

REFERENCES

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IS A PEDESTRIAN PATHWAY RIGHT FOR THE TONGUE RIVER VALLEY?



A pedestrian pathway on the north side of Highway 14 would be used for fitness, commuting and recreation opportunities between Dayton and Ranchester.



Safety Benefits Of Walkways, Sidewalks And Paved Shoulders.

In our rural community, Highway 14 serves thousands of residents and tourists annually. It serves schools, businesses, and transit routes. Along the length of the highway pedestrian paths are beat into the grass. For pedestrians it isn't comfortable, it isn't accessible, and it isn't safe. We need a safe pathway suitable for pedestrians.

Walkways

Annually, around 4,500 pedestrians are killed in traffic crashes with motor vehicles in the United States. (1) Pedestrians killed while "walking along the roadway" account for almost 8 percent of these deaths. (2) Many of these tragedies are preventable. Providing walkways separated from the travel lanes could help to prevent up to 88 percent of these "walking along roadway crashes." (3)

Walkways can be created either by providing stabilized or paved surfaces separated from the roadway, or by widening paved shoulders. These treatments can not only improve the safety of pedestrians, but also make pedestrian trips more viable, this includes transportation options for individuals who may not be able to drive a car. Additionally, by moving pedestrians off the travel lanes, motorist operations are improved and capacity increased. Research indicates that people will walk for recreational purposes if a facility is provided!



Community Support Survey

Recreational walking is one of the easiest ways for people to get the recommended allotment of physical exercise each day. Moderate exercise, such as walking, contributes to both physical and mental wellbeing. (7) Paved shoulders provide numerous safety benefits for motorists and pedestrians. Installing or widening paved shoulders has the following benefits:

- Provides a stable surface off of the roadway for pedestrians to use when sidewalks cannot be provided.
- Reduces numerous crash types including the following:– Head on crashes (15%-75% reported reduction)(8)– Sideswipe crashes (15%-41%)(8)– Fixed object crashes (29%-49%)(8)– Pedestrian (walking along roadway) crashes (71%)(8)
- Improves roadway drainage
- Reduces shoulder maintenance requirements
- Provides emergency stopping space for broken down vehicles
- Provides space for maintenance operations and snow storage
- Provides space for variable message signs

- Total online responses - 208.
- Support - 199 yes, 9 no.
- Voter location: Dayton 84, Rancheater 99, Parkman and other, 25.
- Trail type: Asphalt 59, Concrete 85, Dirt 33, Grass, wood chips, other 31, none vote 9
- What would the path be used for? Votes included Walking, running, biking, skiing, and pet exercise.
- What amenities would you like to see available? Votes included garbage cans, benches, doggie bag stations, mile markers, and trees.
- How frequently would you use the path: Voters responded positive from daily to a few times per month! Voters commented on the fact weather would play a factor and if the pathway was maintained.