

- **Complete Crossings: Developing Roadway Typologies and Corresponding Design Strategies for Trail Crossings in Northeastern Illinois** (*Marissa Dolin – Active Transportation Alliance | Kelly Conolly – Gewalt Hamilton Associates*)

Trails provide an opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to choose healthy and active forms of transportation, but roadways that cross over trails often are barriers for trail users. Vehicles traveling at high speeds, roads with high average daily traffic, uncontrolled crossings, and a lack of connectivity between trail segments and surrounding land uses can inhibit the trail user experience and lead to people making unsafe choices. Furthermore, a lack of wayfinding system or a standardized approach to trail crossing design can confuse trail users and prevent them from fully enjoying trails and their surrounding land uses.

This study looked at the relationship between land use near trail crossings and roadway features, such as posted speed limit, roadway geometrics, and average daily traffic, to develop a typology matrix for trail crossing countermeasures. The study concludes with recommended design elements and a way finding system for roads that intersect trails to improve trail access and connectivity to adjacent communities. Study areas used to inform the recommendations made in this area include the Des Plaines River Trail and the Illinois Prairie Path.