



**City of Mendota
Proposed Workplan**



CITY OF MENDOTA - Active People, Healthy Nation Illinois Walkability Virtual Academy (WVA) Team Action Plan

The City of Mendota wants to acknowledge all those city staff and community members who were a part of the Active People, Healthy Nation Illinois Walkability Virtual Academy (WVA). Members attended many hours of training to learn from state and national experts as well as other communities to best determine the activities for better mobility in the city of Mendota.

Mendota was one of four communities in the state of Illinois chosen to be a part of the Academy sponsored by the CDC. Mendota was recognized for having one of the largest groups of participants and was complimented for our engagement, presentations, and thorough workplan. As part of the academy, each participating group was to develop an action plan to included a minimum of at least two specific overarching policy, system, or environmental goals.

Mendota's team identified more areas of need of opportunities and presented the plan to the Mendota City Council on Tuesday, September 3, 2024 for consideration and to be included in the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Thank you again to those involved.

Staff:

- Ali Braboy
- Annie Short
- Emily McConville
- Maria Arteaga
- Nick Stremkau
- Tim Kimrey

Community Members:

- Alexia Gross
- Aliza Salinas-Cervantes
- Amy Brewer
- Denise Aughenbaugh
- Jani Kidd
- Moises Carlos
- Sam Setchell
- Sarah Henkel
- Shasta Hladovcak
- Stephen Donnell
- Vicki Johnson

2024 Active People, Healthy Mendota WVA Action Plan

Name of Participant Team: Mendota Team

Goal #1: By January of 2025, the Mendota WVA team will build capacity by establishing a work group that will meet regularly with the focus on designing safe paths to “everyday places” (including laundromat, businesses, schools, library, parks, lakes, grocery stores, the community pool and Amtrak station) to ensure sustainability for achieving future goals in the built environment.



Transportation (“Activity-Friendly Routes”) Land Use (“Everyday Destinations”)

Estimated reach: 7,061

Action Steps (to include timeline): <i>Action Steps are specific activities, benchmarks, or achievements that assist in accomplishing the goal; the timeline is an estimated completion date for that stated action step</i>	Responsible Party: <i>Agency or individual responsible for achieving the action step</i>	Additional Comments/ Resources Needed: <i>Added comments or resources useful for achieving the action step</i>
Action Step 1.1: By October 30, 2024, the committee will hold first meeting outside of VWA.	Mendota Walkability Team	possibly add someone from police department, from MASS to the group, IVCIL
Action Step 1.2: By February 2025, committee roles identified; community resources and assets determined; identify mission/value statement	Mendota Walkability Team	
Action Step 1.3: By April 2025, formalize the group’s commitment via a Memorandum of Agreement/Understanding (MOA/MOU) where all parties commit to working together on related active transportation projects, etc.	Mendota Walkability Team	
Action Step 1.4: By May 2025, formal and informal sectors of influence identified; local resource list developed	Mendota Walkability Team	
Action Step 1.5: By June 2025, develop an initial plan for community engagement	Mendota Walkability Team	
Action Step 1.6: By October 30, 2025, set short/long term goals	Mendota Walkability Team	

Goal #2: By October of 2025, the City of Mendota will have measurable-baseline data for telling our story effectively and addressing the needs of the community as it relates to active transportation, planning and implementing people-focused infrastructure through an equitable lens.



Transportation (“Activity-Friendly Routes”) Land Use (“Everyday Destinations”)

Estimated reach: Mendota Pop. 7,061

Action Steps (to include timeline): <i>Action Steps are specific activities, benchmarks, or achievements that assist in accomplishing the goal; the timeline is an estimated completion date for that stated action step</i>	Responsible Party: <i>Agency or individual responsible for achieving the action step</i>	Additional Comments/ Resources Needed: <i>Added comments or resources useful for achieving the action step</i>
Action Step 2.1 By September 30, 2024, Mendota School District will have conducted student/parent surveys	Mendota School District, University of Illinois Extension	Student Survey: https://bikewalkroll.org/# Parent/Caregiver Survey: https://saferoutesdata.org/
Action Step 2.2: By December 2024, Mendota School District will have completed Project Radar	Teachers at MHS and Northbrook	
Action Step 2.3: By May 2025, Project Sidewalk completed	Teachers at MHS and Northbrook, University of Illinois Extension	Extension CED Specialist will be notified of request for facilitation of Project Sidewalk
Action Step 2.4: By May 2025, 1 pop-up demonstration project completed for Wisconsin Avenue	Mendota Walkability Team, IDOT, Reimagine Mendota	
Action Step 2.5: By August 2025, one walk/move audit conducted	Mendota Walkability Team, IDOT, Reimagine Mendota	Paint, cones, (etc.);
Action Step 2.6: By September 2025, use data collected to determine short/long term goals	Mendota Walkability Team	

