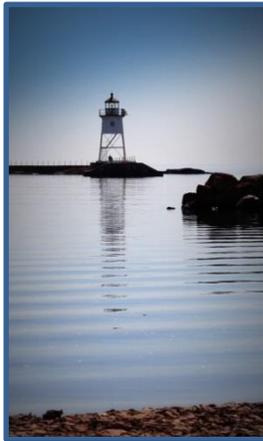


COOK COUNTY-GRAND PORTAGE COMMUNITY ACTIVE LIVING PLAN



July 2014

**Prepared by:
Arrowhead Regional Development Commission
Regional Planning Division**



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Background

The Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) was contacted by Cook County *Moving Matter Project* Coordinators in mid-November 2013 to discuss neutral facilitation needs for an Active Living Policy development process that would consider the possibility of creating a policy to address safe walking, bicycling and accessibility. The process was scheduled to begin in January 2014.

Moving Matters is a three year project (funded by Center for Prevention at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota) led by the Sawtooth Clinic that strives to create safer and more accessible routes for all people within Cook County and its communities with a focus on community engagement and addressing policies and infrastructure to support safe walking, bicycling and assisted pedestrians (strollers, walkers, wheelchairs). The Project is led by a local Active Living Steering Committee (ALSC). ALSC members represent numerous local interests related to active living, safety, and local government. Two project Coordinators staff the committee and oversee the *Moving Matters and Statewide Health Improvement Programs*.

The Active Living Policy development process was conducted by a newly formed Active Living Policy Committee (Policy Committee). Policy Committee members represent elected officials and staff that include: Cook County Commissioners, County Administration, Highway, Law Enforcement, and Planning and Zoning departments, City of Grand Marais Lutsen Township, Tofte Township, Schroeder Township, Grand Portage Reservation, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Active Living Steering Committee (ALSC), and Moving Matters staff. ARDC provided meeting facilitation and technical assistance.

Active Living is a way of life in which people are physically active during their daily routines. It means walking or bicycling to work, school or to go shopping. It also means exercising or playing in the park, taking the stairs, and going to recreational facilities. Active Living is influenced by policies, infrastructure, education, and enforcement.

Planning Process

Meeting 1: January 2, 2014. Kristin DeArruda Wharton, Coordinator of the Sawtooth Mountain Clinic's Moving Matters project, opened the meeting by presenting a history of Active Living in Cook County and the events that led to this policy process. She pointed out Cook County's and Grand Portage's history of physically active lifestyles. She talked about recent stakeholder interest in integrating physical activity as a part of daily life and not just exercise. She stated that some Cook County residents and programs have been involved in a conversation about safe walking and bicycling in our communities (Active Living) through programs, policies and infrastructure for the past several years. A citizen gave a testimonial about the positive impact of safe walking for children at the daycare she manages. Introductions were made (attendees included representation of MnDOT, Grand Portage Tribe, City of Grand Marais,

Citizens, Tofte Area, Sawtooth Mountain Clinic, Cook County Commissioners, Cook County Public Health, Cook County Highway Department, Cook County Planning and Zoning, and Moving Matters staff). Andy Hubley from ARDC defined Active Living for the group and described this planning process. Hubley asked attendees to list the Active Living assets that already exist in Cook County. Comments included:

- People who care
- Lots of public lands
- Compact community
- Lots of trails
- Lots of other recreation opportunities
- Engaged stakeholders
- Lutsen Mountains recreation area
- Destinations
- Transit
- Connections to land
- Sidewalks
- Scenic beauty
- Wide shoulders in some areas
- Bike racks
- Active businesses
- Clean
- Crosswalks
- YMCA
- Walkable distances
- Existing organizations
- Lakes
- Paddling opportunities
- Low crime
- Lake Superior

Hubley asked attendees to list the Active Living barriers that exist in Cook County. Comments included:

- Limited staff
- Cold, Snow
- Social conventions against (walking or biking) non-auto travel
- Poor signage
- Busy lives
- Expensive infrastructure
- Expensive short-term maintenance
- Expensive long-term maintenance
- Aging population
- Housing access shortfalls
- Busy Highway 61
- 5th Ave issues
- Lots of public lands (big spaces between homes, lack of tax base, etc.)
- Narrow rights of way
- Remoteness
- Seasonal tourism
- That damn hill
- High expectations of grantors

