

Resolution for Adoption by the Avon Hills Initiative

Bikeways in the Avon Hills

WHEREAS The Avon Hills Initiative, a citizens group, wants to encourage healthy lifestyles and enjoyment of nature in the Avon Hills; and

WHEREAS biking is already a popular practice on the roads of the Avon Hills (Tour of Saints); and

WHEREAS biking could be an economic benefit if the Avon Hills became more of a destination for biking enthusiasts; and

WHEREAS bikeways can be incorporated in road designs as roads are upgraded and maintained; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Avon Hills Initiative ask the Stearns County Comprehensive Planning Commission to promote bikeways on paved roads like County 51 and County 9 in the comprehensive plan and to use existing standards as guidelines in the planning process. (See attached.)

Action taken by the Avon Hills Initiative:

Recommended by vote of the Executive Committee for presentation to the County Comprehensive Planning Commission:



Peter Dwyer, Chair

31 January 2007

The Following information has been provided by Michael Doyle – 320-363-1311:

A few definitions that will help clarify any language:

Bicycle Facilities: A general term denoting improvements and provisions made by public agencies to accommodate or encourage bicycling, including parking facilities, bikeways, bikeways maps, and shared roadways not specifically designated for bicycle use.

Bicycle Lane (Bike Lane): A portion of a roadway or shoulder ***designed for exclusive or preferential use*** by people using bicycles. Bicycle lanes are distinguished from the portion of the roadway or shoulder used for motor vehicle traffic by striping, marking, or other similar device. (MN 169.01 Subd. 70)

Bicycle-Pedestrian Path (Shared or Multi-Use Path): A path designated for the preferential or exclusive use of bicycles and pedestrians. *[Note from Michael Doyle - This seems to be what is commonly referred to as a bike trail, such as the Lake Wobegon Trail or the Paul Bunyan Trail.]*

Bicycle Route: A roadway or shoulder signed to encourage bicycle use when no preferential lane is provided.

Bikeway: Any bicycle lane, bicycle path, or bicycle route, regardless of whether it is designated for the exclusive use of bicycles or is to be shared with other transportation modes. (MN 169.01 Subd. 72)

Context Sensitive Design <http://www.cts.umn.edu/education/csd/>

Mn/DOT's approach to Context Sensitive Design promotes six key principles:

1. Balance safety, mobility, community, and environmental goals in all projects
 2. Involve the public and affected agencies early and continuously
 3. Use an interdisciplinary team tailored to project needs
 4. Address all modes of travel
 5. Apply flexibility inherent in design standards
 6. Incorporate aesthetics as an integral part of good design
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Resources:

1. The **Minnesota Bicycle Transportation Planning and Design Guidelines (1996)** is the current definitive reference for state standards. It contains references to minimum standards for shouldering in pages 25-30. It can be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/bike/pdfs/mg1004.pdf>
Note: A newer document will be coming out very soon (perhaps this month) from Mn/DOT.

2. The 144-page **Mn/DOT Bicycle Modal Plan** adopted 1/3/2005 is chock full of valuable and readable information, with plenty of illustrative examples. It includes references to suitable shoulder treatments, Share the Road signage and rumble strips. There is also a section proposing the Minnesota Scenic Bikeway System (pp. 42-52), now under development, which could potentially include Avon Hills area roads.

The Mn/DOT Bicycle Modal Plan can be viewed and downloaded at http://www.dot.state.mn.us/bike/pdfs/modal_plan.pdf

Model Language: Some good examples

- A good place to start developing language for a complete streets policy is the [US DOT Design Guidance: Accommodating Bicycle and Pedestrian Travel](#)
- [Elements of Complete Streets Policies](#)
- Thunderhead Alliance [recommendations on improving the federal guidance](#)
- Good [existing policies](#)

Link to this page for more information: www.completestreets.org/howtogetto.html

America Bikes

<http://www.americabikes.org/default.asp>

America Walks

<http://www.americawalks.org/index.html>

Smart Growth America

<http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/openspace.html>