

# What's the future of biking, walking in Kenton? You decide

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(Photo: File photo)

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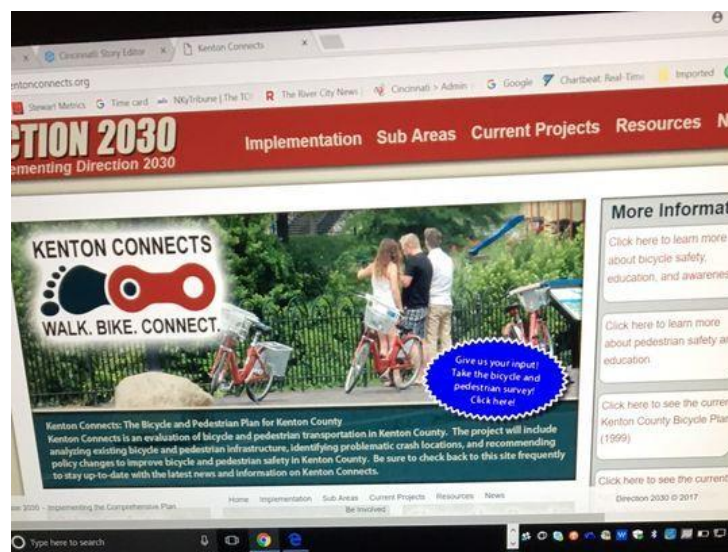
If you want to help Kenton County make the most of its biking and walking opportunities, now's the time to speak up.

County leaders want to hear from you about Kenton Connects, the community's bicycle and pedestrian plan.

"Bicycle and pedestrian modes of transportation are becoming more popular in Kenton County," said Chris Schneider, Planning and Development Services principal planner and project manager for the Kenton Connects study.

"With more and more users biking and walking, it is important to plan for their safe integration into the overall transportation network."

The most recent Kenton County bicycle plan was adopted in 1999, followed by the pedestrian plan in 2001. Kenton Connects is an effort to update existing plans and promote a safer and more convenient bicycle and pedestrian environment for these users and motorists alike.



Visit [KentonConnects.org](http://KentonConnects.org) to fill out a survey to give your input on the county's bike and pedestrian plan. (Photo: The Enquirer/Melissa Reinert)

A brief survey is available on the study website [KentonConnects.org](https://KentonConnects.org) through Oct. 9. Information gathered from the survey will help identify existing bicycle and pedestrian conditions, discover potential issues, and begin to define priorities as the study begins. The website also offers the option to sign up for the Kenton Connects email list so you can stay informed about the project and receive additional information about the study. This will include information about future public meetings and other participation opportunities for walking and biking enthusiasts.

Park Hills Councilman Jason Reser serves on the Kenton Connects study advisory committee. Reser, an avid biker, also owns Reser Bicycle Outfitters in Newport.

"I joined this committee because I think this is an important topic for our community," Reser said. "I see this plan as an opportunity to create a compelling vision, as well as demonstrate the facts as far as this can positively impact our community."

Reser said recent studies across the U.S. show that walking trails and biking paths increase property values, decrease crime and create and encourage healthy living.

"Riding bikes is very relaxing," he said. "You can be in the moment or you can let your mind wander when you're on the trail. It's great exercise and clears my mind. You can do it yourself or bring along friends and family."

According to Reser, Kenton County has made many strides in the right direction over the years but needs to update its plan for present and future bike and pedestrian traffic. He envisions a county – and eventually a region – that has a connected trail system.

"I see people being able to use trails to ride bikes, run or walk to work, to shop, or travel in general," he said.

The health benefits alone, according to Reser, are worth the effort.



Park Hills resident Jason Reser works on a bike at Reser Bicycle, his shop in Newport. Reser has joined Kenton Connects, an advisory committee studying Kenton County's pedestrian and bicycle plan. *(Photo: File photo)*

"Northern Kentucky has one of the highest rates of heart disease, obesity and cancer," he said. "Nothing demonstrates a higher effectiveness in reducing these stats than building an environment that encourages people to get out and be healthy.

"If there is a road in front of your house and there are no sidewalks you're not going to be inspired to go for a walk, run or bike ride. However, having a trail nearby your back door will increase the chances that you're going to get out and be active."

For more information on the planning process and how you can play a role in Kenton Connect, contact Chris Schneider at 859-331-8980 or [cschneider@pdkc.org](mailto:cschneider@pdkc.org).