

COUNCIL WORKSHOP ITEM

ITEM: Southern DuPage County Regional Trail
DATE: September 21, 2001
PREPARED BY: Riccardo F. Ginex, Village Manager
PURPOSE: Presentation by Thomas Bennington, Jr. and Pamela Rion on the countywide bikeway plan for DuPage County

DISCUSSION:

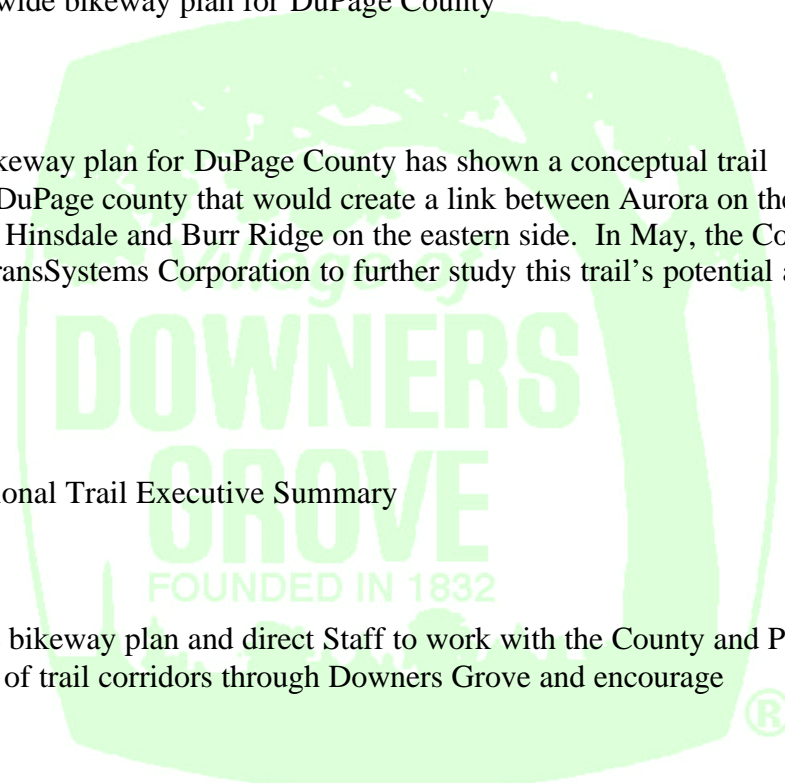
Since 1996, the countywide bikeway plan for DuPage County has shown a conceptual trail across the southern portion of DuPage county that would create a link between Aurora on the western side of the county and Hinsdale and Burr Ridge on the eastern side. In May, the County executed an agreement with TransSystems Corporation to further study this trail's potential and identify a feasible trail route.

ATTACHMENT:

Southern DuPage County Regional Trail Executive Summary

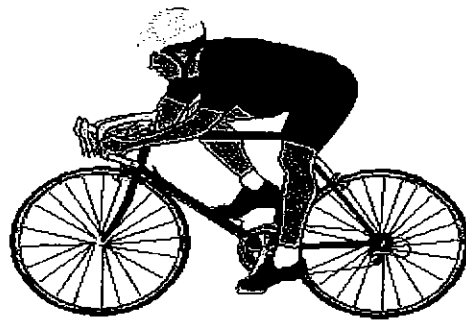
RECOMMENDATION:

Council is asked to support the bikeway plan and direct Staff to work with the County and Park District establishing a network of trail corridors through Downers Grove and encourage bikeways use.



DRAFT

Southern DuPage County Regional Trail
Executive Summary



Prepared for:

DuPage County

August 2001

Prepared by:

TRANSYSTEMS
CORPORATION 

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Executive Summary

The Southern DuPage County Regional Trail Feasibility Study identifies a strategy for the planning and construction of marked trail routes throughout southern DuPage County. There are approximately 100 miles of existing regional trails in the County with over 100 miles of trails in the planning or design stages by a variety of agencies including the County, Forest Preserve District, municipalities and park districts. These trails, however, do not provide a contiguous route across southern DuPage County. The study identifies nearly 24 miles of new trails which would create a continuous network of safe facilities throughout the southern portions of the County. The County's desire is to provide a trail system without large amounts of reconstruction and right-of-way acquisition costs. The bikeway system is proposed to meet the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) requirements. The trail facilities provided are a combination of off-road paths and on-street lanes and routes. The plan is to provide a network of trail corridors to encourage bikeway use for the casual user and experienced bicyclists.

The goal of the Southern DuPage County Regional Trail Plan is to provide a functional trail system across the southern portion of the County to be used for and to provide the following:

1. Recreational purposes;
2. Connection of County facilities, park lands, forest preserves, residential, and commercial destinations;
3. Regional trail connection to the existing and proposed regional trails and adjacent local trail systems;
4. An alternative transportation mode.