Andy Hubley asked attendees to list some “Elephants in the Room” regarding Active Living. Concerns included:

- Additional costs
- Lack of funding
- Competition from road/bridge projects for limited funding,
- The perception of mandates for certain design elements in the concept of complete streets
- Ambiguity regarding the role of elected officials, staff, and the public
- The potential for strict requirements of private development

Meeting 2: February 6, 2014. Introductions were made and the meeting opened with additional discussion on Elephants in the Room. Concerns include reallocations of existing resources, the time it takes to walk versus drive, the definition of “transportation”, snow removal, and this planning process itself. Discussion was held.

The attendees were asked why they think active living is important. Answers included

- health
- safety
- quality of life
- longer life span
- tourism/quality of experience
- well-being
- community interaction
- involves everyone
- inexpensive transportation
- efficiency
- encourages new development and improved roads
- aesthetics
- public safety
- family friendly
- addresses an aging population
- socialization
- economics and increased business



The group was asked if they believed Active Living should be addressed in Cook County and Grand Portage and it was a consensus that it should be. It was discussed how Active Living can be different to different people and different communities. Highway 61's influence was discussed as was the role of transit. Different community policies and processes were discussed and their roles in Active Living were examined.

Meeting 3: March 6, 2014. The definition of Active Living was reexamined. The original definition used for the process was reiterated. It was reaffirmed that Active Living is good. A video was shown that depicted citizens' comments on what makes a "walkable or bikeable community" from community input meetings hosted by Moving Matters throughout the County. Current projects that support walking, biking, and being active were listed. These included Temperance River wayside's redesign, the development of the Onion River Trail, a redesign of Father' Baraga's Cross site, a redesign of Cascade River wayside, completion of the Gitchi-Gami State Trail in Tofte, the HelmetHero program, the extension of the Gitchi-Gami State Trail in Grand Marais, development of new sidewalks in Grand Marais, and trail construction in Grand Portage.

Participants separated into small groups based on the entity they represented; Grand Portage, Cook County, West End, City of Grand Marais. Each group began to work on an action plan for their community addressing active living, safe walking, biking and accessibility. See the small group results in the Goals and Action Steps section starting on page 7 for more information.

Meeting 4: April 10, 2014. An update of current projects was given. Funding for the Gitchi-Gami State Trail in Tofte has been secured. Funding for the same trail in Grand Marais was in consideration by the State Legislature (we now know it was given \$1.47 million). A discussion was held regarding the definition of a road, opinions varied from a facility serving high speed vehicles only to a facility that is a transportation corridor, regardless of mode or speed of traffic.

Small groups were set up, organized by geographic area (County, City, West End, and Grand Portage). The groups were asked to develop concrete actions under the themes of Public Input, Policies, Infrastructure, Awareness, and Big Picture Goals. See Goals and Action Steps section starting on page 7 for more information. .

Meeting5: May 1, 2014. Andy Hubley had a conflict and could not attend. Kristin DeArruda Wharton, Moving Matters and SHIP Project Coordinator facilitated the meeting. A Rapid Fire Action Planning exercise was held. The geographic groups were utilized and goals and action steps were further developed. See the recommendations section of this document for results. After a break for pie, a discussion was held on shared goals, common interests and the future role of this committee (if any). See the Goals and Recommendations Section starting on page 7 for the details.

Meeting 6: June 12, 2014. The final Policy committee meeting was hosted at the Lodge and Casino in Grand Portage. Andy Hubley led the attendees through a process to add significant details to their Goals and Recommendations. See page 7 for the results.



Project Goals and Action Steps

The Active Living Policy Process resulted in the development of goals and recommended action steps separated geographically throughout Cook County and Grand Portage. Members of each community, staff and elected officials created these plans independent from the other groups. Each goal has associated action steps, responsible parties, an estimated cost, and a project timeline.

