



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 16, 2015

Contact: Joe Zdankiewicz, PE
Director of Transportation Planning
Southern Illinois Metropolitan
Planning Organization (SIMPO)
joezdankiewicz@greateregyp.org
(618) 997-9351

Public Invited to Attend Open House and Take Online Survey for the Carbondale Bicycle Master Plan



The public is invited to attend an open house from 6:00 – 8:00pm on October 21 at the Carbondale Civic Center (200 S Illinois Ave Carbondale, IL 62901) for the Carbondale Bicycle Master Plan. Attendees at the open house will be able to learn more about the bicycle master plan and provide input to the planning team on recommended bike routes, destinations, and ways to improve bicycling in Carbondale. The open house will start at 6:00pm with an opportunity to review materials and talk with the planning team. At 6:30pm there will be a presentation and an interactive workshop.

“We have just started the overall planning process,” said Joe Zdankiewicz, Director of Transportation Planning for the Southern Illinois Metropolitan Planning Organization (SIMPO). “This first open house will give residents a chance to learn more about the planning process and share their thoughts with the planning team on bicycling in Carbondale.”

Key elements of the Bicycle Master Plan will include: an inventory of the existing bicycle network, identification of connections between routes in the existing network, identification of existing roadways that could accommodate bicycle facilities, recommendations of short and long term policy changes, and action items to move Carbondale towards recognition as a ‘Bicycle Friendly Community’.

The Bicycle Master Plan started in August and will be complete by late spring 2016. A second open house in February will present the draft recommendations.

In addition to the open house, the public is encouraged to take an online survey to provide input for the Bicycle Master Plan. The online survey can be found at www.CarbondaleBikePlan.com and features a text survey as well as a map where residents can mark recommended routes, destinations, and existing obstacles to biking. The survey will be open until October 30.

Southern Illinois Metropolitan Planning Organization (SIMPO) is the lead agency for the study which will be a cooperative effort between SIMPO, the City of Carbondale, IDOT, SIU and other partners. Ultimately, the plan will be a valuable resource guiding the implementation of specific projects for all the partners involved. The planning team is led by the i5Group, along with the League of Illinois Bicyclists and Horner Shifrin. The planning team is working closely with each partner as well as a Technical and Advisory Committee to develop a comprehensive and practical plan.

"In addition to the open house, the planning team has met with many community stakeholders, including students," said Stephen Ibendahl, Principal of the i5Group. "We want to hear not only from bicyclists who ride every day, but those who ride infrequently or not at all. A bicycle friendly city is an asset not only for bicyclists but for the whole community. The plan can be an economic development tool because businesses and residents often prefer to live where they can bike and walk."

For more information about the Carbondale Bicycle Master Plan, visit www.CarbondaleBikePlan.com or contact Joe Zdankiewicz, Director of Transportation Planning for the Southern Illinois Metropolitan Planning Organization at 618-997-9351.

