

CHAPTER SIX

TRANSPORTATION



STREETS

The lifeline of any area is usually the transportation system; more specifically in Iowa, roads and highways. Audubon County is no exception as most of the development is located along U.S. Highway 71. U.S. Highway 71 travels north and south through the center of the county and is the main route in and out of the county. Heading south, the highway intersects Interstate 80, which is a major transportation route across the country. Heading north to Carroll County, 71 intersects State Highway 141, which goes to Des Moines and even further north, intersects U.S. Highway 30, which is one of the busiest two lane routes in the state.

Within the county, there are hundreds of miles of county roads and highways as well. There are 724 miles of surfaced roads in the county and 39 miles of earth roads for a total of 763 miles of roads. The Iowa Department of Transportation also classifies roads according to their use by using the Federal Functional Classification system. A summary of these classifications is given on the right. The Federal Functional Classification of Audubon County's roads can be found in Map 6.1 on the next page.

The diverse road types in Audubon County create a variety of average annual daily traffic counts. The 2016 Annual Average Daily Traffic Map from the Iowa DOT is shown in Map 6.2. U.S. Highway 71 near the northern portion of the county has an average annual daily traffic count of 1,950 and the highest count for U.S. Highway 71 in Audubon County is 3,720 south of Audubon to Hamlin. Iowa Highway 44 runs from Kimballton on the west through Hamlin heading east. Just west of Kimballton, Iowa Highway 44 has 1,570 average annual trips and from Kimballton to Hamlin has an average of 880 trips a day. Iowa Highway 173 runs south of Kimballton to the county line and has an average of 1,850 trips today.

AIR TRANSPORTATION

The Audubon County Airport, formerly Audubon Municipal Airport, is located one mile southeast of Audubon's central business district. This airport is owned by the Audubon County Airport Authority. It serves local aviation services as well as some additional services. The closest commercial airport is Eppley Airfield in Omaha, Nebraska (86 miles). Eppley Airfield is served by Alaska Airlines, Allegiant Air, American Airlines, Delta, Frontier, Southwest, and United Airlines. The next closest commercial airport is the Des Moines International Airport located in Des Moines, Iowa (89 miles). The Des Moines International Airport services Allegiant Air, American Airlines, Delta, Frontier, Southwest, and United Airlines.

