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Innovative Street Project Enhances Safety and Accessibility for Cyclists and Pedestrians

BENTONVILLE, Arkansas — Cyclists, pedestrians and vehicles can now navigate a safer and more efficient 1.5-mile stretch of Eighth Street, from Southwest I-Street to Southeast J-Street. Featuring a four-lane boulevard with necessary turn lanes, a two-way cycle track, and sidewalks, this project stands out as one of the most comprehensive complete streets in Northwest Arkansas.

This project supports the citywide goal of Bentonville, Arkansas, to preserve, promote and sustain an excellent quality of life. As Bentonville grows, the city will continue to strive to be the safest and most connected city for all modes.

“Enhancing street safety for cyclists and pedestrians creates a more secure and accessible environment for everyone, promoting healthier and more sustainable urban mobility,” says Aaron Boehmler, project manager at Burns & McDonnell. “Projects like this enable us to make essential improvements that cater to a diverse range of users.”

The team carefully integrated bicycle and pedestrian facilities with vehicular turning movements during the design of intersections and traffic signals. The project included safety enhancements, including improved pedestrian and bike crossings, traffic signals with leading pedestrian intervals, lighting, and reduced lane widths to slow vehicular speeds.

This roadway is a vital area to the Bentonville community, supporting commercial, residential and mixed uses. It also forms the southern boundary of the downtown district along part of the corridor and is adjacent to both the existing Walmart headquarters, as well as the newly constructed headquarters. All work was approved by Arkansas Department of Transportation and conformed to Federal Highway Administration requirements due to various federal funding sources.

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Contact: Mandy Zellers, Burns & McDonnell
816-782-6229
azellers@burnsmcd.com

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