Grand Portage Goals

Grand Portage Goal 1: Create a healthy community park. The park should provide play space for young children, recreation opportunities for older children, exercise opportunities for adults and gathering space for the community.

Action Step A: Plan the park. The first step is to conduct a request for proposals (RFP) that is sent to qualified design firms. The proposals received will help determine the cost of the design process. The Tribe can then seek out grant funding to help defray the cost of the design process. Once funding is secured, the chosen design consultant would be hired and that team would assist the Tribe in identifying a site and designing the layout, access and uses of that site.



Responsibilities: The Wellness Committee could lead this process and ensure the steps are done and the process moves forward. The Committee could decide to form a special sub-committee that includes citizen representatives to help this

process. ARDC could assist the Tribe in developing the RFP and identifying potential consultants to send it to. Additionally, ARDC could assist the Tribe to find external funding sources and apply for them. Other entities in the Cook County area could assist in finding funding by expressing support for the design process, such as sending letters of support to potential funders.

Estimated Cost: A park design by a professional landscape architect or park planner should not cost over \$20,000. Potential external funding sources include the Lake Superior Coastal Program, which would cover 75 percent of the design cost if the total cost is \$20,000 or less. Prevention Minnesota and other foundations may also be able to fund the project. The grant programs of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community could also be a good fit.

Timeline: The design process could be completed as early as the fall of 2015 if the Wellness Committee chose this as a top priority - sooner if external funding is not needed.

Action Step B: Build the Park. Once the design is well underway or completed the Tribe should take the necessary steps to build the park.

Responsibilities: The Wellness Committee should again lead this process, but public works and other tribal departments may need to be more involved.

Estimated Cost: It is difficult to determine the cost of building the park before designs are completed, but it can be expected that cost would be between \$300,000 and \$1,000,000 to meet the language of Goal 1. Again, outside funding sources can be sought with possibilities being the same as Action Step A.

Timeline: Construction could occur as early as the summer of 2016 if all steps move forward.

Grand Portage Goal 2: Increase physical activity in youth and adults.

Action Step A: Conduct the Kitchi Oni Gaming Challenge. This is an intergenerational physical activity community challenge to encourage adults to engage in physical activity with children and play together! Each child and adult will record the minutes of physical activity they engaged in together. Any physical activity counts towards minutes of activity; gardening, walking, playing outside, exercise.

Responsibilities: The Wellness Committee and Community Center are organizing the Challenge.

Estimated Cost: Low cost, \$500 or less. The organizers gave out pocket trackers which people use to keep track of their physical activity minutes and then transfer onto a big board at the Community Center for a friendly competition. The \$500 will also fund incentives to the top 3 active adults and kids in September.

Timeline: The Challenge will occur in June July, August and will end on Sept 14th, 2014.

Grand Portage Goal 3: Improve pedestrian safety. Currently, the community is not welcoming to pedestrians. Sidewalks are minimal and off road trails are few. Roadways tend to be narrow and vehicle speeds can be high.

Action Step A: Install speed limiting signage at important spots in the community. Ideally this signage would be the speed monitoring type that inform drivers of their speed and flash when that number is higher than the limit. Locations for the signage should be identified and addressed with the cooperation of the road administrators, which could include tribal public works, Cook County, or MnDOT.

Responsibilities: The Wellness Committee should lead this in cooperation with tribal public works. The Wellness Committee is comprised of representatives from every major department including Emergency Management, Construction, Casino & Lodge, Trust Lands, Park Service, Health Service, Council Member, Administration, Human Services, Community Center, School, and others.

Estimated Cost: Installation of vehicle activated solar speed signs are between \$2,500 and \$5,000. The Moving Matters project of the Sawtooth Mountain Clinic has funded \$4,000 towards purchase of two radar speed signs to be installed in the Grand Portage school zone.

Timeline: Identification of the locations should be completed by the fall of 2014. Once costs are identified, funding should be sought and the signs placed by the summer of 2015.

Action Step B: Review the Tribe's Transportation Plan and determine feasibility of completing bike and pedestrian recommendations and determine if a plan update is needed. Pursue new plan if needed.

Responsibilities: Wellness committee should review the plan and work with Tribal staff to determine feasibility and plan update necessity.

