

Introduction to Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning at the Municipal Level

Sustainable Cities Symposium
October 24, 2008

Jessica Thompson, MUPP
Project Planner
League of Illinois Bicyclists



Introduction to Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning

- *Why* plan for bicycles & pedestrians?
- *What* does good bicycle & pedestrian planning include?
- *How* do we develop a plan?



Why plan for bicycles and pedestrians?

- Increased quality of life
- Economic development
- Health benefits



From flickr.com, by malouette

Why plan for bicycles and pedestrians?

- Meeting transportation needs of those who do not drive because of age, disability, income, or personal choice
 - 8% of all households and 20% of households making <\$25,000/year do not own a car
 - 52% of bicycling in the United States is recreational or for exercise, 43% is transportation to a destination (2002 National Survey of Pedestrian and Bicyclist Attitudes and Behaviors)



Photo by Mark Stosberg



Why plan for bicyclists and pedestrians?

- Environment

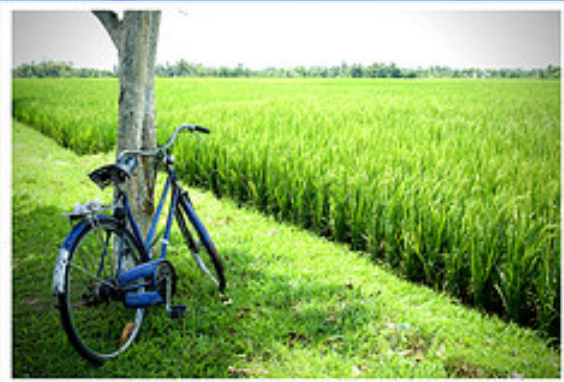


Photo by marc oh, from flickr.com

- 50% of car trips in the United States are less than 3 miles, 28% are less than 2 miles (National Household Travel Survey)
- Short trips are more polluting on a per-mile basis than long trips because 60% of pollution is created in the first minutes of a trip
- Motor emissions make up 31% of carbon dioxide, 81% of carbon monoxide, and 49% of nitrogen oxides released in the United States (Clean Air Council)



Photo by Simone Ramella

***What* does good bicycle & pedestrian planning include?**

- The Five Es
 - Engineering
 - Education
 - Encouragement
 - Enforcement
 - Evaluation & Planning



Photo by striatic, from flickr.com

What does good bicycle & pedestrian planning include?

- Engineering
 - A bikeway network
 - A grid of connected bicycle-friendly trails and roads spaced less than one mile apart
 - Bicycle parking
 - Destinations to plan for are residents' schools, work, grocery stores, transit stations, parks, and more
 - Other bicycle infrastructure
 - Signal activation, bicycle-friendly drain grates



Photo by John Pastor





***What* does good bicycle & pedestrian planning include?**

- Education & Encouragement
 - Bike rodeo
 - Bicycle map
 - Bike to Work Week
 - Safe Routes to School Activities
 - Walking School Bus
 - Walk & Bike to School Day
 - Driver's Education
 - Bicycling Ambassadors



What does good bicycle & pedestrian planning include?

- Enforcement
 - Law cards
 - Tickets
 - Education of law enforcement
- Evaluation & Planning
 - Bike counts



Photo by Roadsidepictures, from flickr.com

How do we develop a plan?

- Develop steering committee
 - Staff
 - Local cyclists
 - Community groups, residents, parents
- Define goals & objectives
- Decide if a consultant is needed



Photo by John Calnan

How do we develop a plan?

- Public meeting
 - Outputs: support for plan, identification of potential bike routes, conflict areas, missing sidewalks



How do we develop a plan?



Photo by Dave Gleason

- Field work
 - Road and sidewalk widths, speed limit, average daily traffic, etc.
- Analysis
 - BLOS (Bicycle Level of Service)
 - Sidepath Suitability Scale
- Selection of treatment
 - Example: on-street bike lane, sidepath, etc.
- Prioritization



How do we develop a plan?

- Implementation
 - Put a staff person or consultant in charge
 - Begin with “low-hanging fruit”
 - Be opportunistic
- Funding
 - Illinois Transportation Enhancements (ITEP)
 - Illinois State Bike Grant
 - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)
 - Recreational Trails Program
 - Safe Routes to School





Thank you!

- Ed Barsotti, ed@bikelib.org
- Jessica Thompson, jessica@bikelib.org
- Bikelib.org