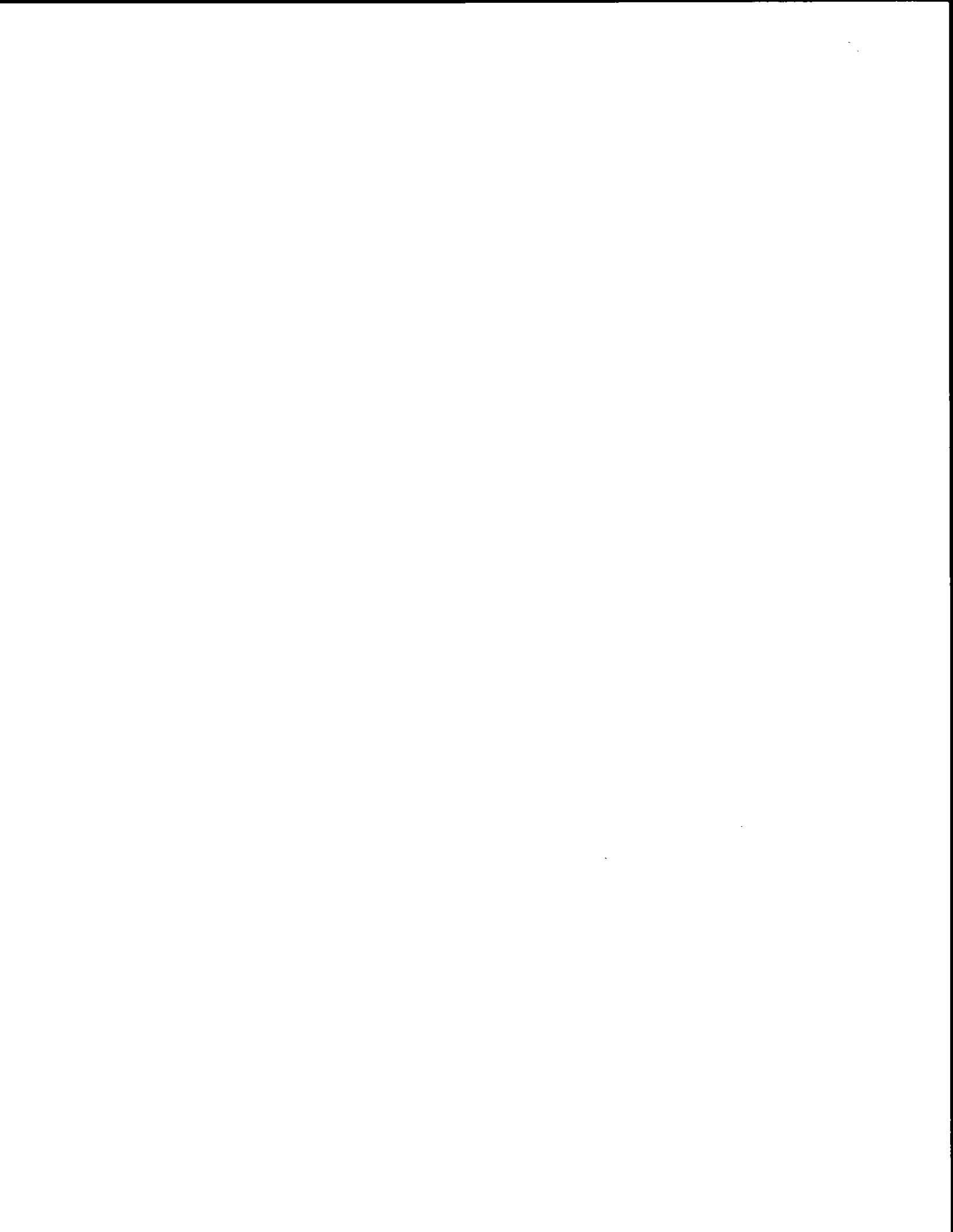
The purpose of this study is to:

- Identify recommended bikeway corridors and review constructibility and impacts.
- Identify project costs to establish annual budgets.
- Incorporate trail elements into transportation land use and development planning.
- Identify preliminary right-of-way and easement requirements.
- Provide technical information which may be used for preparation of County bikeway brochure, educational materials, and public presentations.

Four (4) typical sections were reviewed for the study:

1. Two-way off-road multi-purpose path (10-foot wide)
2. One-way on-shoulder bicycle lane (5-foot wide)
3. One-way on-street signed and striped bicycle lane (5-foot wide)
4. On-street signed only bicycle route

Several routes were developed across southern DuPage County to connect existing and planned regional bikeways. The initial routes were then field inspected and photographed. The constructibility of each route was reviewed with respect to right-of-way and easement



constraints, utility relocations, grading, bridge requirements, and environmental concerns. Provisions for compatibility and integration between the corridors and the existing pedestrian system were provided where possible. Alternative bikeway layouts and facility types within each corridor were also investigated. The results of the field inspections of the initial study routes and proposed alternatives were presented to the County for comment.

The recommended Southern DuPage Regional Trail (shown in the attached exhibit) consists of a total of 46.3 miles with the County planning to construct and/or implement 23.8 miles. This trail would link more than 100 miles of existing or proposed bikeways within DuPage, Kane, and Cook Counties. When connected to the existing bikeways, the proposed trails will provide a viable and continuous trail system across southern DuPage County.

The recommended trail will provide users with three east-west trail options through southern DuPage County. East of Greene Road, users will have the option of taking the main route to the north, the Greene Valley Spur or the Waterfall Glen Spur to the south.