Goal #3: By September 30, 2026, the City of Mendota will begin creation of a shared use bicycle-pedestrian path throughout town from the Amtrak station to northwest to Lake Kakusha and near the high school. This path will allow safe travel to major destinations in town (including homes, healthcare clinic, businesses, schools, library, parks, lakes, grocery stores, the community pool and Amtrak station.)



Transportation (“Activity-Friendly Routes”) Land Use (“Everyday Destinations”)

Estimated reach: 7,061

Action Steps (to include timeline): <i>Action Steps are specific activities, benchmarks, or achievements that assist in accomplishing the goal; the timeline is an estimated completion date for that stated action step</i>	Responsible Party: <i>Agency or individual responsible for achieving the action step</i>	Additional Comments/ Resources Needed: <i>Added comments or resources useful for achieving the action step</i>
Action Step 3.1: By August 30, 2024, location of path will be determined.	Engineering firm, City of Mendota staff, Walkability team	Preliminary designs; City Council approval; community input
Action Step 3.2: By August 30, 2024, cost of path will be determined.	Engineering firm, City of Mendota	Cost estimate; City Council approval
Action Step 3.3: Determine funding sources - ongoing	City of Mendota, Reimagine Mendota,	Grant Funding (network with Maggie at Active Trans; Melody at Rails to Trail Conservancy)
Action Step 3.4: By September 2, 2024, council approves plan	City of Mendota	City Council approval
Action Step 3.5: By September 15, 2024, obtain letters of support	City of Mendota; community partners; grant writer	OSF, University of Illinois Extension, YMCA, Mendota Museum & Historical Society, School Districts #289 and #290
Action Step 3.6: By September 30, 2024, grant application submitted (ITEP)	Grant Writer	City of Mendota
Action Step 3.7: By September 30, 2026, grant received, construction begins	City of Mendota	City of Mendota

Goal #4: By August of 2026, the City of Mendota will establish a new Complete Streets Policy.

Transportation (“Activity-Friendly Routes”) Land Use (“Everyday Destinations”)

Estimated reach: 7,061



Action Steps (to include timeline): <i>Action Steps are specific activities, benchmarks, or achievements that assist in accomplishing the goal; the timeline is an estimated completion date for that stated action step</i>	Responsible Party: <i>Agency or individual responsible for achieving the action step</i>	Additional Comments/ Resources Needed: <i>Added comments or resources useful for achieving the action step</i>
Action Step 4.1: By September 30, 2024, review Complete Streets checklist; determine frequency/schedule of meetings for 2024-2025	University of Illinois Extension provides to each member at August meeting	10 Elements of Complete Streets Policy
Action Step 4.2: By October 2024, local Complete Streets allies identified	Mendota Walkability Team	OSF, IVCIL, YMCA, University of Illinois Extension, School District #289, #290, IDOT
Action Step 4.3: By January 2025, provide report benefits of Complete Streets for Mendota, Complete Streets handout, sample policies for small towns	Mendota Walkability Team	Benefits of Complete Streets Tool
Action Step 4.4: By March 2025, hold a meeting with city employees and invite stakeholders to learn about Complete Streets	Mendota Walkability Team, Reimagine Mendota, public health and transportation professionals, students	Complete Streets; Complete Communities Distance Learning Series;
Action Step 4.5: By September 2025, first draft of Complete Streets policy	Walkability Team & City Council, street dept.	Working Collaboratively w/IDOT; IDOT design guidance
Action Step 4.6: By September 2025, Complete Streets policy reviewed & evaluated	Mendota Walkability Team	Smart Growth America Technical Assistance , WVA contact Anthony Corso, CS Evaluation Tool
Action Step 4.7: By January 2026, Complete Streets policy draft presented to the City Mendota for editing and final approval by September 2026	Walkability Team & City of Mendota, City Council, street department	

Goal 5: By December 2026, walkability partners will use Universal Design concepts to guide park improvements at Apple Orchard and Blackstone parks within the next three years to create desirable destinations in all parts of Mendota.

