

2023 UPDATE

TRANSPORTATION

BLUE RIBBONS Multimodalism · Collaboration, engagement and advocacy · Improving existing roadways

RED FLAGS Traffic safety · Consistent funding · Public transit

Traffic planning includes safety focus

Since the 2021 Community Focus Report, roads, trails and multimodal options have improved for Springfield, but traffic safety issues still plague the area.

Multimodalism received a boost in 2022 through updates to the City of Springfield municipal code, defining micromobility devices and setting regulations for their operation in the city. These changes allowed for e-scooters in downtown and Commercial Street business districts.

Trail construction continues with completion of the Fassnight Trail near the Springfield Art Museum, portions of the Chadwick Flyer, a portion of the Trail of Tears in Battlefield, and about 28 miles of single track as part of Dirt 66 at Fellows Lake.

The adoption of Forward SGF,

Springfield's comprehensive plan, in 2022 sets the vision to guide future growth and development throughout the city for **continued collaboration**.

Major road improvements have either started or have had funding committed through the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, which means they should be constructed in the next few years:

- U.S. 60 and 125 interchange upgrade from an at-grade intersection (in-progress)
- Widening of U.S. 60 from National to Kansas Expressway (in-progress)
- Kansas Expressway extension to Plainview Road (in-progress) with Phase II to Farm Road 190 beginning later this year
- Grant Avenue Parkway (in-progress)
- Capacity improvements on Interstate 44 from U.S. 65 to Kansas Expressway (U.S. 65 to Glenstone slated to start in 2025, with additional improvements to start in 2026)
- I-44 and Kansas Expressway interchange improvements (slated for 2027)

Though pedestrian fatalities continue to be a concern throughout the region, multiple initiatives are working to address this persistent **traffic safety** problem. Quarterly crosswalk compliance studies track the continued success of SGF Yields to raise awareness about pedestrian safety and identify areas of concern and improvement. The locations of crosswalk compliance vary from check to check, but in 2019, crosswalk compliance across intersections was in the 25–35% range. In 2022, compliance



RECENT SUCCESS STORY

In June 2022, the Let's Go Smart Transportation Collaborative teamed up with the Boys & Girls Club of Springfield to offer bicycle-skills sessions to 26 children.

With the assistance of nine adult volunteers, the program promoted safe cycling practices and encouraged active living. Bikes and helmets were donated by the Kiwanis Club, and at the end of the program, children were able to keep them. Attendees learned how to care for their bike and check their bike before riding, how to start and stop, how to turn, how to use turn signals, how to dodge rocks, and how to stop. Training started in the parking lot and then they went for a two-mile ride on Jordan Creek Trail.

After a second class in 2023, the Boys & Girls Club is looking to offer the program on a more frequent basis.

The partnership between the Let's Go Smart Transportation Collaborative and the Boys & Girls Club of Springfield shows how collaboration can achieve positive results in the community. This initiative was successful in educating children on cycling safety and encouraging active living. It is hopeful that this type of event can be held again. The purchase of a bicycle education trailer would help, providing bikes and helmets in a mobile solution.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KIWANIS CLUB OF DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD



PHOTO COURTESY OF OZARKS TRANSPORTATION ORGANIZATION

The widening of U.S. 60 from National to Kansas Expressway is one of several major road improvements currently in progress in Springfield and Greene County.

has ranged from nearly 50% to above that mark.

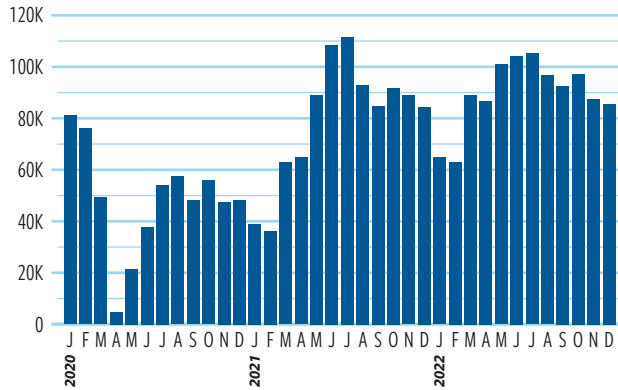
The region continues to seek additional **funding** through federal discretionary grants for Route MM in Republic and I-44 through Springfield.

Addressing both funding and safety, the Ozarks Transportation Organization was awarded grant funds to develop an action plan to make streets safer.

City Utilities Transit has started a comprehensive study of the **transit system**, branded Connect SGF. Slated for completion this year, preliminary goals address ridership and travel times, coordinating growth of the bus system with land development in Springfield.

KEY METRICS

Total Passengers at Springfield-Branson National Airport



SOURCE: SPRINGFIELD-BRANSON NATIONAL AIRPORT

Total Accidents Involving Bicyclists & Pedestrians

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Pedestrians	55	48	38	54
Bicyclists	88	81	79	85
Total	143	129	117	139

Fatal Accidents

Pedestrians	2	0	1	1
Bicyclists	5	9	5	7
Total	7	9	6	8

SOURCE: OTO

Average Commute Time for Springfield Residents, 2021

17.5 minutes

Down from 18.9 minutes in 2019

SOURCE: AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Bridges in the Ozarks Transportation Organization Boundary, 2022

356

Total

332

Bridges rated “fair” or better — 93.3%—indicating all primary structural elements are sound

SOURCE: OTO

City Utilities Bus Ridership, 2021

787,723

Down from 914,583 in 2020

SOURCE: CITY UTILITIES

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ABOUT THE 2023 UPDATE

This interim update reviews current data for the Blue Ribbons and Red Flags from the 2021 report. The 20th anniversary report, to be released in 2024, will develop an updated list of Blue Ribbons and Red Flags.