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Rakow Road  
MCBA

# Group lobbies for bike path

## Cyclists want room on Rakow after expansion

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CRYSTAL LAKE – A local bicycle advocacy group wants a future expansion of Rakow Road to make room for more than just cars.

The McHenry County Bicycle Advocates has submitted a 227-signature petition to the McHenry County Division of Transportation seeking to have plans to expand Rakow Road include room for bicyclists. Current plans to expand Rakow do not include a bike trail. The plans also eliminate the 4-foot shoulder on Rakow used daily by bikers such as Eberhard Veit.

"I think it's wrong to build something worse than what is there," said Veit, president of the McHenry County Bicycle Advocates.

Other than Rakow, bikers don't have a lot of options when heading east or west in Crystal Lake, Veit said.

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## CL, LITH officials refused to share cost for path

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The issue comes down to money, Assistant County Engineer Jeff Young said. Planners can find the space, but not the money, to build a 10-foot-wide, multi-use path parallel to Rakow, Young said. Such a path could be used by bicyclists and pedestrians, he said.

Rakow Road is scheduled to be widened in 2010, Young said. The plan is to leave a 10-foot-wide "shelf" where a

shared-use path could be built if cash ever became available, he said. Building a multi-use path on about 3 miles parallel to Rakow would take about 158,000 square feet of asphalt, Young said.

"It's not a small cost thing," Young said, declining to offer a specific estimate without further study.

County transportation officials approached Lake in the Hills and Crystal Lake officials about sharing the cost for building the multi-use path, Young said. Both municipalities declined to

offer support, he said.

MCDOT also has evaluated keeping a 4-foot shoulder on Rakow Road.

"The costs and environmental impacts of having a shoulder were not advantageous to the project," Young said.

The plans are not set in stone, and county road officials will take the petition into account, he said.

"Certainly we're not going to ignore the petition," Young said. "We are going to take it and evaluate it on its merits."