Estimated Cost: \$0.00.

Timeline: The review should occur before December 31, 2014.

Grand Portage Goal 4: Provide wellness education. Outreach to tribal members needs to occur in order for people to have good information about wellness and active living opportunities.

Action Step A: Participate in the Wellness Fair. The Tribe's annual Wellness Fair is a good opportunity to include active living as part of the education program. Active living should be highlighted in some way.

Responsibilities: The Wellness Committee should work with the clinic and community center to determine a role of active living at the Wellness Fair.

Estimated Cost: Low. Development of displays, activities, and handouts will have some costs.

Timeline: The fair usually occurs in June of each year.

Action Step B: Evaluate the success of the Active Living component of the Wellness Fair. Determine potential changes.

Responsibilities: The Wellness Committee, with assistance from the clinic and community center should conduct the evaluation.

Estimated Cost: \$0.00.

Timeline: The review should occur before soon after the Fair.

Grand Portage Goal 5: Promote intergenerational physical activity. Getting youth out with adults and elders to be active provides an opportunity for wellness, education and community.

Action Step A: Conduct a community clean up walk. People could interact as a coordinated effort takes place to walk around the community and clean up trash in road ditches and common areas. Wellness education could be done as part of the event and incentives for participation could be developed.

Responsibilities: The Wellness Committee would work with the Elderly Nutrition Program (ENP) to plan and conduct the event.

Estimated Cost: Low. Development of activities and educational materials will have some costs.

Timeline: The event could be planned and held by the summer of 2015.

Action Step B: Evaluate the success of the event.

Responsibilities: The Wellness Committee, with assistance from other stakeholders, should conduct the evaluation.

Estimated Cost: \$0.00.

Timeline: The review should occur before or soon after the event.

Grand Portage Goal 6: Promote healthy eating to youth. Educating and offering opportunities to youth regarding healthy eating is important.

Action Step A: Continue to incorporate gardening into youth programs. The existing garden program at the community center and the school is having success at helping kids understand healthy eating. Programmatic and physical garden facility enhancement should be considered.

Responsibilities: Educators, the Oshki Ogimaag Community School, community center and clinic should work together on this initiative.

Estimated Cost: Cost may depend on program personnel. Can existing staff continue to lead the program without significant increases in hours? If additional paid personnel are not needed other costs (site prep, seeds, plants and fencing) would be fairly low. A project grant for \$1,100 from Sawtooth Mountain Clinic CTG program was provided in 2014 to support the school garden supplies, and \$1,100 to support the community garden irrigation system.



Timeline: The garden program enhancement could be planned in 2014 and implemented in the spring and summer of 2015.

Action Step B: Evaluate the success of the project.

Responsibilities: The project stakeholders should evaluate the success of the project.

Estimated Cost: \$0.00.

Timeline: The review should occur after the summer of 2015.

Cook County Goals

Cook County Goal 1: Improve employee health. Finding opportunities to better the health of County employees, one of the biggest employers in the area, is a positive step in the entire area.

Action Step A: Provide pedometers to employees and encourage them to walk more as part of their daily routines. The program could provide tracking opportunities and incentives to walk more.

Responsibilities: The safety committee could lead this effort with assistance from Allison Plummer and Heidi Doo-Kirk. These people would need to identify which pedometers to get, identify funding sources, and design the program.

Estimated Cost: A cost of \$1,200 has been estimated. A Prevention Minnesota grant or other external source could be identified and applied to.

Timeline: This idea could be implemented before December 31, 2014.

Action Step B: Evaluate the success of the project.

Responsibilities: The project stakeholders should evaluate the success of the project.

Estimated Cost: \$0.00.

Timeline: The review should occur after the summer of 2015.

Cook County Goal 2: Form a central group to coordinate trail, recreation and other active living projects in the area. The multi-jurisdictional board of elected officials would provide a united voice for projects in the County. It would not be a joint powers board, it would be an informational entity only.