Map 6.1: Audubon County Federal Functional Classification Map

FEDERAL FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION MAP

AUDUBON COUNTY IOWA



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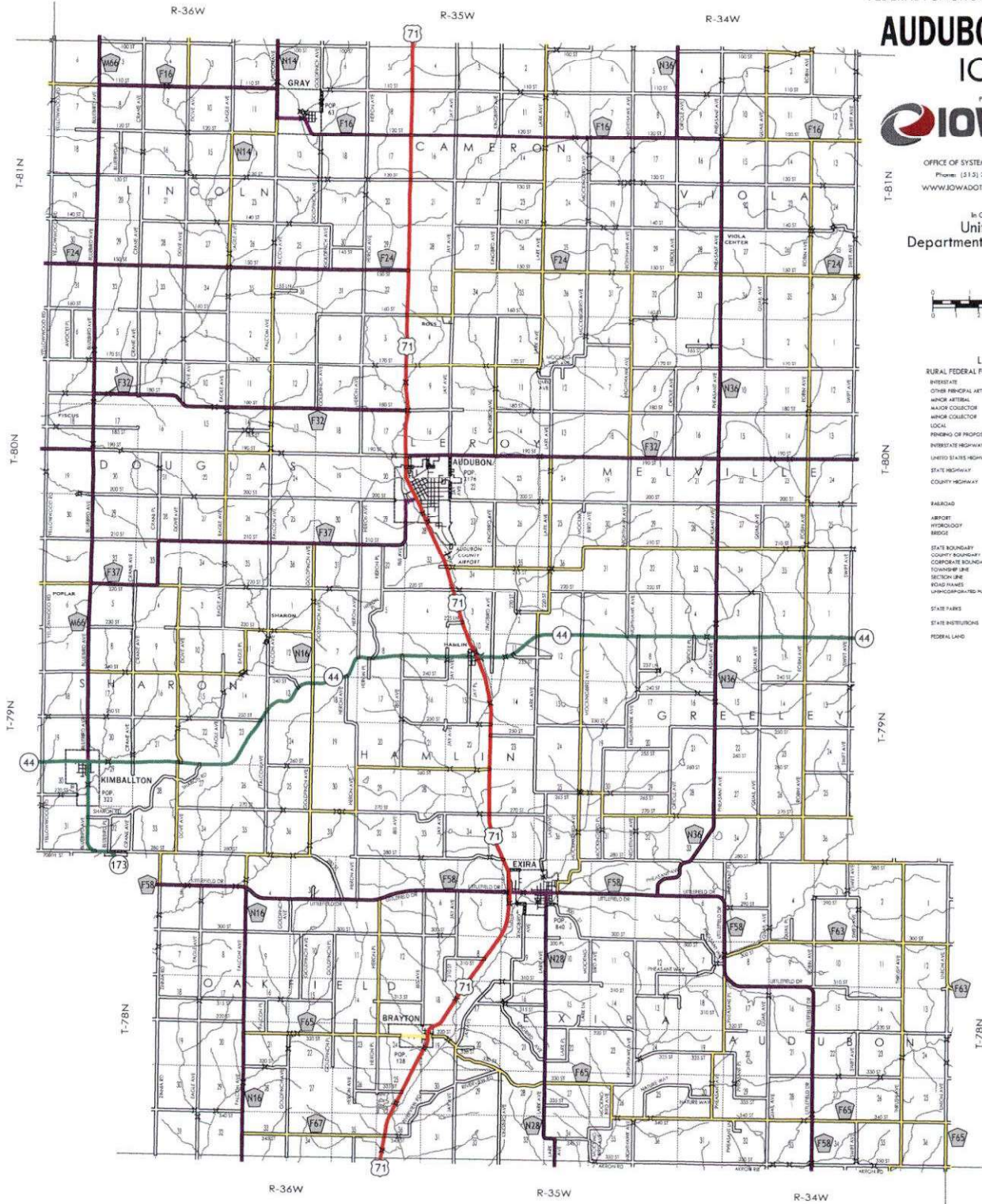
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LEGEND
RURAL FEDERAL FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS

