

## Transportation Inventory and Analysis

Knowledge of the transportation systems in and around the community of Colfax is critical for sustainable transportation enhancement planning. Transportation systems include paved and unpaved roadways, pedestrian and bike trails, waterways, and railroad lines.

The Colfax visioning design team worked with Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) personnel and local officials to identify past, present, and future transportation-related restraints and opportunities that could potentially affect project areas.

The vast majority of people entering Colfax do so in their personal vehicles from Interstate 80, which cuts through the north edge of town. From Interstate 80, drivers take Highway 117 south nearly a mile before entering Colfax's historic downtown. Highway 117 continues through town and connects to Highway 163 in Prairie City, approximately 6 miles south of Colfax. Although there is an entrance sign near Interstate 80, visitors don't realize the city boundary does in fact lead all the way to the interstate. This portion of roadway between the interstate and downtown is also not very well lit, which is a safety concern. To the east of this area is Colfax's new park; Quarry Springs Park, which is bound to be a great regional draw for the community. With that in mind, the absence of pedestrian paths of travel throughout town, especially the disconnect from this area, is a valid concern of many residents.

There are multiple points of conflict along Highway 117 as it passes through town. Traffic speeds are often excessive in the downtown area and measures are not taken to adequately protect pedestrians. The intersection of Highway 117 and Division Street is heavily used as an access route to Colfax-Mingo High School, but is not properly signed. The worst intersection for vehicular conflict is where Highway 117 meets State Street (F48). This 4-way intersection has a 3-way stop sign configuration, but does not adequately sign the fact that those individuals traveling south on Highway 117 do not have to stop. This creates a dangerous scenario that will lead to accidents if not properly addressed. Further west on F48, there is an unmarked pedestrian crossing shown on the map. People use this route to access soccer fields from a city parking lot, and appropriate signage is needed here as well.

Throughout Colfax, there is a significant amount of topographical change. This has made creating and maintaining sidewalks hard for residents, which has created disconnects for those trying to traverse the city on foot or bicycle. This, paired with the poor quality of roads throughout town, make some areas of town practically inaccessible.



Map Source: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "Natural Resources Geographical Information Systems Library," <http://www.igsb.uiowa.edu/nrgislib/>.

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Iowa Department of Transportation

Trees Forever

ISU Landscape Architecture Extension

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