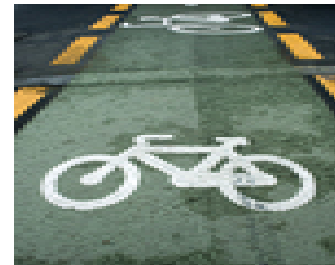


UNITY TRANSPORTATION PLAN: Joliet's District 4 & 5 Spirit of Pride

UNITY CDC TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS

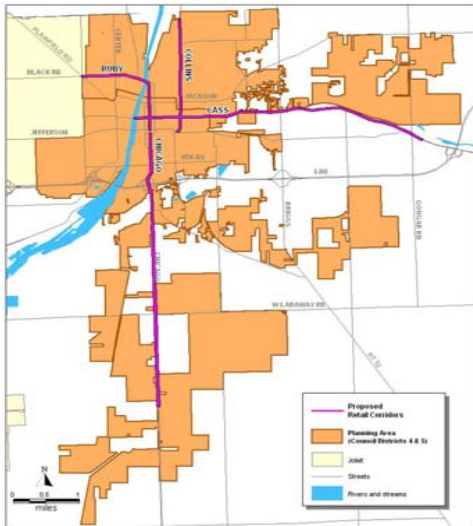


TRANSPORTATION



UNITY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

LEAD AGENCY



To achieve implementation of the Quality of Life Plan for Joliet Council Districts 4 and 5. Unity CDC will share direct responsibility for implementing most of the proposals of the Plan, and its members will track progress on those proposals for which the Unity CDC will not have direct implementation responsibility. Unity CDC will have a range of functions and many specific tasks, but its core mission will be to serve as the organization that has the trust of the community and the backing of the City to see that the multi-faceted Quality of Life Plan is carried out.

— *UCDC mission statement*

Planning Task Force

More than 500 Joliet neighborhood residents, business owners, institutional leaders and youth came together in year 2006 to discuss and contribute to this quality of life plan for our community. Unity Community Development Corporation thanks all participants.

In 2006 Planning Area community leaders, eager to increase the pace of neighborhood improvement, formed the Quality of Life (QOL) Task Force. The QOL Task Force and the City of Joliet administration agreed to carry out a community-based planning process with a team of consultants in order to create a holistic plan for improving the lives of Planning Area residents. The Plan would take an integrated approach to quality of life improvements in regard to housing,

recreation, transportation, retail development, industrial development and employment, public infrastructure and land use, education, and human capital issues that encompassed health care, crime prevention, and the needs of youth and the elderly. The Plan would lay out a strategy for leveraging the Planning Area's assets to overcome its problems through a series of proposals for action, on three-year and ten-year time horizons.

TRANSPORTATION

JOLIET QUALITY OF LIFE PLAN

As in other sections of the Quality of Life (QOL) Plan, the transportation section focuses on Joliet City Council Districts 4 and 5, the Planning Area for this transportation project. The Planning Area is a community with major geographic and transportation assets that can be leveraged to enhance residents' quality of life. However, challenges are entailed in utilizing these assets to their full potential:

- The Planning Area is surrounded by job sites, shopping centers, recreational and educational opportunities, but residents need efficient transportation access to these assets in order to use them. Furthermore, the Planning Area today contains few industrial job sites, large retail stores, or several other types of destinations that many residents need to reach on a regular basis, so that ready access to sites outside of the area is not only desirable but necessary. This access is problematic for households that do not own a car for every adult.
- The Planning Area itself is extensive and residents often need to travel several miles to reach destinations within it. When destinations do not lie on a direct bus route from a resident's home, car travel becomes necessary and problematic for households that do not own a car for every adult.
- The Planning Area enjoys public transportation services including Metra and Amtrak rail lines to Chicago and ten Pace bus routes. However, these services need to be enhanced and supplemented with non-conventional transportation alternatives in order to provide practical options to car travel.
- The Planning Area and adjoining districts of Joliet contain many worthwhile destinations that youngsters and adults could reach by walking or biking, to the benefit the travelers and the community. But the pedestrian and bicycle routes need to be studied and improved to ensure safe and frequent use.