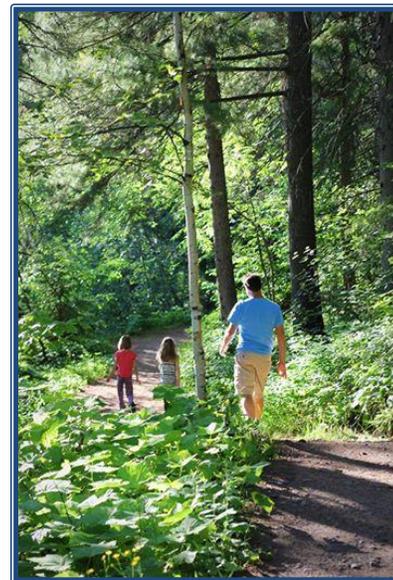
Action Step A: Set a group structure and form the group. Solicit each potential involved entity to designate their representative. Members should include: Cook County, Grand Portage Tribe, City of Grand Marais, Schroeder Township and Tofte Township. Public trail entities (MnDNR, USFS) would be regular invitees to the meetings and other trail stakeholders (e.g. Snowmobile clubs) would be asked to participate as needed. Once the initial group is formed, the structure, mission and processes of the group should be set.

Responsibilities: Russ Klegstad and Jay Kieft should reach out to the other entities and solicit their representative and determine their availability. ARDC can help develop informational materials. – UPDATE (November 2015): ARDC and Cook County have agreed to a potential project scope for a trails plan (See Cook County Goal 2, Action Step B) and funding applications have been submitted. Once funding has been secured the group will be formed.

Estimated Cost: Minimal. Some mileage and meal costs may occur for some members.

Timeline: This idea should be implemented before September 30, 2014.

Action Step B: Develop a County-wide Comprehensive Trails Plan. The County-wide Trails Committee should review the recently completed Lake County Comprehensive Trail Plan and determine what they would like a Cook County plan to accomplish. The group should solicit a planning proposal from an experienced entity (ARDC did the Lake County Plan and is developing a proposal). Based on the proposal, Cook County should seek grants to fund the planning costs. Once the funding is identified and secured, the plan can begin. The first step in the plan will be to form a special planning committee. This committee can include the elected officials on the Trails Committee, but should also include jurisdictions and trail stakeholders, including MnDNR, USFS, Snowmobile Clubs, Biking clubs/enthusiasts, ATV trail advocates, hiking clubs/entities, and other interested parties. The new committee would guide the planning process and would not exist beyond its completion. UPDATE (November 2015): ARDC and Cook County have agreed to a potential project scope for a trails plan and funding applications have been submitted. Once funding has been secured the group will be formed.



Responsibilities: County-wide Trails Committee would be responsible for getting the planning process started and approving the final document. ARDC can assist with all facets of the process.

Estimated Cost: \$20,000.00. Funding for the plan could come from the Lake Superior Coastal Program, the Recreation Account, trail groups, or participating public entities.

Timeline: Depending on funding sources, the plan could begin as soon as the fall of 2014, or may not begin until the summer of 2015. Plan will take six to nine months to complete.

Cook County Goal 3: Realize all opportunities to include healthy elements for all County projects. The County should develop a checklist that can be used when developing County projects. The checklist would ensure that health is considered as part of the development process. The checklist could be used by staff when developing the project and by the County Board when approving the project.

Action Step A: Develop the checklist. The County Board can direct a staff member to research similar checklists around the state and nation and to work with experienced colleagues to determine the checklist's scope, and finally to develop a draft checklist. The County Board would review and change/approve the checklist.

Responsibilities: The County Administrator should conduct this step or determine a staff member to do it. ARDC could also assist in the development of checklist.

Estimated Cost: Minimal. If ARDC is involved there may be a relatively small fee, but ARDC may already have identified a funding source for their time.

Timeline: The checklist should be developed before October 31, 2014.

Action Step B: Implement the checklist. The County Board should review its project development process and work with staff to determine where the checklist should be used. The County Board should then follow through with that determination.

Responsibilities: The County Administrator can guide this process. The County Board will need to approve the determination.

Estimated Cost: Minimal.

Timeline: This idea should be implemented before December 31, 2014.