Transportation (“Activity-Friendly Routes”) Land Use (“Everyday Destinations”)

Estimated reach: 7,061



<p>Action Steps (to include timeline): <i>Action Steps are specific activities, benchmarks, or achievements that assist in accomplishing the goal; the timeline is an estimated completion date for that stated action step</i></p>	<p>Responsible Party: <i>Agency or individual responsible for achieving the action step</i></p>	<p>Additional Comments/ Resources Needed: <i>Added comments or resources useful for achieving the action step</i></p>
<p>Action Step 5.1: By October 2024, we will learn about Universal Design and plan for community engagement</p>	<p>Reimagine Mendota, Mendota Walkability Team</p>	<p>WVA resources, learn about types of technical assistance provided by Smart Growth America</p>
<p>Action Step 5.2: By June 2025, we will conduct a park use audit at both Apple Orchard and Blackstone parks.</p>	<p>School students, volunteers, Reimagine Mendota, University of Illinois Extension</p>	<p>Extension’s Community Park Assessment Tool</p>
<p>Action Step 5.3: By July 2025, we will plan for new equipment at each park, including music and art related installations, mindful of UD concepts.</p>	<p>City of Mendota, Reimagine Mendota, service clubs, students</p>	
<p>Action Step 5.4: By October 2025, we will collaborate with partners to hold children’s events at Apple Orchard and Blackstone Parks.</p>	<p>Reimagine Mendota, U of I Extension, YMCA, OSF, service clubs, City of Mendota</p>	<p>Raise awareness of existence both parks</p>
<p>Action Step 5.5: By December 2025, we will find and write grants for new park equipment.</p>	<p>City of Mendota, Reimagine Mendota</p>	<p>Potential funding resources: NRPA, Kaboom!, United Way</p>
<p>Action Step 5.6: By September 2026, local service clubs will work with volunteers and the city to install new equipment at Apple Orchard and Blackstone Parks.</p>	<p>City of Mendota, Reimagine Mendota, service clubs, volunteers</p>	
<p>Action Step 5.7: By July 2027, we will conduct post-assessment of park use</p>	<p>School students, volunteers, Reimagine Mendota, Extension</p>	<p>Original audit for comparison</p>

Goal #6: In 2024-2025, walkability partners will work with the City of Mendota to learn about Universal Design concepts, update existing related city ordinances and/or building codes to include Universal Design concepts and encourage the City of Mendota to use engineering companies with demonstrated experience implementing Universal Design concepts in the City’s bid process.



Transportation (“Activity-Friendly Routes”) Land Use (“Everyday Destinations”)

Estimated reach: 7,061

<p>Action Steps (to include timeline): <i>Action Steps are specific activities, benchmarks, or achievements that assist in accomplishing the goal; the timeline is an estimated completion date for that stated action step</i></p>	<p>Responsible Party: <i>Agency or individual responsible for achieving the action step</i></p>	<p>Additional Comments/ Resources Needed: <i>Added comments or resources useful for achieving the action step</i></p>
<p>Action Step 6.1: By December 2024, we will arrange for Universal Design training and plan community presentations to encourage interest.</p>	<p>Reimagine Mendota, Mendota Walkability Team</p>	<p>Use Walkability Academy connections as resources Beginners Guide to Universal Design; Beyond Accessibility; Sonoma County UD example</p>
<p>Action Step 6.2: By May 2025, we will present Universal Design concepts to the Mendota City Council and public.</p>	<p>Reimagine Mendota, engineering group, Walkability Team</p>	<p>Look for other towns that have universal design in code/zoning</p>
<p>Action Step 6.3: By October 2025, we will have written updated Universal Design inclusion language for related City policies and/or build codes and shared them with City Council.</p>	<p>City Clerk and staff, city council, Walkability Team</p>	<p>Models of ordinances from other towns,</p>
<p>Action Step 6.4: By December 2025, we will have the Mendota ordinances related to Universal Design requirements passed.</p>	<p>City Council, City Clerk, Walkability Team</p>	

Goal #7: By September 2025, walkability partners will work with citizen groups and the City of Mendota to create a long-term plan to repair broken sidewalks in Mendota along prioritized routes using city, grant, and donated funds.