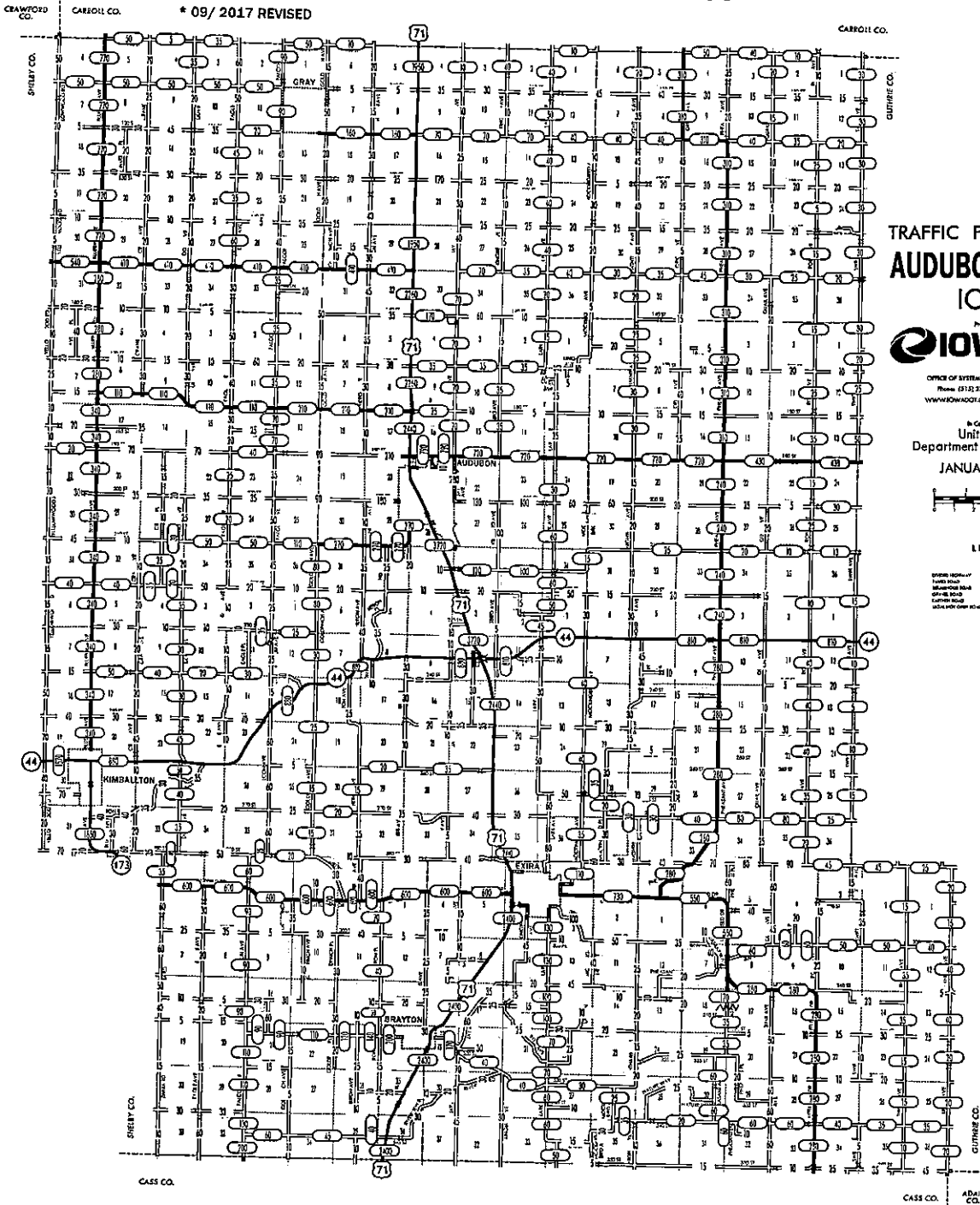
- INTERSTATE
- OTHER FEDERAL ARTERIAL
- MAJOR COLLECTOR
- MINOR COLLECTOR
- LOCAL
- PENDING OR PROPOSED SHOWN AS A DASHED LINE
- INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
- UNITED STATES HIGHWAY
- STATE HIGHWAY
- COUNTY HIGHWAY

- RAILROAD
- ABRIFT
- HYDROLOGY
- BRIDGE
- STATE BOUNDARY
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- CORPORATE BOUNDARY
- TOWNSHIP LINE
- SECTION LINE
- ROAD NAMES
- UNINCORPORATED PLACES
- STATE PARKS
- STATE INSTITUTIONS
- FEDERAL LAND



Map 6.2: Average Annual Daily Traffic

2016 ANNUAL AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC
2012 ANNUAL AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC
* 09/ 2017 REVISED



TRAFFIC FLOW MAP OF AUDUBON COUNTY IOWA

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LEGEND

- STATE HIGHWAY
- COUNTY ROAD
- LOCAL ROAD

COMMUTING

One of the more important aspects to consider when dealing with transportation is how Audubon County’s residents travel to and from work. The largest portion (82.40%) of Audubon county’s residents traveled alone to work. Carpooling is the second largest way residents of Audubon County travel to work at 10.00% The number of residents who walk (1.50%) are an important reason to ensure the county’s sidewalks stay in prime condition. Walking is the third largest transportation cohort in Audubon County. Also, almost 7% of Audubon County’s residents work from home which doesn’t require them to travel to work. The average commute time is 19.4 minutes.

The first table shows how incorporated cities in Audubon County travel to work compared to one another. The City of Audubon has the lowest commute time 18.8 minutes with a little over a 2-minute difference between it and Kimballton which has the second shortest commute at 21.2 minutes. Residents of Brayton experience the longest commute of the comparable cities at 28.4 minutes. Brayton has the largest percentage of workers who walk to work (1.30%) and Audubon had the second highest percentage (1.20%).