Grand Marais Goals

Grand Marais Goal 1: Highway 61 through downtown Grand Marais becomes pedestrian scale and no longer a barrier to active users.

Action Step A: Create a stakeholder list. Who needs to be involved? Who would be impacted? A list of stakeholders would likely include a spectrum of participants from a large state agency like MnDOT to an individual business, citizen or visitor. The list needs to be created, reviewed, and documented.

Responsibilities: The City Administrator or another designated staff member or stakeholder could develop the list. The list should be reviewed by other stakeholders to ensure completeness.

Estimated Cost: Minimal.

Timeline: The list should be developed before August 1, 2014.

Action Step B: Develop a communication plan. Using the stakeholder list and other methods, including newspapers, media, social media and websites, a plan should be developed on how to reach all interested parties regarding the highway. Set updates, meeting announcements, meeting summaries and draft document/design distribution should all be considered.

Responsibilities: The City could consider naming a project leadership team that would be responsible for guiding the communications plan and subsequent communications.

Estimated Cost: Minimal.

Timeline: The plan should be developed before September 1, 2014.

Action Step C: Hold a complete streets workshop. The event could educate Grand Marais and area stakeholders about methods for better integrating pedestrians and bikes into the City's infrastructure, including Highway 61. An evaluation of the workshop and its results should be documented and actions could be taken as a result.

Responsibilities: The City Administrator should set the event up and make the invitations. MnDOT can provide the educators with expertise on complete streets.

Estimated Cost: Minimal.

Timeline: The workshop should be held before September 1, 2014. (Note: event was held on July 16, 2014)

Action Step D: Design a better Highway 61 through Grand Marais. Conduct a design process using a landscape architect and community input. The process should be structured and conducted in a public setting. The design should address all aspects of the highway include auto and truck traffic, pedestrian safety and attractiveness, bike safety and attractiveness, corridor aesthetics and future uses.

Responsibilities: The City of Grand Marais is the lead and is ultimately responsible for this project. The Moving Matters project of the Sawtooth Mountain Clinic is available to assist with community engagement and education. The City Council and Mayor will oversee the design process and will work with other stakeholders, including MnDOT, businesses, citizens and visitors. The public, including business operators and visitors be involved in public input sessions during the summer of 2014. ARDC offers to provide support, including GIS development.

Estimated Cost: Around \$45,000. The Moving Matters project of the Sawtooth Mountain Clinic has committed \$30,000 towards the design team and community input process. The City is the contracting organization and is ultimately responsible for the costs and process. If desired, ARDC can assist with some associated tasks. ARDC's time would be funded through the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC).

Timeline: The design process is set to begin in July of 2014 and is expected to be completed with a concept drawing by December 2014.

Western Cook County Goals

Western Cook County Goal 1: Improve safety on Highway 61 in western Cook County. Highway 61 is the lone transportation artery through western Cook County, including Schroeder, Tofte and Lutsen. The communities around the highway would like to see this corridor become safer and friendlier to walkers and bikers.

Action Step A: Finish the Gitchi-Gami State Trail. This paved, non-motorized trail is planned to stretch 86 miles from Two Harbors to Grand Marais, but only 29 miles of the trail are completed. In Cook County, there is a stretch completed within Grand Marais and one finished between Temperance River and Lutsen (with a short gap in Tofte). A finished trail will draw more tourists, attract people seeking exercise and improve community connectivity. The area needs to work together to finish the trail.



Responsibilities: The MnDNR is ultimately the responsible party for the Gitchi-Gami State Trail. They can be supported in their efforts by Cook County and the communities. The Gitchi-Gami Trail Association is a non-profit dedicated to the trail and its completion. Cook County and the communities can continue to participate in that organization. The area can also help educate legislators and other leaders regarding the trail's completion through letters and other shows of support.

Estimated Cost: Due to the nature of the North Shore, including its exposed bedrock and lake shore. The GGST is a very expensive trail to build. Some sections are averaging \$900,000 per mile. Multiple funding sources are used from state and federal programs.

Timeline: Short sections are scheduled for construction in 2015 and 2018, but most sections are not yet funded and no construction schedule is set.

