other public way reserved and marked for the exclusive use of bicycles.*

*(15) Bikeways: A bicycle ~~path~~ facility shall be constructed in an area to be subdivided in order to conform to existing facilities adjacent to the site, with ~~the a~~ a Bicycle Route Master Plan adopted by the City Council or for a bicycle facility shown in the Ames Area MPO's most current transportation plan maps for On-Street and for Off-Street facilities. The reservation of area, dimensions, and construction specifications of any such bicycle facility shall be determined by the number and type of users and location, context, and purpose of the bicycle facility.*

The Planning and Zoning Commission voted 7-0 on November 4, 2015 in support of the text amendment.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. The City Council can adopt on first reading the ordinance amending bicycle plan and bikeway references described above.
2. The City Council can direct staff to make changes to the language and return to Council with a draft ordinance.
3. The City Council can decline to adopt the proposed amendments.

#### **MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The proposed amendments update the City's references to its planned on-street and off-street bicycle infrastructure. This is necessary to keep the Subdivision Code infrastructure requirements clear and up to date with the most current planned facilities that are reflected in the Ames Area MPO Long Range Transportation Plan.

**Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manger that the City Council act in accordance with Alternative #1.**

# **ATTACHMENT A** **TRANSPORTATION PLAN PAGES 207 TO 208**

**Figure 62. Planned Off-Street Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects**

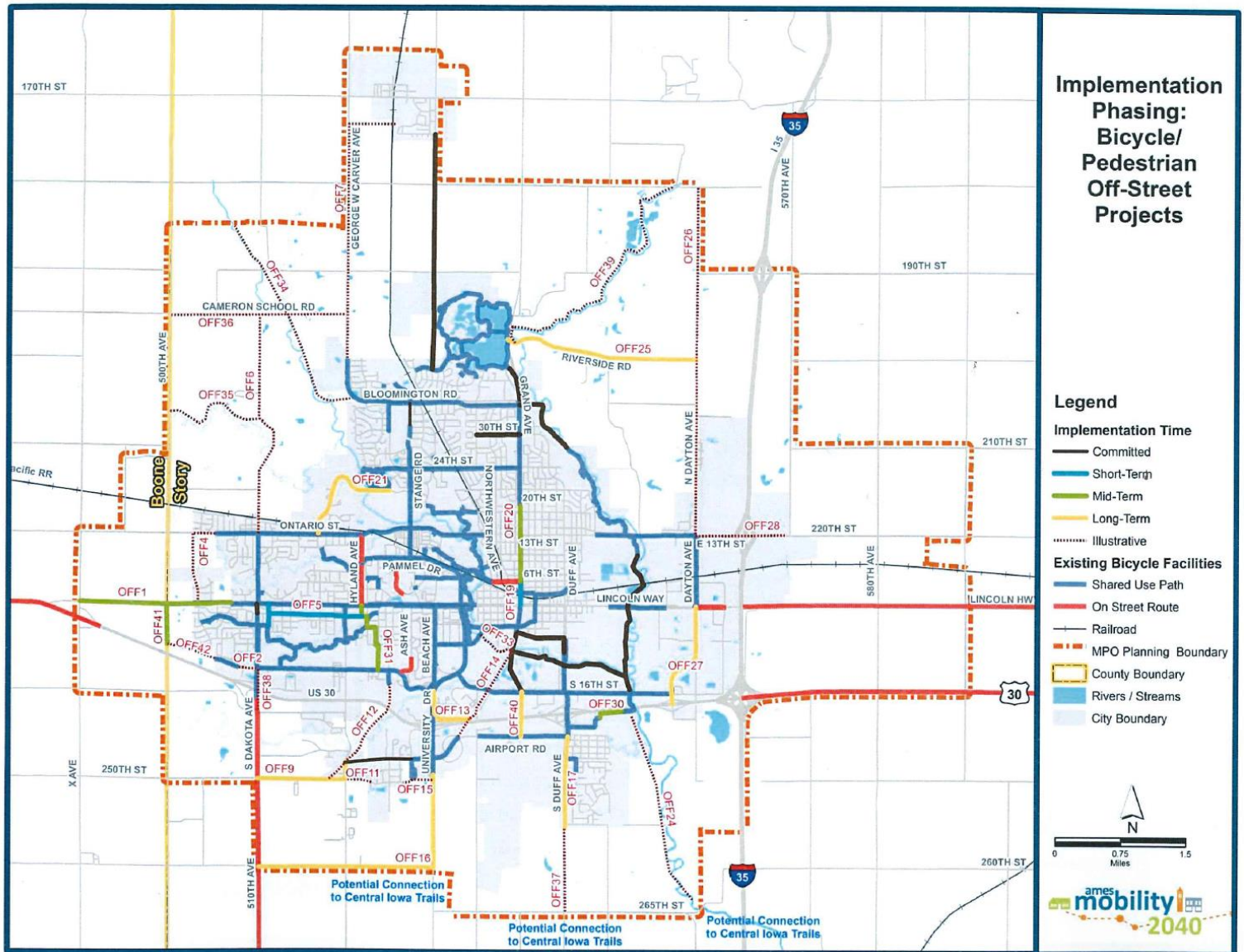
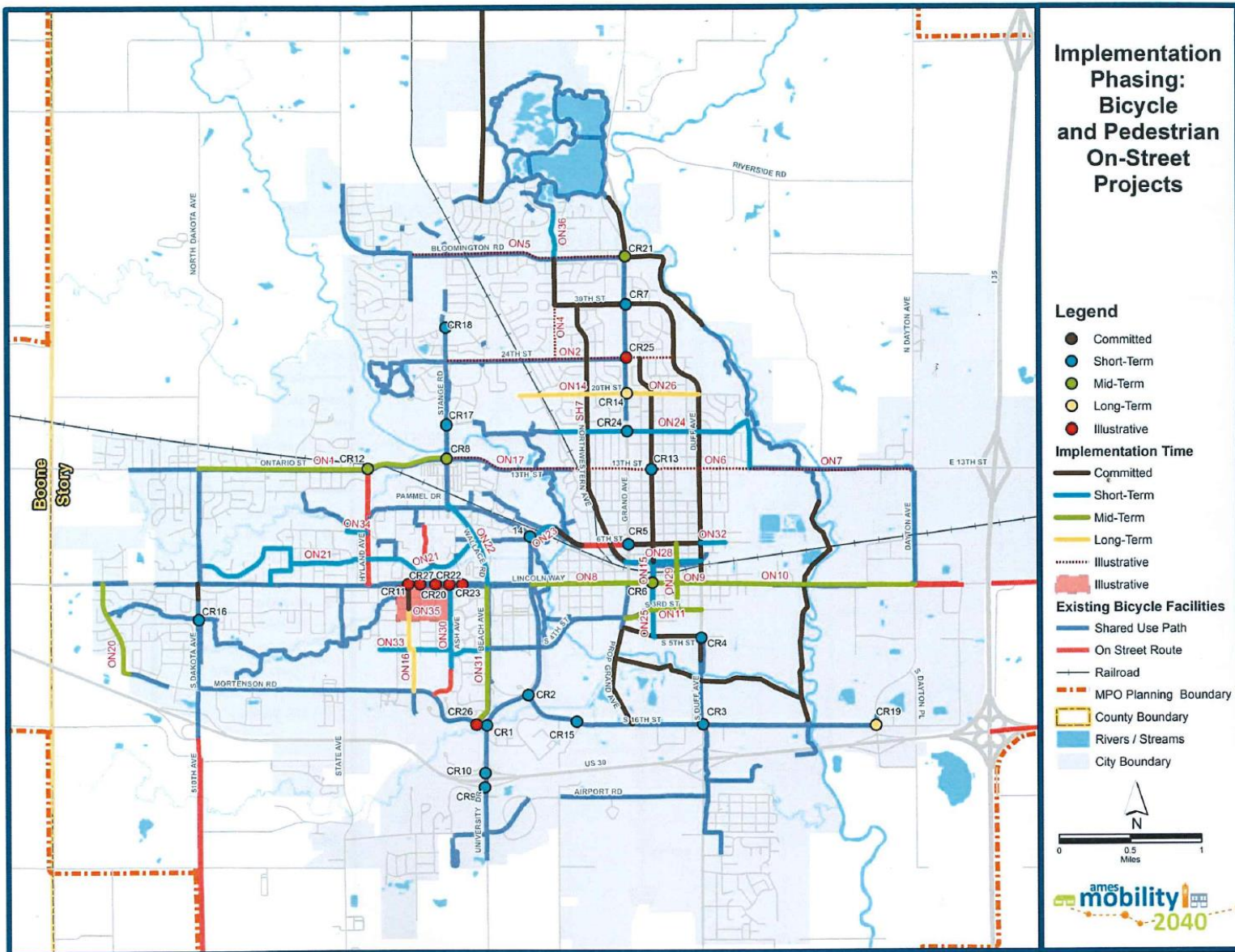