The second table shows how Audubon County’s residents travel to work compared to the surrounding counties of Carroll, Cass, Guthrie, and Shelby. Carroll County has the lowest average commute time at 13.4 minutes with almost a 4-minute difference between it and Shelby County which has the second shortest commute at 19 minutes. Residents of Guthrie County experience the longest commute of the comparable counties at 27.5 minutes. Cass County has the largest percentage of workers who walk to work (3.80%) and Guthrie and Shelby County have the second largest percentage (3.60%).

Table 6.1: Audubon County Means of Commuting to/from work, 2018

	Audubon	Exira	Kimballton	Brayton	Gray	Audubon
Total workers age 16 and over	1,009	412	142	77	94	2,872
Drove Alone	81.00%	86.90%	85.90%	84.40%	83.00%	82.40%
Carpooled	15.10%	7.80%	5.60%	5.20%	3.20%	10.00%
Public Transportation	0.00%	0.00%	0.70%	0.00%	0.00%	0.50%
Walked	1.20%	0.00%	0.00%	1.30%	0.00%	1.50%
Other Means	0.50%	2.90%	1.40%	0.00%	13.80%	1.20%
Worked from Home	2.30%	2.40%	6.30%	9.10%	0.00%	4.40%
Average Commute Time (minutes)	18.8	22.4	21.2	28.4	N	19.4

Table 6.2: Regional Means of Commuting to/from work, 2018

	Audubon County	Carroll County	Cass County	Guthrie County	Shelby County
Total workers age 16 and over	2,872	10,544	6,318	5,215	5,876
Drove Alone	82.40%	83.00%	79.00%	79.10%	77.90%
Carpooled	10.00%	6.60%	10.40%	11.10%	10.20%
Public Transportation	0.50%	0.30%	1.00%	0.20%	0.50%
Walked	1.50%	2.40%	3.80%	3.60%	3.60%
Other Means	1.20%	1.10%	0.80%	1.00%	1.00%
Worked from Home	4.40%	6.60%	5.00%	4.90%	6.70%
Average Commute Time (minutes)	19.40	13.40	19.10	27.50	19.00

Figure 6.1: Inflow/Outflow Counts of Primary Jobs, 2018

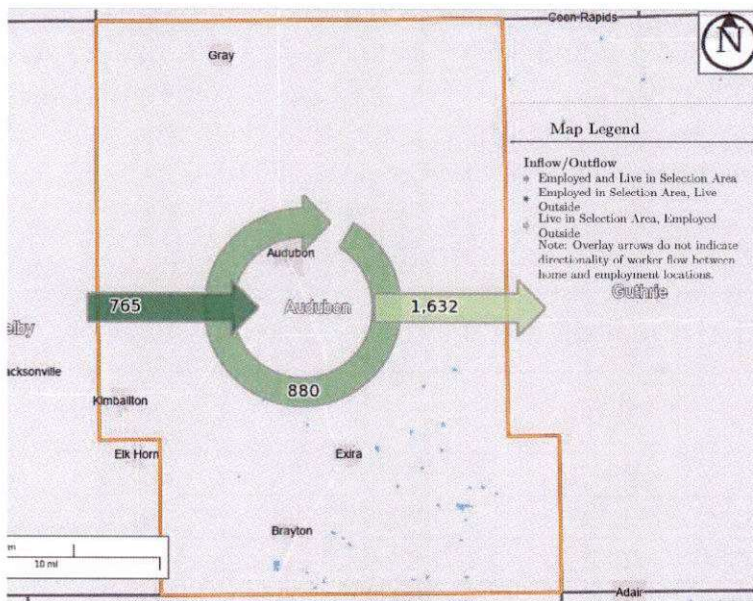
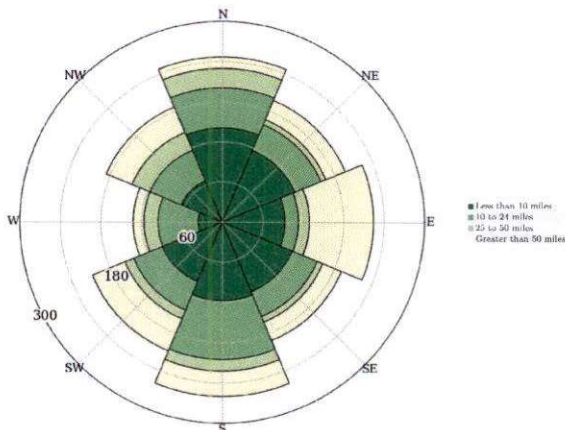


