

Madrid Transportation Behavior and Needs 3. Barriers and Challenges

Iowa Department of Transportation

Trees Forever

Highway 17 separates the east side of town from the west. It also poses barriers to walking from the south end of town to the north. Challenges begin at the south entrance to Madrid, where many families with young children live in Meadow Estates adjacent the highway. There are no **sidewalks (7)** for several blocks going into town, forcing children to walk on the very busy highway. A Dollar Store is currently being built directly west of the mobile home court, across Highway 17, increasing the traffic at that **intersection (9)**. Residents also communicated a desire for a sidewalk to the **cemetery (8)** that is directly south of the Dollar Store.

About half a mile north of the cemetery, the **new bike trail (15)** crosses Highway 17, creating another dangerous intersection (6). Proceeding a few blocks north, Highway 210 crosses 17. That crossing has the town's only stoplights, but it is still a **dangerous intersection (5)**. This intersection is currently being rebuilt to allow more room for semi trucks to make the turn onto 210.

The very next block north is **Casey's corner (4)**, where 210 comes from the east. This intersection has a tendency to be very congested, as well. Moving further north is Maple Ridge, a housing development where young families live. These children must cross **Highway 17 (3)** to get to the high school. Then, one more block north, the only entrance and exit to the high school creates another congested, and at times, dangerous intersection (2). With so much foot and bicycle traffic in this heavily traveled vehicle corridor, traffic calming methods were discussed.

Within the town, there is a problem with flooding that runs diagonally (northwest to the southeast) through a residential area of town. A **concrete culvert (1)** has been proposed to address this problem, and it could be enhanced with design work. The **playground (13)** at the elementary school is often flooded because of this problem. A related barrier is a bridge on **3rd Street (12)** that used to take cars and pedestrians over the drainage ditch; it was damaged in a flood and has been closed to traffic for several years. There was an expressed wish for at least pedestrians to have use of the bridge.

Sidewalks throughout the town are a concern, especially the sidewalks that lead to Edgewood Park (11). Many areas don't have sidewalks, and many of the existing sidewalks are old, made of brick or sunk into the soil, making it very difficult to push a stroller, wheelchair or bike. Edgewood Park also needs new bathrooms (10).

There are barriers to accessing the downtown area from the bike trail. Two accesses are currently in the works, one on 3rd Street and one by the post office. Parking, bike racks and public restrooms (16) are also desired by High Trestle Trail users, including out by the bridge.

Two traffic hazards were identified by residents along Highway 210 on the west side of Madrid. There is a confusing traffic pattern (14) where 210 takes two sharp turns in a residential area. A few miles farther west, the **bridge (17)** that carries car traffic across the Des Moines River on 210 is becoming hazardous due to cars stopping on the bridge to view the lighted High Trestle Bridge. Residents felt there should be a pull off or some designated way to view the High Trestle Bridge away from the highway.

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