Figure 61. Planned On-Street Bicycle Route Projects



**ORDINANCE NO.**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF AMES, IOWA, BY REPEALING SECTIONS 23.201(4) AND 23.403(15) AND ENACTING NEW SECTIONS 23.201(4) AND 23.403(15) THEREOF, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING A BICYCLE MASTER PLAN REFERENCE; REPEALING ANY AND ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT TO THE EXTENT OF SUCH CONFLICT; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**BE IT ENACTED**, by the City Council for the City of Ames, Iowa, that:

Section One. The Municipal Code of the City of Ames, Iowa shall be and the same is hereby amended by repealing Sections 23.201(4) and 23.403(15) and enacting new Sections 23.201(4) and 23.403(15) as follows:

**“Sec. 23.201. DEFINITIONS.**

(4) Bikeway: A public way designed to be used for bicycling. "Bikeway" shall include: any Bicycle Facility, including a path or shared use path, which is a public way separated from any highway, street or alley and designed for the use of bicycles; and any Bike Lane, which is a portion of a highway, street, alley or other public way reserved and marked for the exclusive use of bicycles.

...

**Sec. 23.403. STREETS.**

(15) Bikeways: A bicycle facility shall be constructed in an area to be subdivided in order to conform to existing facilities adjacent to the site, with a Bicycle Route Master Plan adopted by the City Council or for a bicycle facility shown in the Ames Area MPO's most current transportation plan maps for On-Street and for Off-Street facilities. The reservation of area, dimensions, and construction specifications of any such bicycle facility shall be determined by the number and type of users and location, context, and purpose of the bicycle facility.”

Section Two. All ordinances, or parts of ordinances, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, if any.

Section Three. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law.

Passed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane R. Voss, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ann H. Campbell, Mayor