TRANSPORTATION

VISION



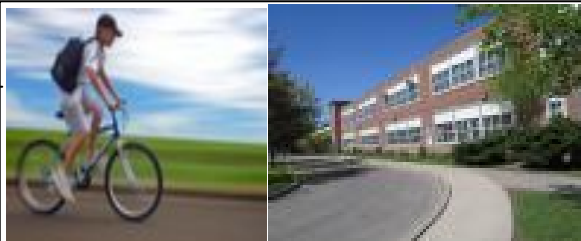
Work together with transit providers and other regional institutions to create viable transportation options to and from jobs in the Planning Area.

To provide better transportation services and land use routes to planning area residents for both personal and professional use, while improving the delivery of existing services to underserved populations.

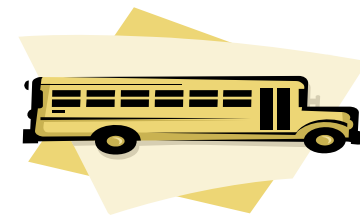
— *transportation mission statement*



IGO Car Sharing



Our planning area children should be able to walk or ride to and from school safely.



A Planning Area van pool program will serve commuting to work, and medical needs.



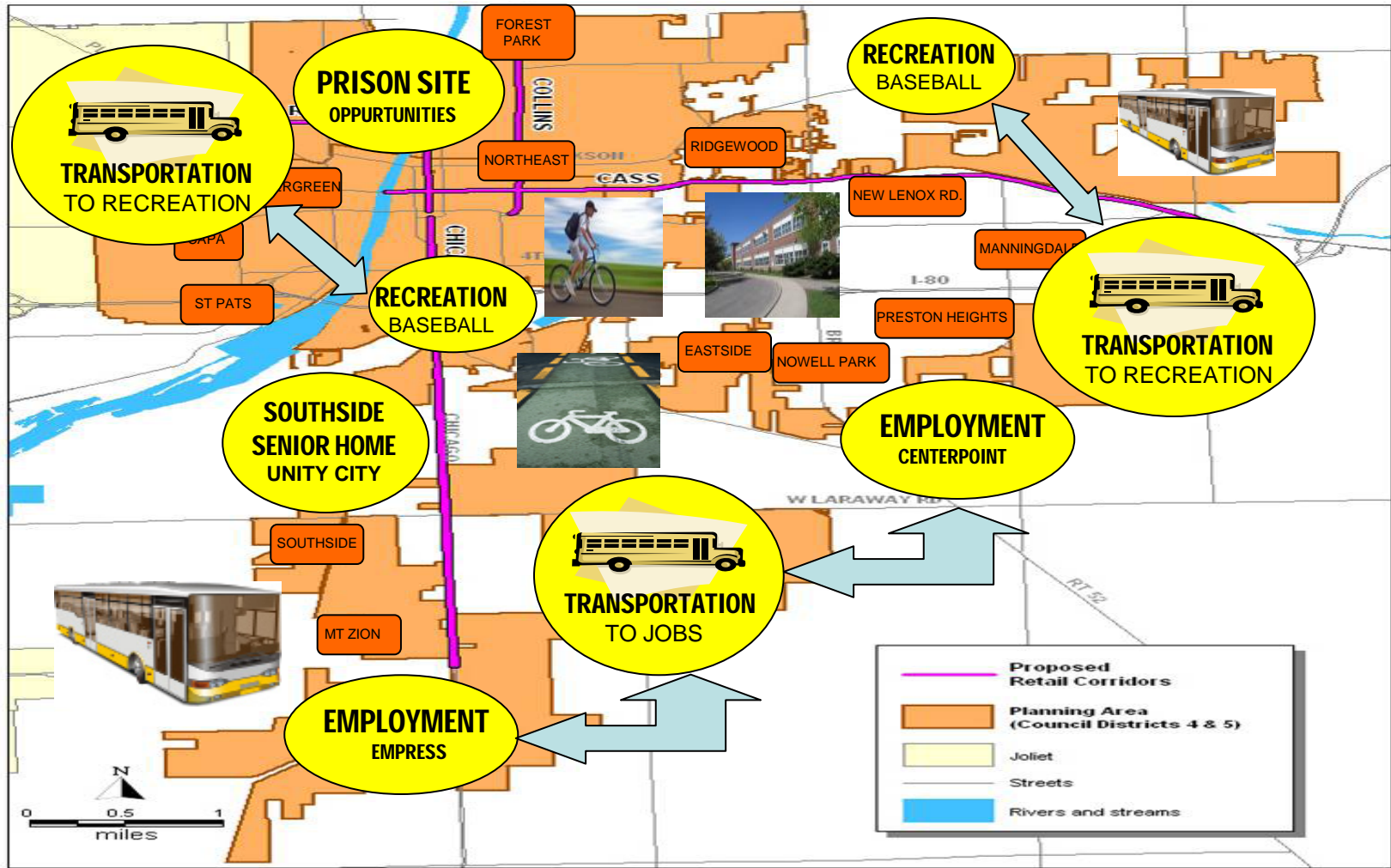
Improve Transportation to Recreational Sites



