

BMA PROJECT PROFILE

Lawton Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Early in the process, the planning team met with interested stakeholders, including Lawton's Trail advocates. They already had many ideas for where they wanted trails, and destinations they wanted to access by foot or bicycle. With their input the planning team undertook an existing conditions evaluation, needs analysis, and best practices research, which finally culminated in a long range implementation plan.



As the team leader for the on-street bicycle analysis and recommendations, BMA conducted a Bicycle Level of Service (BLOS) analysis for the Lawton Oklahoma MPO. The BLOS analysis evaluated suitability of existing streets for different types of bicyclists, from commuter cyclists to basic adult and child cyclists. The analysis evaluated current conditions based on traffic volume, speed limits, and lane widths. BMA evaluated potential treatments by which existing "bike unfriendly" streets could be modified without reconstruction to serve bicyclists. The resulting recommendations included a network of existing bike-friendly streets together with recommendations for lost cost modifications to achieve citywide connectivity, together with recommendations for long-term accommodation when streets are reconstructed. The potential low-cost on-street modifications ranged from lane restriping and road diets, to lowering speed limits together with traffic calming treatments. In other areas, trails were recommended to provide connectivity. The recommended bike routes provided feasible citywide connections to trip generators including schools (from elementary to university), employment centers, shopping centers, civic destinations, tourist attractions, parks and other public lands, high density residential areas, and bus routes. The recommended system was prioritized using a criteria based matrix, weighted in accordance with MPO priorities. Mapping was developed using ArcView.

In addition for this project, BMA conducted best practices research for six similar city/MPO bicycle and pedestrian plans. Areas reviewed included how the plans focus on public involvement, key techniques used in preparing the plans, and identification of innovative policies and recommendations. The findings were incorporated into the Lawton Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

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