



# Illinois State Association of Counties

## POSITION STATEMENT

JANUARY 6, 2022

### STATE FUNDING FOR BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN WAYS IN UNINCORPORATED AREAS

**SUPPORT**

The construction of bicycle and pedestrian ways are an important component of state and local transportation systems. Bicycle and pedestrian ways offer safe and environmentally friendly transportation alternatives for the public while providing opportunities for activities that enhance quality of life.

#### **Current Law:**

Under the Illinois Highway Code, within one mile of a municipality with a population exceeding 1,000 people, bicycle and pedestrian ways must be established by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) in conjunction with the construction, reconstruction, or other change of any State transportation facility. Certain exceptions are provided in the law.

The law (P.A. 102-0660) includes a provision whereby IDOT shall use available funding to cover the cost of these bicycle and pedestrian ways associated with State transportation facilities located within one mile of municipalities with a population exceeding 1,000 people.

Under current law, there are some unincorporated areas within counties that are not eligible for available state funding to construct bicycle and pedestrian ways associated with State transportation facilities despite their proximity to urban areas. This creates an inequity of opportunity for state funding assistance associated with similar projects near areas with population density.

#### **Proposed Change:**

Amend the statute to provide that State transportation facility projects in certain unincorporated parts of counties with proximity to urban areas receive available state funding for bicycle and pedestrian ways.

**PROVIDE THE POSSIBILITY OF FUNDING FOR BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN WAYS ASSOCIATED WITH STATE TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN CERTAIN UNINCORPORATED AREAS.**