



Sidewalk connection at Division Street and Oak Park Avenue, looking west

Before

Desired Improvements

One of the most common pieces of information gathered from the community survey is the severe lack of sidewalk connections within Colfax. The steering committee and design team studied input from community members, took a community tour, and marked a route through town that would be the first priority in improving these connections. See the map above for these routes.

The proposed sidewalk connections will provide much needed safe walking routes to the Colfax-Mingo Elementary and High Schools. Safe routes are shown to increase the number of students who feel comfortable walking to school rather than taking the bus or being transported by car. The proposed sidewalks will also provide a greatly desired walking and/or running loop throughout town. One of the biggest obstacles in town that keeps people from walking outdoors, aside from the lack of sidewalks, is the extreme topographical change from one side of town to the other. This, often times, pushes people who desire an easy walking experience to the western portion of town, which is the flattest option for a walking route. With that in mind, the proposed trail shown on the map above, provides a one-mile loop within that western area, which is often called The Flats.

A sidewalk/trail connection that should be particularly noted is the connection of the walks along Division Street to the proposed walks through the downtown and connecting to the new Quarry Springs Park. See board #8 for more information regarding this route and its connections.

Lastly, as recreational trails outside of Colfax continue to be developed, the city needs to work hard to create trails that connect to these local amenities. Recreational trails are an important asset when drawing people to visit and/or move to small towns such as Colfax. Being located just 15 miles east of the Des Moines Metropolitan Area provides numerous opportunities for these connections and greatly increases the opportunity for local tourism.



Division Street connection, looking west

Before

Colfax

Safe Routes to School and Recreational Trails

Landscape Architect and Intern: RDG Planning & Design - Bruce Niedermyer, PLA and Sara Davids

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