Action Step B: Improve safety and aesthetics on Highway 61 corridor through Tofte. The MnDNR has secured construction funding to build the GGST through the community and is agreeable to holding a community design process as a part of that effort. The design process would be a public process that not only determined the route of the trail through town, but would also design other community improvements regarding signage, vegetation, lighting, and other aesthetic amenities. The design will seek to create a safe corridor for walkers and bikers, making the area more attractive for exercising, tourism and community connectivity.



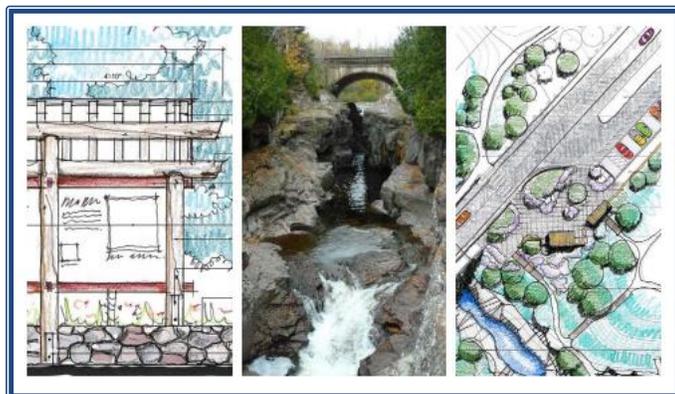
Responsibilities: The Gitchi-Gami Trail Association, with assistance from ARDC, is leading the effort to fund the design process. MnDOT, MnDNR, and the Town of Tofte will be partners in the effort.

Estimated Cost: \$15,000 for the designs. The GGTA is seeking funding from the Lake Superior Coastal Program to hire the Landscape Architect that will complete the designs. The cost of ARDC's assistance will be funded through their Transportation Planning Grant.



Timeline: Funding should be secured this fall and the design process should be completed by the spring of 2015.

Action Step C: Improve safety and aesthetics on Highway 61 corridor through Temperance River State Park. The North Shore Scenic Drive Council, MnDOT, the MnDNR and others completed a public process to redesign how the existing wayside facilities at Temperance River could be improved. The [design](#) has been completed and is now in the hands of MnDOT to implement. Stakeholders



in western Cook County need to continue to work with MnDOT to get the project funded. This improvement would improve pedestrian and biker safety at this key location.

Responsibilities: MnDOT will need to construct the project. The MnDNR and local stakeholders need to be supportive of getting the project funded.

Estimated Cost: The current estimate is \$2.3 million. Multiple funding sources would need to be used.

Timeline: Funding should be secured this fall and the design process should be completed by the spring of 2015.

Additional Items to Consider

- An Active Living Checklist for Housing and Business Development Permits: Similar to the checklist proposed for County projects outlined in Cook County Goal 3. Before zoning permits, conditional use permits or subdivision requests are granted, the zoning authority could review a checklist to determine if the developer could better integrate Active Living in their plans. Items reviewed could include the development's use of sidewalks and bikeways among other facilities/policies.
- Marketing/encouragement: The area, led by the potential County-wide committee, could seek out ways to encourage residents and visitors to be more active and could lead marketing efforts to promote the area as an Active Living community in order to attract more visitors, businesses, and residents.
- Comprehensive Plan: Cook County is undergoing a Comprehensive Plan...Active Living can be examined as part of the process and goals recommended actions in the plan can be reviewed to determine if Active Living aspects can be improved.
- Sidewalk/trail snow removal: Policies regarding snow removal from trails and sidewalks should be explored, particularly in Grand Marais. Policies can range from property owner responsibility with little enforcement to similar policies with enforcement to making removal a government responsibility.
- More sidewalks and shoulders: An inventory of existing walking and biking facilities and destinations could be completed and a plan to improve/build sidewalks and shoulders that address the needs identified could be developed.
- Active Living Coordinator: A person responsible for addressing Active Living in the area could be identified and funded. The Coordinator could facilitate the County-wide Trails Committee, monitor and coordinate Active Living grants and opportunities, conduct encouragement and marketing and address any other Active Living items of interest.

For More Information

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- Project/Meeting Videos:

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