



## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** December 7, 2023  
**TO:** Planning Commission  
**FROM:** Andrew Dutton, Community Development Director  
**SUBJECT:** Multi-Use Path Plan

### **Background**

The City of Medina recently completed a Comprehensive Plan update which addressed numerous important topics, including multi-use paths and bike trails. Strategy, 3.1.1 of the Comprehensive Plan instructs the city to “Prepare and adopt an Active Transportation Plan that prioritizes future projects to improve non-motorized transportation, as well as connections to destinations, public spaces, transit, and the regional trail network. TIMEFRAME: SHORT”.

In order to forward the intentions of the Comprehensive Plan, City Council authorized the engagement of a consultant to complete a Multi-Use Plan for the city and surrounding area. In a collaborative effort, the city partnered with the Medina County Parks District on the Plan.

After issuing a Request for Proposals and interviewing multiple firms, the Envision Group was selected as the consultant for the project, which began in early 2023. Throughout 2023 the Envision Group worked with city staff and community leaders to develop a Multi-Use Path Plan, as outlined below.

### **Plan Elements**

#### ***Existing Conditions Analysis***

The Multi-Use Path Plan details the existing path and biking network in The City of Medina and the surrounding area. The plan notes that a solid foundation exists, though the existing path and biking network is fragmented. The Plan also identifies properties that are conducive to path construction without the need to acquire private property. These include properties owned by the city, county, townships, schools, park district, and even HOA’s.

Furthermore, the area roadway network is evaluated for “Level of Stress” to cyclists and a mapping tool is provided indicating walking and cycling traffic in the area.

### ***Steering Committee and Public Engagement***

The planning process was guided by a steering committee, which included city and county staff, business leaders, cycling advocates, and community organization representatives. The committee met five times throughout the planning process to provide feedback, consider path options, and review draft documents.

To engage the public, three public meetings were held and two surveys were distributed. The initial meeting and survey gathered general input from the public regarding paths in the city and surrounding areas. The second public meeting and survey aimed to collect feedback regarding proposed path routes and types. The final public meeting reviewed the process, public input, and proposed path routes.

Overall, over 800 surveys were received and dozens of individuals attended the public meetings.

### ***Path Planning and Improvements***

Based on the noted background research and input, the Plan incorporates a long-range concept plan of future multi-use paths, broken down into 17 individual sections. Also provided are supporting path elements such as wayfinding systems, bike racks, and pedestrian safety improvements.

### ***Prioritization and Implementation***

Though the above items are important for the Plan's foundation, the aspects of prioritization and implementation are imperative. As such, a considerable amount of the Plan and Appendix is dedicated to these elements.

The plan includes a prioritization matrix of the 17 trail sections based on the below criteria. As found in the matrix, path sections scoring higher than "3" were generally considered a higher priority.

- Asset linkages
- Private right-of-way
- Public/stakeholder support
- Neighborhood connections
- Ease to construct
- Funding competitiveness/partnerships

Supported by the prioritization matrix and additional input, the Plan examines six trail sections in significant detail. The analysis of each section includes phasing, costs, project leads and partners, and grant sources. Mapping and text also indicate opportunities and obstacles of trail construction, existing pictures of the area, and typical trail sections. In addition, the associated Appendix A incorporates preliminary cost estimates for each proposed plan phase.

### ***Adoption Process***

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The proposed Plan provides the administration and City Council with guidance and tools to successfully construct paths in the city and surrounding area. Staff is requesting the Planning Commission review the proposed Multi-Use Path Plan and recommend the adoption of the Plan to City Council.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the Multi-Use Path Plan or process.