Improve Transportation Awareness

TRANSPORTATION

KEY PROJECTS



TRANSPORTATION

STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS

Multiply and Coordinate Van Pools

A Planning Area van pool program will serve needs besides commuting to work. For example, access to educational, medical, or recreational opportunities could be provided through van pools. However, transportation to work should be the primary focus of a van pool program. A Planning Area van pool program should be planned and coordinated by a partnership of the City, a Transportation Committee and an Employment Committee of the Planning Area Community Development Corporation (CDC) recommended in this Plan, and Pace.

The service might be funded, managed, and performed by Pace under its general charter or as a collaborative effort of the planning partners. Federal funds available through the Job Access Reverse Commute program are particularly appropriate for the support of the van pool program. In its planning and operation the van pool program should also involve the network of community and faith-based organizations that has relationships among prospective workers and the network of business organizations that can provide helpful employer cooperation.

STRATEGY 1 Establish van pool program to get residents to outlining services and job sites.

An extensive network of van pools will provide the level of flexibility necessary for effective transportation to social services and jobs.

1.1 Establish a large population of potential workers in the planning area eager to find employment through the Unity Human Capital Center.

Establish a partnership between the Pace, City of Joliet, Unity CDC Transportation committee, and Unity Employment Center of the Planning Area .

1.2 Design plan to get residents to outlining job sites and services.

The van pool service could be funded, managed, and performed by Pace under its general charter or as a collaborative effort of the planning partners. Federal funds available through the Job Access Reverse Commute program are particularly appropriate for the support of the van pool program.

TRANSPORTATION

STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS



IGO Car sharing services have been popular in Europe for a generation and have been expanding rapidly in the US for the last decade. In metropolitan Chicago the Center for Neighborhood Technology established the IGO car sharing service as a not-for-profit cooperative in 2002. IGO has rapidly grown to serve more than 3,000 Chicago area households.

In the IGO cooperative members may use a computer or a phone call to reserve a car for an hour or for any period up to several days. Members pay a modest fee to enroll and then pay monthly bills proportional to their use of the IGO cars. IGO members often use public transportation, bicycles, or walking to commute to work and rely on IGO cars for shopping or other errands that involve carrying loads and for appointments at locations that are not well-served by public transportation. IGO members are often households that do not own a car or only one car.

Also, IGO services many colleges and universities where students can share transportation to and from school.

STRATEGY 2 Establish an IGO Car Sharing Service Cooperative

1.1 Implement a Joliet chapter of the IGO cooperative.

Unity Transportation committee through planning and outreach will implement a Joliet chapter of the IGO cooperative. This program will be undertaken by a partnership of the IGO organization, the City, and a Transportation Committee of the Planning Area CDC. Additionally, the network of community and faith-based organizations that has relationships among prospective IGO members should also be involved in this effort.

1.2 Obtain public funding from federal, state, or local municipal sources.

Public funding from federal, state, or local municipal sources has been used in other communities to help IGO quickly reach a critical mass of members. For its ongoing operations the IGO service can be self-sustaining.

