



Although the City of Madrid has multiple sidewalks in town, it lacks the paths necessary to connect parts of town to desirable destinations. Three primary areas in southern Madrid are missing to provide equitable pedestrian access to locations such as the elementary and high schools, parks, and downtown. A walk along Southern Prairie Drive will, at its west end, allow a connection to Edgewood Park. An additional walk north along South Main Street will complete this area and link it to the rest of Madrid.

Currently the right-of-way of Highway 17 contains a gravel shoulder and a grass stormwater swale. The City of Madrid owns between 15 and 18 feet of land on either side of Highway 17. This allows for a 5-foot shoulder, a 5-foot stormwater swale, and a 5-foot sidewalk on the other side of the swale, though often state and federal funding require a minimum 8-foot wide trail. A wider trail may require easements

or purchase of additional right-of-way, however it would be advantageous in providing a quality pedestrian connection. Implementing a trail on the east side of Highway 17 from Meadow Estates to East 8th Street, approximately 1,050 linear feet, will allow access from this development to schools further to the north.

Constructing an 8 or 10 foot wide trail would also be desirable for cyclists, walkers, and runners to more comfortably use the connection simultaneously with groups of school children at peak times of the day. If a wider trail is desirable, the City can work with private landowners to determine if easements or permanent purchase of the necessary land is preferable. If trees or shrubs along the trail are of interest for screening, additional land will be needed for such amenities.



▲ Existing: Highway 17 has a wide gravel shoulder on the east side. It is slightly sloped, and has no real drainage flow. There is desire for a path that would connect the south side of town to the schools, the High Trestle Trail and the downtown district.

▶ Proposed: By obtaining an easement, the City would have enough room to make an 8 foot trail and plant trees. An existing swale would run in between the road and the trail. The east side of highway 17 is the most ideal area for the trail.



▲ Existing: Southern Prairie Drive is a partially developed street on the south edge of town. It has the potential space to connect the east and west sides of town.

▶ Proposed: Since the street is fairly new, it has a sewer system. This removes the need for a swale. The area in between the curb and the trail could be used for ground cover, shrub, and tree plantings.



# Madrid

## Pedestrian Connections

Landscape Architects: Brett Douglas, ASLA & Grant Thompson, Assoc. ASLA, Genus Landscape Architects  
 LA Interns: Nate Schlorholtz, Sifei Liu, ISU Landscape Architecture Extension

Iowa Department of Transportation   Trees Forever   ISU Landscape Architecture Extension   ISU Extension Community and Economic Development