



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

Transportation Inventory

Knowledge of the transportation systems in and around a community is critical for sustainable transportation enhancement planning. Transportation systems include paved and unpaved roadways, pedestrian and bike trails, waterways, operational railroads or abandoned rail beds, and airports.

The Morning Sun visioning design team met with the Louisa County Engineer, a representative from the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission, Morning Sun public works personnel and local officials to identify existing, past, and future transportation systems in the area. Also discussed were possible transportation related restraints and opportunities that could potentially affect project areas.

The primary north-south streets through Morning Sun are Main Street and Church Street. Main Street is also a farm-to-market road. The main east-west street is Division Street. Church Street, Division Street and Main Street from Division Street north are the designated truck routes.

The existing bridge on Manor Road is designated as poor (structurally deficient) for vehicular traffic and will be abandoned in the near future. There is the possibility, however, that the City of Morning Sun could keep it and maintain it as a pedestrian bridge only for which it would be safe. Keeping the bridge would provide the city with the opportunity to create a "looped" recreational trail system around the community that could tie into the existing Hoover Nature Trail, as well the countywide shared-use trail network.

County Highway 78 runs along the south edge of town and is the highest traveled roadway within the city limits, making it one of the primary gateways to the community. Highway 78 is also part of the county's shared-use trail network. Any projects along this highway corridor, as well as along any roadways outside of the city limits, will require the review and approval of the Louisa County engineering office.

There are sidewalks throughout town; however, no continuous accessible network exists as many are steep at the intersections, are old and in need of repair, and/or are missing segments. These issues make it difficult for pedestrians, especially the mobility challenged, elderly, and young children, to safely move throughout town and access key destinations such as Casey's, the library and the school. A valued amenity to the community is the Hoover Nature Trail that transects the east side of the town. This trail, which is on an old abandoned railway, is primarily located on privately owned property and is maintained by the Louisa County Conservation Board.