

Transportation Mapping

Knowledge of the transportation systems in and around a community is critical for sustainable transportation enhancement planning. Van Meter’s transportation system includes paved and unpaved roadways, sidewalks, pedestrian and bike trails, waterways and active railroad lines.

Van Meter is bounded on the north by the Raccoon River, which serves as a major means of recreation within the community. Additionally, the city is bisected by County Highways R16 and F90, which intersect along the southern boundary.


The design team coordinated with Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) staff and local public works and maintenance personnel, and followed up with the Dallas County Engineer to identify existing, past, and future transportation system improvements. These included maintenance and other transportation-related constraints and opportunities in and around Van Meter.

Several transportation-related assets and opportunities include future roadway realignments that will provide opportunities for improved pedestrian and vehicular movement, transportation corridor enhancement along major community roadways, and improved recreational/pedestrian infrastructure throughout the community that will provide access to civic, cultural, and natural destinations.

Items of concern related to transportation systems include incomplete, narrow, and crumbling sidewalks and trails; unsafe intersections; and poor connections to community destinations, especially over county highways and the railroad. Other issues include high vehicular speed along County Highways F90 and R16, poor visibility, and overlapping vehicular, bike, and pedestrian traffic near the intersection of Elm St. and R16 to the Van Meter school entry/exit.


The design team used this information to explore opportunities for improving connectivity, safety, and cohesiveness throughout Van Meter.

Actives




"Every time I want to do a [long] bike or a run, I have to load up and go somewhere."

Youth




"It would be nice to have some more walking trails different places."

Parents




"We ride on the gravel roads, which isn't ideal, but there's no route to get anywhere unless you drive."

Older Adults




"I would like to see another crossing somewhere along Wilson Street [into Van Meter Recreation Complex]."

Mobility Impaired



"If you're not mobility impaired, you're fine and you can navigate it, but if you have anything that is impaired, [Van Meter] is not accessible."

Steering Committee



"I would say a common issue across the entire community is pedestrian and bicycle ways of getting around... there are no biking paths."

Van Meter

Transportation Inventory

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