

Obstacle #6: Barriers to Bus Access

Area Example:

Mall Drive, between Harbor Pointe Apartments and retail complexes in Benton Township

Evidence of Need:

- Observed absence of sidewalks, street crossings, shoulders, and other walking and biking facilities connecting to bus stops
- Bus records of heavy reliance on demand response (i.e. door-to-door) bus service near fixed route stops (resulting in great inefficiencies in transit provision)
- Presence of many potential destinations for and sources of bus riders in a neighborhood without connection to sidewalks or other non-motorized facilities
- Frequent observation of people walking and using wheelchairs within the roadway and on grassy adjacent strips.

Potential Design Fixes:

Greater access to the five bus stops near Mall Drive can be created by ensuring that they are connected to sidewalks and bike lanes, and that nearby crossings have appropriate signage and markings. These walking and biking facilities should also connect to nearby destinations, such as retail and employment centers, as well as housing complexes, and should be designed to ensure that bus riders of all ability levels are able to navigate them.

Other TwinCATS Examples:

Connections to the InterCare bus stop on M-139 and Empire Ave in Benton Township, the Briarwood Apartments bus stop on Union Ave. in Benton Township; the park and ride lot and Meijer bus stops in Lincoln Township, the Walgreens/Save-A-Lot/Big Lots stops near the corner of M-139 and Napier Ave. in Benton Township



Image of Mall Drive between a set of large apartment complexes and retail centers containing several bus stops; road showing five traffic lanes without sidewalks, bike lanes/shoulders, or intersection crossings; grass showing signs of heavy pedestrian use



Aerial view of Mall Dr. stretching east from the Harbor Pointe apartments, with several pedestrian “goat paths” and an absence of any walking and biking facilities (photo from Bing Maps)

Figure 3.2: Transit Accessibility Along Mall Drive



Aerial view of bus routes and stops, retail and job destinations, and housing centers near Fairplain Dr./Mall Dr.; none of the public roads shown in this view contain, sidewalks, bike lanes, or wide paved shoulders.