



2020-21 Capital Campaign

LCTA President Kevin Kirchner

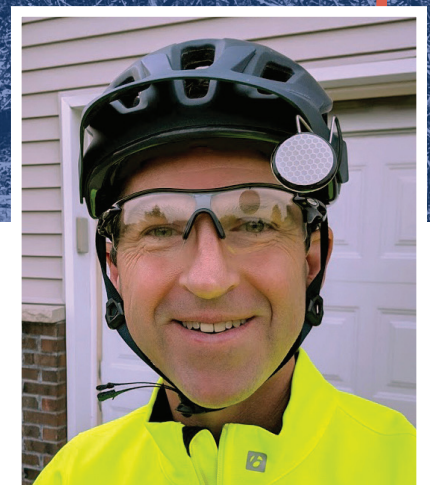
While this year has brought many new unknowns, one thing we know for certain is the benefit of trails. Nationwide, trail use is up around 60 percent. We saw that locally also, when we conducted our first-ever LCTA member survey. Approximately 50 percent of respondents noted their trail use has increased in the past year.

The trails have provided a welcome relief from today's challenges. Trails connect us to natural resources — fields, streams, wetlands and woodlands. They also provide a fun, safe way to spend time with friends outside. Perhaps this year more than ever we have been so fortunate to

benefit from years of work to expand our growing trails system. It is our goal to continue to **"Make Trails Happen."** We can't

do this without your financial assistance. I'd like to share with you a little more about the insights and opportunities ahead of us.

We learned a lot by surveying all types of trail users from all over Linn County this summer. We noted a major preference for building paved trails that connect multiple jurisdictions. We also learned





We Make Trails Happen. | November 2020 Updates

1. CeMar Trail A connection between Cedar Lake and the existing trail in Daniel's Park was finished this year. Shown pictured is the excavation of the former 1st Avenue bridge over a now-abandoned railroad near Raining Rose. Construction of a trail underpass of 1st Avenue in this location is scheduled for completion next year, bringing the trail from Cedar Lake to the edge of Cedar Rapids' city limits on its way to Marion.

2. Grant Wood Trail Substantial bridge work is underway. Shown in the photograph is the former railroad bridge

over Indian Creek, which is being refurbished and will be reinstalled next year. The former rail bridge over Marion Boulevard was also removed this year to make way for a new, iconic gateway bridge.

3. Cherokee Trail The trail connection between Morgan Creek Park and Cherry Hill Park is complete. Next year, work will begin to extend the trail to Cherokee Park, near Edgewood Road, with a portion of on-street bicycle boulevard.

4. Edgewood Trail This trail now connects users from

O Avenue/Rogers Road to the north, crossing the bridge over the Cedar River. Near-term, future work will connect this trail to Glass Road. Future plans additionally call for widening the pedestrian crossing over the Cedar River bridge and eventually continuing north to Blairs Ferry Road.

