



Transportation Inventory

"Historic Highway 20" is a common phrase heard when discussing anything related to transportation in Independence. Rerouted to the south of the community, it previously ran straight through the heart of Independence. 1st Street is still a major thoroughfare for Independence, carrying between 5,000-8,400 vehicles per day (Iowa Department of Transportation 2021 Daily Traffic County). In addition to vehicle volume, Independence Elementary and Middle School drop-off is located off 1st Street W, creating traffic issues that resulted in several businesses relocating to other areas of town.

The Wapsipinicon River bisects Independence with only two bridges crossing in the center of the community resulting in traffic congestion. Traffic lights along 1st Street add to the issue, with cars lined up over the course of 12 to 15 blocks during school drop-off and pick-up times.

The relocated businesses and new development are in the south side of town, along Iowa Highway 150 creating new traffic issues. Congestion and visibility were complaints in the area between Enterprise Drive and Lover's Lane. A TEAP study on Iowa Highway 150 completed in 2021 made a long-term recommendation to convert this section from a traditional two-lane road to a three-lane road with a two-way left turning lane in the center.

The main thoroughfares through the community allow easy access to Highway 20, Iowa Highways 150 and 248, and County Road D22; have bridge access across the river; and connect to the main destinations of the community. However, this configuration results in those same areas being problems for the community with congestion, visibility problems, unsafe intersections, and pedestrian access issues.

Independence has been developing trails throughout the community that connect the schools, the commercial development area, many of the community's parks, and other popular destinations. Future trail extensions are desired to connect to the sports complex on the southeast side of town and to create a connection on the north side of 1st Street W to the north side of the community.

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RITLAND+KUIPER Landscape Architects
 Landscape Architect: Samantha Price, ASLA
 Intern: Andrea Fager, Iowa State University
 Iowa State University | Trees Forever | Iowa Department of Transportation

