

CHIPPEWA-EAU CLAIRE

MPO QUARTERLY

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Eau Claire St.
City of Eau Claire's new pedestrian street in front of the library.

Hoboken, NJ
Zero traffic deaths over four years. What can we learn?

Altoona Bike/Pedestrian Plan
Recently completed plan.



Eau Claire Street

Earlier this year, the City of Eau Claire completed the renovation of the City Library. In addition, the City also reconstructed Eau Claire St. between Dewey St. and Farwell Ave. into a pedestrian corridor. The projects took roughly 17 months to complete. The City's Downtown Plan highlights the area between the City Library and the City Hall as a Town Square, Promenade, and Plaza. The new pedestrian corridor starts that transition to a public space for people. The new corridor includes year-round outdoor seating with shade trees, bike parking, a grass area with shade trees, pedestrian scale lighting, sculptures, and the pedestrian walking area.

This street project is a great example of analyzing issues and opportunities, finding that the benefits of a pedestrian corridor outweigh the benefits of a traditional street that is primarily for vehicles, and then acting on the findings. This new corridor is significantly more inviting and safe for pedestrians, which is very important adjacent to a library. In addition, this corridor adds to the growing list of Eau Claire downtown amenities that makes people both want to go downtown and also stay in the downtown area longer. We strongly recommend people visit this new corridor.



Project Updates

City of Altoona Bike/Ped & Safe Routes To Parks Plan - Completed and distributed final document to City.

Chippewa Valley Safe Routes To School (SRTS) Partnership - Ongoing. Currently updating Eau Claire SRTS Plan.

Chippewa Valley Bike Routes - Communities continue to purchase and install additional signage. End of 2023 is still the target date for full installation in the Chippewa Valley. MPO staff continues to facilitate.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Story Maps - [City of Chippewa Falls](#) 2022-2026 and [Chippewa County](#) 2023-2026 are updated. Eau Claire County will be started in 2023.

Village of Lake Hallie CTH OO/Old Abe State Trail crossing study - Completed in November.

Urban Work Program and TIP Recertification - Completed in September and October.

City of Eau Claire application for a Sewer Service Area Boundary Amendment - Completed staff report and held TAC and Policy Council public meetings in September and October.

City of Chippewa Falls Wayfinding Plan - Ongoing.

Chippewa County Crash Report - Ongoing. Final draft will be complete by end of 2022.

Chippewa Valley Airport Flights

Specific start dates for new flights to and from Chippewa Valley Regional Airport (EAU) have been finalized. United Airline service ended at EAU on November 30, 2022. Sun Country Airlines started service to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) December 1, 2022 and will expand to a total of four roundtrip flights per week to MSP starting December 19, 2022. Direct flights to Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) in Ft. Myers, FL will start December 19, 2022. Direct flights to Orlando International Airport (MCO) in Orlando, FL will start April 19, 2023.

Interesting Listens

This Freakonomics [podcast](#), "Should Public Transit Be Free?", discusses the pros and cons of charging for public transit. The subheading for the podcast says: *It boosts economic opportunity and social mobility. It's good for the environment. So why do we charge people to use it? The short answer: it's complicated.* (47 minutes)

This CNN Downside Up [podcast](#), "What If We Designed Cities Around People Instead Of Cars?", discusses the last 90 years of planning cities around cars and how that could change in the future to refocus on moving people not cars. (31 minutes)

The Chippewa-Eau Claire MPA includes:

The cities of Altoona, Chippewa Falls, and Eau Claire, the Village of Lake Hallie, and all or parts of the towns of Anson, Brunswick, Eagle Point, Hallie, Lafayette, Pleasant Valley, Seymour, Tilden, Union, Washington, and Wheaton. www.wcwrpc.org 715.836.2918

Hoboken, NJ - 0 Traffic Deaths...in 4 Years

This [article](#) highlights how Hoboken, NJ, had zero traffic deaths over a four year period. The article describes “quick implementation, high impact solutions” as the main reason for zero traffic deaths over this period of time. These include vertical delineator posts or flexible bollards in front of crosswalks and programming traffic signals to give pedestrians a few second head start in crosswalks.

Two things that can significantly increase the speed and efficiency of implementing action items to increase traffic safety and reduce crashes is sustained support and commitment from community planners and engineers and also sustained political support from elected officials. Both professional staff and elected officials can have a huge and transcending impact on transportation safety and the overall quality of life for residents in a community.

Even though Hoboken (pop. 60,000) is more dense than any area in the Chippewa Valley, some of the techniques used in Hoboken can be used in many areas inside the MPA, specifically in areas with a higher level of pedestrian/bicycle activity and/or where pedestrians/bicyclists are most vulnerable.

Altoona Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Staff recently completed the City of Altoona’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The plan also included a Safe Routes To Parks component that looks at issues and opportunities to safely walk and bike to parks in the City.

The planning process included working with a seven-person steering committee. The committee met three times over the course of the planning process.

The plan analyzes the conditions of existing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. This includes sidewalks, trails, on-street bicycle facilities, and areas specifically around the 13 parks in the City. For action items, the plan has city-wide recommendations. This includes a variety of strategies and six specific projects.

For the first time in our planning processes, staff cataloged sidewalk conditions and created a sidewalk maintenance prioritization methodology with a corresponding map.

Public outreach included an online public survey and public input from other Altoona plans. The online public survey had 163 responses.

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MPA Geography - 101

How good is your geography in the MPA? In 2022, we will show a different aerial photo of the MPA, and you can try and see if you know where it is located.



What's Your Guess Answer: This photo is of Lynn Ave. in the downtown area of Altoona. To the northeast of the photo, one can see the railroad yard. Here is a [link](#) to the web map. The City's proposed container park would be located on vacant lot on the northeast portion of this map.

Map of the Quarter

Project: City of Chippewa Falls - 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Story Map

MPO staff recently worked with the City of Chippewa Falls on updating the City's five-year CIP story map. MPO staff completed the City's first CIP story map last year. That map was for the City's 2021-2025 CIP projects. The City gave the MPO the list of projects for the two timeframes and the MPO created the story maps. Here is a [link](#) to the interactive story map.

The map below shows all of the projects in the City's five-year CIP. The projects are color coded by year of each project. Users of the map are able to click on individual projects and project information will come up in a highlighted box. In addition, users can click on the project year, which is on the top of the page (not seen on the map below), and a new map with all the projects for that year will come up. Users can also click on each project on that new map.

Project types include new construction, pavement replacement, roadway expansion, reconditioning, reconstruction, and structural overlay. This map can be made accessible for city staff, elected officials, and the public.

The MPO recently updated the Chippewa County CIP [story map](#) as well and will be doing a CIP story map for Eau Claire County in the near future. The MPO is able to do these types of maps for counties, towns, and cities/villages. Please contact the MPO if you are interested in us doing one for your community. There would be no financial cost for us to do your map.