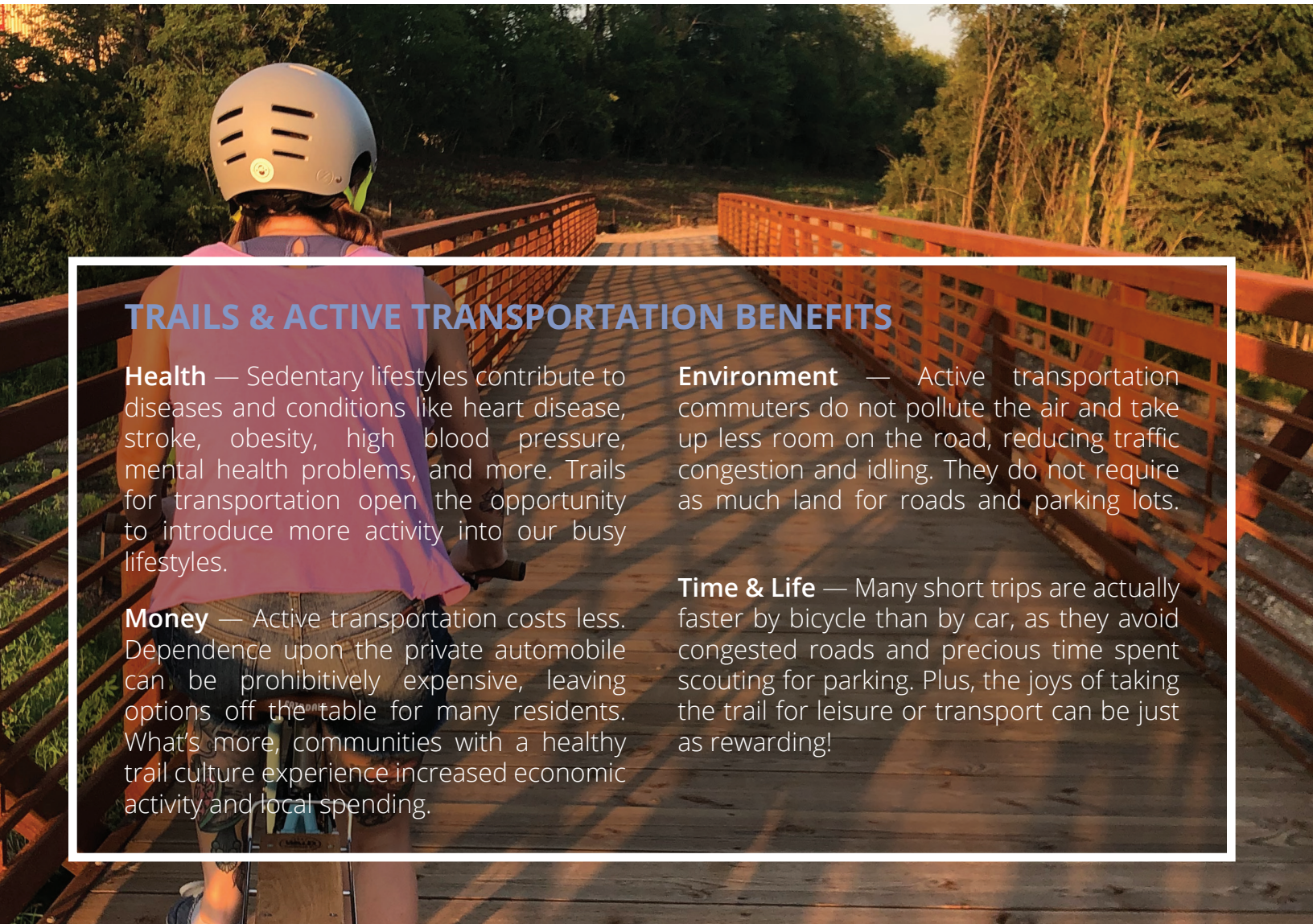
5. Sac & Fox Singletrack Responding to findings from the LCTA member survey, we joined forces with Linn Area Mountain Biking Association with a goal of adding 4.8 miles of new singletrack trail beside the Sac & Fox Trail, all
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the way to East Post Road. **LCTA contributed \$25,000** to these efforts this year. LAMBA continues to seek donations to build the Sac & Fox Singletrack project. You can contribute directly at www.linnareamtb.org

- 6. ConnectCR** Phase I work at Cedar Lake is scheduled to begin next spring and includes shoreline restoration and stabilization, trail head improvements, a boardwalk over Cedar Lake and more. This work will be done in conjunction with construction of the Cedar River Flood Control System. To date, **LCTA has contributed \$50,000** to the ConnectCR project. LCTA will be recognized as a project sponsor on a special informational panel on the Smokestack Bridge (pictured at left). Design and engineering work is underway for the bridge. Both projects are expected to be completed within five years. Fundraising for the project continues, and you can contribute directly online at www.connectCR.org



TRAILS & ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION BENEFITS

Health — Sedentary lifestyles contribute to diseases and conditions like heart disease, stroke, obesity, high blood pressure, mental health problems, and more. Trails for transportation open the opportunity to introduce more activity into our busy lifestyles.

Money — Active transportation costs less. Dependence upon the private automobile can be prohibitively expensive, leaving options off the table for many residents. What's more, communities with a healthy trail culture experience increased economic activity and local spending.

Environment — Active transportation commuters do not pollute the air and take up less room on the road, reducing traffic congestion and idling. They do not require as much land for roads and parking lots.

Time & Life — Many short trips are actually faster by bicycle than by car, as they avoid congested roads and precious time spent scouting for parking. Plus, the joys of taking the trail for leisure or transport can be just as rewarding!

Support our 2020–21 Capital Campaign

Donate online today at www.linncountytrails.org/campaign