

## New tool to assist in trail planning and development

MORE THAN 1,000 miles of trails, of various types, have been built in Iowa in the last 10 years. This increase in trail building reflects the enormous popularity of trails for both recreation and transportation.

The Iowa Department of Transportation's (Iowa DOT) new information package called *Iowa Trails 2000* assists trail planners in creating an interconnected, multimodal, easily accessible statewide trails system. Some of the resources this document provides are

- a framework for the implementation of statewide trails
- guidance for subsequent trails system planning by a variety of agencies and jurisdictions
- plans for implementation of mode-specific or regional trails
- guidelines for all trail modes, to encourage consistency in quality and design of trails statewide

*Iowa Trails 2000* includes an overview of recommended maintenance activities, estimated cost of those activities, and potential funding sources. It also

includes information on the inventory of existing and proposed trails, transportation infrastructure, and natural resources. The two major design issues of topography and safety are also addressed.

The *Iowa Trails 2000* document proposes 4,908 miles of trails be constructed. Currently, only 517 miles of existing trails meet the *Iowa Trails 2000* standards.

To obtain the *Iowa Trails 2000* package contact Nancy Burns, Iowa DOT trail and bikeway coordinator, 515-239-1621, [nancy.burns@dot.state.ia.us](mailto:nancy.burns@dot.state.ia.us), or visit the Iowa DOT website at [www.dot.state.ia.us/](http://www.dot.state.ia.us/).



Photo courtesy of the Iowa DOT.

## Maintain, construct, and communicate

YOUR department's plans for this year's roadway maintenance and construction are probably in place, but what about your plans to keep the public informed about these activities?

For a quick refresher on good public relations, request a free copy of *Get the Word Out: Public Relations Tips for Transportation Agencies* (P 1356) from the Local Technical Assistance Program library. A few of the suggestions you'll find in this 20-page booklet include

- how to develop story ideas
- how to work with the media effectively
- how to write news releases that get results

To request a copy, contact Jim Hogan, library coordinator, 515-294-9481, [hoganj@iastate.edu](mailto:hoganj@iastate.edu). This publication is also available online at [www.ctre.iastate.edu/pubs/special\\_ltap/](http://www.ctre.iastate.edu/pubs/special_ltap/).

### LTAP Advisory Board

The people listed below help guide and direct the policies and activities of the Center for Transportation Research and Education's Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). The board meets at least annually.

Contact any of the advisory committee members to comment, make suggestions, or ask questions about any aspect of LTAP.

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