Transportation (“Activity-Friendly Routes”) Land Use (“Everyday Destinations”)

Estimated reach: 7,061



<p>Action Steps (to include timeline): <i>Action Steps are specific activities, benchmarks, or achievements that assist in accomplishing the goal; the timeline is an estimated completion date for that stated action step</i></p>	<p>Responsible Party: <i>Agency or individual responsible for achieving the action step</i></p>	<p>Additional Comments/ Resources Needed: <i>Added comments or resources useful for achieving the action step</i></p>
<p>Action Step 7.1: By December 2024, students at MHS and Northbrook will collect data using Project Sidewalk pilot program and map/chart sidewalk conditions.</p>	<p>Teachers at MHS and Northbrook, Project sidewalk staff, volunteers</p>	
<p>Action Step 7.2: By March 2025, students will use Project Sidewalk data in a public/council presentation on sidewalk conditions in Mendota. Walkability audits and data collection will also proceed as listed in data gathering goal.</p>	<p>Teachers at MHS and Northbrook, Project sidewalk staff, volunteers, city council, U of I Extension, OSF, YMCA</p>	
<p>Action Step 7.3: By May 2025, students and the Walkability Team will work with the city council and staff to create a prioritized plan for sidewalk improvements.</p>	<p>Teachers at MHS and Northbrook, Project sidewalk staff, volunteers, city council and staff, Walkability Team</p>	
<p>Action Step 7.4: By June 2025, city council will include sidewalk improvement plans in the budget.</p>	<p>City council</p>	
<p>Action Step 7.5: By September 2025, the first sidewalk improvement of the plan will have been constructed, possibly with help from students.</p>	<p>City of Mendota staff and council, volunteers, students, teachers</p>	

<p>Action Step 7.6: By November 2030, Mendota will improve sidewalks in each ward. Numbers of repairs decided when the city budget is set/grants are written to enact the prioritized plan. Plan will be revisited and adjusted to continue improvements.</p>	<p>City of Mendota staff and council, Walkability Team</p>	
---	--	--

Goal #8: By December 2028, the City of Mendota (through collaboration with Walkability Team partners) will make permanent changes along Wisconsin Avenue to neighborhood destinations on the northwest side of town (grocery, laundry, library, pool, etc.) from Washington Street north to Meridan Street. (*This is the permanent goal that the pop-up activity (described within the activities section of Goal #2) will eventually inform).



Transportation (“Activity-Friendly Routes”) Land Use (“Everyday Destinations”)

Estimated reach: 7,061

<p>Action Steps (to include timeline): <i>Action Steps are specific activities, benchmarks, or achievements that assist in accomplishing the goal; the timeline is an estimated completion date for that stated action step</i></p>	<p>Responsible Party: <i>Agency or individual responsible for achieving the action step</i></p>	<p>Additional Comments/ Resources Needed: <i>Added comments or resources useful for achieving the action step</i></p>
<p>Action Step 8.1: Between Sept. 2024 - July 2025, we will hold 4 seasonal walking/biking use counts (Fall 2024, Winter 2024/25, Spring 2025, Summer 2025)</p>	<p>Students, volunteers, city council members and staff, YMCA, U of I extension, OSF, MASS, Sullivan’s grocery, MPD</p>	<p>Resources from walkability clinic, suggestions from Mendota Police Department and fire department</p>
<p>Action Step 8.2: By October 2024, we will do walk/move audits and discuss/plan a pop-up demonstration of a painted bike lane or other suggested demo at the north end of Wisconsin Ave.</p>		
<p>Action Step 8.3: By May 2025, we will advertise and hold a pop-up demonstration, giving a chance to try out the changes to the north end of Wisconsin Ave.</p>	<p>Students, volunteers, city council and staff, YMCA, U of I extension, OSF, MASS, MPD, Walkability Team</p>	<p>permission from City of Mendota, Sullivan’s Grocery</p>
<p>Action Step 8.4: By July 2025, based on the pop-up demo and use counts, we will make recommendations for more permanent safe passage or modify pop-up demonstration for further review.</p>	<p>Students, volunteers, city council and staff, YMCA, U of I extension, OSF, MASS, MPD, Walkability Team</p>	
<p>Action Step 8.5: By July 2027, work with engineer to develop a plan for permanent changes to the intersection/sidewalks.</p>	<p>Students, volunteers, city council and staff, YMCA, U of</p>	

	I extension, OSF, MASS, Walkability Team	
Action Step 8.6: By December 2028, the City of Mendota will complete the construction and implementation of the permanent safe passage along Wisconsin Avenue.	City of Mendota, Mendota Walkability Team	