Figure 6.2: Distance/Direction traveled from home to work, 2018



While evaluating how residents travel to work, it is important to also recognize where the workers are going. Figure 6.1 shows how many residents are traveling from outside Audubon County for work, how many are staying within the county for work, and how many are leaving the county for work according to the American Community Survey. There are 880 workers who live and work within Audubon County and 1,632 live in Audubon County, but work outside the county lines. Businesses in Audubon County employ 765 workers who live outside the county. For those who do not live and work within in the same Census Block, figure 6.2 shows how far and in what direction they travel. Workers who travel north and south are the largest cohorts according to the chart, followed by those who travel east and then north east and south west. Those traveling north and south have large percentages who travel 10 to 24 miles, which would put them in Atlantic or Carroll. Those who travel east have a large percentage that travels greater than 50 miles, which would be the Des Moines metro area.

GOALS

Maintain existing transportation infrastructure

Maintenance and condition of existing transportation infrastructure is a major transportation issue. Some streets within the county need a new asphalt overlay, while others have already had several overlays and must be reconstructed. There are also bridges within the county which need maintenance. These projects should be completed as funding allows. The projects listed in the action items below are ways in which the county and its communities plan to maintain existing transportation infrastructure.

- Action Items:**
- Redo/expand 7th Avenue in the City of Audubon
 - Rehabilitation of East Division Street in the City of Audubon
 - Repave all streets in the City of Kimballton
 - Repave all streets in the City of Gray
 - Improvements to F58 (Littlefield Drive) to and through Exira
 - Resurface County T west out of the City of Brayton
 - The through streets in Audubon (S Division, E Division, NW Division) need repaved due to the current pavement buckling from winter cold and summer heat
 - Grade county gravel roads on a regular basis
 - Pavement improvements at the intersection of M66 & 100th Street by Puck Enterprises
 - Rehabilitation of a large number of Kimballton sidewalks
 - Rehabilitation of the City of Audubon's sidewalks
 - Brayton bridge rehabilitation/conversion to culvert
 - Continue to inspect county bridges and develop a schedule to ensure maintenance and replacement when necessary
 - F32 widening & resurfacing
 - East Side Drive to Mockingbird around cemetery in Exira upgrades and paving

Expand existing transportation infrastructure

As communities and rural businesses expand, it is important to expand the current infrastructure to match the needs of the homes or businesses. A number of expansion projects have been identified as high priority to be able to meet the needs of the county or community.

- Action Items:**
- Expand Industrial Road South in the City of Audubon
 - Pave South Division Street West (200th Street)
 - Pave 130th Street west of US Highway 71 for the first mile towards Handlos Feed Mill
 - Widen county roads where needed to improve transportation flow or safety
 - Extend 100th Street
 - Sidewalk connections for Exira Elementary School
 - Sidewalk connections for the Audubon Community Schools
 - Construct/expand the long-term/usable parking in Audubon's downtown
 - Pave/Expand 190th Street (industrial zoning)
 - Pave the intersection of 44 and Lark to Landus Cooperative

Transportation enhancements

The transportation facilities in Audubon County are adequate and allow travelers to get from Point A to Point B. While this is adequate, enhancing the route can lead to additional routes beginning and ending within the County. Making enhancements as noted in the action items below can help create an inviting corridor.

Action Items: - Execute the Highway 71 corridor plan and carry it throughout the county

Trail Enhancement/Continuation

The T-Bone Trail is easily accessible by those who live in Audubon, Hamlin, Exira, and Brayton. Continuing to expand the trail system and connecting it to other regional trails would allow for more riders to utilize the system for transportation as well as leisurely rides.

- Action Items:**
- Repave the Exira Trail Extension
 - Continue trail to Ross then up to Gray
 - Finish trail connections to Cass County and surrounding trails
 - Resurface trail where needed
 - Upgrade trailheads to make them stand out and attractive
 - Pave portions of the trail where it is currently gravel
 - Create points of interest along the trail with lighting/art/signage
 - Install mile markers along the trail to utilize in case of emergency