



THE OXCART

October 2020
Issue 01

Welcome to The Oxcart



Red River Oxcart in Saint Cloud, MN, 1887. Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society.

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our newsletter. The staff of the APO are public servants. We work for you. And as we do our work planning for the transportation needs of the region, it is vital that we stay in touch with you and understand the transportation needs and barriers that each of you are facing.

So, to help facilitate that understanding, we have started this newsletter with two purposes in mind. First, to keep you informed of upcoming public input meetings, surveys, and other opportunities to make your voice heard in our planning process. And second, to help keep you informed on transportation issues, study recommendations,



Brian Gibson, PTP
Executive Director

performance data, and other information that we think you will find useful or enlightening. We are always open to feedback, so if you have any suggestions about the content or design of this newsletter, please let us know.

In case you do not know, our title, The Oxcart, was chosen because it is a historical reference to the founding of the region. In the 1840s oxcart trains would move furs from the Hudson Bay Co.'s Red River Colony near Pembina to the Mississippi River at Minneapolis-St. Paul in order to transport the furs to the east coast and to Europe. The oxcart trains would then carry much needed supplies back to the Red River Colony. The bluffs above the Mississippi River upon which the Saint Cloud urban area now sits was a kind of waystation where



JURISDICTIONS WE SERVE

Benton County
Sherburne County
Stearns County
LeSauk Township
City of Saint Cloud
City of Saint Joseph
City of Sartell
City of Sauk Rapids
City of Waite Park
Saint Cloud Metro Bus

the oxcart trains – sometimes composed of hundreds of individual oxcarts – would often camp overnight. To us, the oxcart is symbolic of the intertwining of transportation and economic development that modern transportation modes still serve.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Saint Cloud APO
Executive Director
Brian Gibson
Chair of the Saint Cloud
APO Policy Board
Mayor Rick Miller

APO Staffers Clean Up Area Trail

Saint Cloud APO staffers do more than just analyze data and write regional transportation plans. They find ways to give back to the community, too.

Keeping our region's miles of shared use paths (also known as bike paths) clean and free of trash has been a priority for APO staffers. On Tuesday, Oct. 6, APO staffers spent a couple hours picking up trash along the three-mile long Westwood Trail in north Saint Cloud.

"Having a clean community is important," said Amber Blattner, APO Administrative Assistant. "We put a lot of time, money, and effort into creating these trails and we want to keep them clean for everybody."

APO staffers have participated in the City of Saint Cloud's Adopt a Park/Trail program since 2018.



Westwood Trail Cleanup



A cyclist uses an on-road bicycle facility along Riverside Avenue N/Stearns CSAH 1 in Sartell.

APO Begins Plan for Active Transportation

The goal of this plan is to identify specific projects or policies that will help improve the active transportation environment throughout the region and facilitate convenient and safe active trips for all needs and purposes. Active transportation is defined as any human powered transportation. This not only includes those who bike and walk, but also those who "roll" – people who use anything other than a vehicle to get to where they need to be.

The APO, along with its volunteer committees, is preparing a regional Active Transportation Plan (ATP). When complete, the ATP will identify investment strategies for active transportation facilities. The analysis and recommendations from this process will be considered with the next update of the APO's long-range transportation plan (the Metropolitan Transportation Plan or MTP).

The initial phase of this planning process includes: a complete facilities inventory for every local jurisdiction; pavement condition reports of on-road bicycle facilities and shared use paths; annual system user count data; crash data; and surveys and comments received from the public.

The Spring 2020 responses to an online survey and interactive map provides an indication of how often people use the system, where they need to go, and the barriers that prevent them from getting there.

Updates on this planning process and the status of the ATP are posted on the [APO website](#) (<https://bit.ly/30TJ8kT>).

Comments or questions on the ATP may be addressed to Fred Sandal at sandal@stcloudapo.org.

CURRENT PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITIES

Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC)
Zoom Meeting, 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 2, 2020.
Contact APO Executive Director Brian Gibson at gibson@stcloudapo.org or 320-252-7568 for the link to participate.

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SaintCloudAPO