Congratulations on your recent adoption of the Decatur PATH Connectivity and Implementation Plan! Successful implementation of this plan will be critical to moving up to the Silver award level and beyond.

Your reported roadway network showed that there are many low-speed streets without bicycle facilities. Develop a network of bike boulevards/neighborhood greenways to take advantage of these low-speed streets to encourage and optimize bicycle travel on low-stress corridors. Diverters, wayfinding, chicanes, and other treatments can be effective at reducing vehicle speeds and promoting the bicycle-oriented nature of a bike boulevard.

Bicycle-safety education should be a routine part of education, for students of all ages. Work with your local bicycle groups or interested parents to expand and improve the Safe Routes to School program to all schools. In particular, high school education efforts could be improved.

Adopting a comprehensive safety plan or a broader Vision Zero policy would aid in creating engineering, education, and enforcement strategies to reduce traffic crashes and deaths for all road users, including bicyclists and pedestrians. Road diets, lane diets, and traffic calming treatments are important engineering components for addressing safety.

Create a bicycle count program that utilizes several methods of data collection to create an understanding of current bicyclists and the effects of new facilities on bicycling in Decatur. Automated bicycle counters can provide long-term data on bicycle use at fixed points while mobile counters can provide periodic or before/after data related to a change in your communities road or bicycle network. Observational counts can supplement automated data in order to examine social equity goals.

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