1.3 The IGO organization

IGO should manage day-to-day service operations with oversight from member representatives and input from Unity Transportation Committee and any funding partner, such as the City of Joliet, Will County, or a contributing local, state or federal agency.

TRANSPORTATION

STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS

The nature trail network would directly and indirectly enhance residents' quality of life in a number of ways. It would give older children, adults, and families together safe and healthy ways of traveling through the city as alternatives to driving. It would give Planning Area neighborhoods a distinctive advantage in the housing market. It would encourage transit-oriented development and provide more pleasant if not more convenient ways to reach public transit.

A proposed action step that dove-tails with the creation of the trail and sidewalk network is the establishment of safe and monitored routes for children to walk or bike to all schools in the Planning Area, following the guidelines of the "Safe Routes to School" legislation recently enacted at the state and federal levels.

STRATEGY 3 Establish "Safe Routes to School Program"

1.1 Establish a trail and sidewalk committee

The transportation committee of the Unity CDC will work With:

- a. Joliet public school districts
- b. parochial schools
- c. City of Joliet
- d. Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)
- e. sustainable transportation advocates (including CNT)

to establish a network of safe routes to school. State funds could be available for safety and traffic Calming measures to implement these routes.



TRANSPORTATION

SUMMARY



Multiply and Coordinate Van Pools

Given the disbursement of employment centers in Will County, it is unlikely that any combination of fixed route bus services will ever provide the level of mobility required to effectively connect all Planning Area residents to available job opportunities. However, an extensive network of van pools could provide the level of flexibility necessary for effective transportation to jobs.

Public Transportation Can Make a Difference

The Joliet area's public transportation system could mitigate many of the problems of limited car ownership for Planning Area residents. When a transit system provides frequent and reliable service to numerous attractive points of destination it can do more than compensate for car ownership; it can become the transportation mode of choice.



TRANSPORTATION

STRATEGY 2: SCHEDULE

STRATEGY 2: Establish an IGO Car Sharing Service Cooperative.

ID	UNITY IMPLEMENTATION STEPS	Start	Finish	Duration	2008	2009												2010	
					Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	
1	Seek a Joliet chapter of the IGO cooperative.	1/5/2009	2/27/2009	8w															
2	Establish partnership with IGO organization	1/6/2009	2/27/2009	7.8w															
3	Seek Federal funding through Access Reverse Commute program	1/5/2009	3/31/2009	12.4w															
4	Establish Unity and IGO marketing/ advertising program to solicit planning area participants. (monthly)	1/30/2009	12/31/2009	48w															
5	Execute IGO program	3/31/2009	4/7/2009	1.2w															

TRANSPORTATION

OUTCOMES

OUTCOMES:

- Establish transportation to jobs for 200 planning area residents
- Establish transportation to other human related services for planning area residents
 - o Medical Services
 - o non-emergency services (e.g. grocery store, prescription drug store)
- Establish vehicle sharing through the IGO program
 - o Transportation to jobs
 - o Transportation to college and Universities
 - o Transportation for personal needs
- Establish Safe Routes to School Program
 - o Monitored sidewalks by law enforcement
 - o Improve trail and sidewalk network for bicycles and walking
 - o Establish alternative driving routes for parents/guardians

TRANSPORTATION

BUDGET

Transportation Budget	
Activity	Estimated Program Cost
Transportation	
Establish and coordinate an extensive van pool program	\$50,000
Establish an IGO car sharing cooperative	\$50,000
Support Person	\$30,000
Program Subtotal	\$130,000

TRANSPORTATION

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



Organizations that have been or will be approached to implement this plan include:

- Pace
- Regional Transportation Authority
- Metra Rail
- Santa Fe Heritage Rail
- Various Transportation Vendors
- Access Reverse Commute Program
- Neighborhood Center Technology (NCT)
- IGO Car Sharing Cooperative
- Will County Transportation (2020 Plan)
- School District 86
- School District 204
- Harvey Brooks Foundation
- Warren Sharp Community Center
- Will County Forest Preserve
- City of Joliet
- Will County Sherriff
- Illinois Department Transportation
- Unity CDC Human Capital Center
- Unity Economic Development Center
- Unity Recreation Program
- Planning area Churches
- Neighborhood Councils