

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Facilities & Services

Transportation Demand Management
Physical Plant Service Building
1501 South Oak Street
Champaign, IL 61820



November 25, 2009
Student Sustainability Committee

RE: Hazelwood Bike Path

We are pleased to request funding for minor site improvements to a convenient and peaceful connector for bicycle commuters along Hazelwood Drive. The Hazelwood Path is perfectly located to bring University students and employees from south Urbana to the Research Park, in a direct and comfortable route. This will allow cyclists to forego the dangers of St. Mary's Road, and it provides ample opportunities to head north to campus proper at Lincoln Avenue, Wright Street Extended, Fourth Street, First Street, or Oak Street.

With slight modifications to the path at four locations, the usefulness will increase dramatically. Each location is shown here, with a description of the needed work. Based on a conceptual estimate, this project work will cost under \$10,000.

1. Gate between Orchard Downs and Arboretum (*right*). This location needs the existing large gravel shifted to the south, and new smaller gravel laid in the path shown here.



2. Gate at Lincoln Avenue (*below*). The existing gate at this location needs to have one pole in the center shifted five feet to the north, and the fencing modified accordingly.



3. Vet Med Gate and Barricade (*below*). At this location, there is a barricade to modify, new gravel to lay, and a fence to modify. The end of street warning barricade will need to be replaced with a barricade that has a five foot opening for bicyclists to pass through. The fence will need to have a section opened up as well, and new gravel will need to be laid from the edge of the pavement on the east to the beginning of the gravel on the west.



4. Fourth Street Gate (*right*). This gate simply needs to be opened a bit more. There are three slats and a post which will need to be removed here.



The result of these improvements will be a continuous connection from Urbana to Champaign, without the use of arterial streets. When this idea was discussed by the Champaign County Bikes listserv in early 2008, they noted “what the community really wants and needs is a route that will go all the way from Orchard Downs (Race Street) to First Street. This is what will really give good cross town access.”

A bicycle connection from Urbana to Champaign, through the south side of the University will be an important contribution toward the overall campus bicycle network. This will promote and encourage sustainable active transportation, and it can be used by students, employees, community members, and visitors. At each modified gate, we will place a decal declaring the contribution of the SSC, and this will surely be a news-worthy project.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Morgan B. Johnston

Morgan Johnston
TDM Coordinator
Facilities & Services

John C. Marlin

John C. Marlin
Acting Director
Illinois Sustainable Technology Center

Hi Morgan,

Please clarify the following regarding your letter of inquiry

1) Do you have an estimate of how many people might use this route, if the requested improvements are funded?

Thanks,
Suhail

Hi Suhail,

With these changes, this will be the main path to the Research Park, Vet Med, the Arboretum, the Japan House, and the folks at the iHotel and Conference Center. We are confident that this will be used by at least a 100 bicyclists a day, at a minimum.

Then there are also people who walk, and can run here instead of on the incredibly dangerous St. Mary's Road. This will be a main route for people to go south from campus to this path, then they can will connect to the Race Street path in Urbana, which gets them to Meadowbrook Park. It also connects them to the Windsor Path on the south side of the street above the curb from Race Street to Philo Road, where there are some stores and restaurants.

With a bit of marketing, this path could have as many as two or three hundred people a day. I'll certainly get it included in the updated CCB bike map this summer.

Thanks,
Morgan