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2025 Progress Report – 2014 Campus Bicycle Plan

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2025 Progress Report – 2014 Campus Bicycle Plan

A bicycle friendly campus has many benefits. As a mode of transportation, bicycles provide solutions in the areas of safety, sustainability, cost savings, mobility, health, and well-being. The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign was one of the first campuses in the nation to adopt a bikeway network when the first bicycle paths were constructed here in the 1950s. Since that time, funding cutbacks have led to degraded and disconnected pathways, outdated and insufficient bicycle parking, and limited support for bicycle services and programs. Despite these setbacks, bicycle ridership has grown at the University of Illinois in the last decade and is expected to continue to grow in the future, creating a great need for reemphasis on engineering, education, enforcement, encouragement, and evaluation for bicycle-friendly improvements.

The 2014 Campus Bicycle Network Master Plan (Bike Plan) explains the various ways in which this campus should improve for bicycling in the coming years. The goals of the Bike Plan are five-fold:

- Increase safety for all campus users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and motorists
- 2. Increase sustainability of campus transportation, in support of the Illinois Climate Action Plan
- 3. Improve mobility and convenience for cyclists on campus
- 4. Identify funding needs and secure funding for future improvements of campus bicycle facilities, services, and programming
- 5. Improve the university's standing as a national leader in bicycle friendliness

The primary focus of this plan is on infrastructure improvements to the university's network of bikeways. Wherever possible, this plan recommends removing existing dedicated bicycle side paths

and replacing them with on-street bicycle lanes or routes. These recommendations are based on the best available research on bicycle safety, which have shown significant safety improvements through on-street facilities compared to parallel, off-street facilities. As ongoing research in the field continues to evaluate best practices, future infrastructure plans and improvements on campus should continue to reflect the best available research at the time. The majority of infrastructure improvements included in this plan include rough cost estimates, totaling nearly \$4 million in 2013 dollars.

This document reports the progress made in the FY25 to achieve the goals listed in the 2014 Campus Bike Plan. The Facilities & Services Transportation Demand Management (F&S TDM) department published a progress report in 2019, 2022, 2023, and 2024.

Goals and Objectives

In FY25, we have achieved the following goals and objectives from the Bike Plan:

- Increase safety for all campus users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and motorists
 - a. Total of 17 bicycle repair stations
 - i. 8 of those repair stations at Housing facilities
 - b. Five no ride zones for e-scooters and throttle use on e-bikes identified and administered on the Main Quad, Bardeen Quad, South Quad, Ikenberry Commons, and a section of north campus. Refer to the No-ride Zone map¹
 - c. Completed 100% of high priority and 72% of medium priority infrastructure projects.²
- 2. Increase sustainability of campus transportation
 - a. Held "Bike to Work Day 2024" with 1,274 participants.3
- 3. Improve mobility and convenience for cyclists on campus

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¹ https://go.illinois.edu/bikeordinance

² Campus Bicycle Master Plan (2024), pg. 28

³ Final numbers for the Bike to Work Day 2024 event

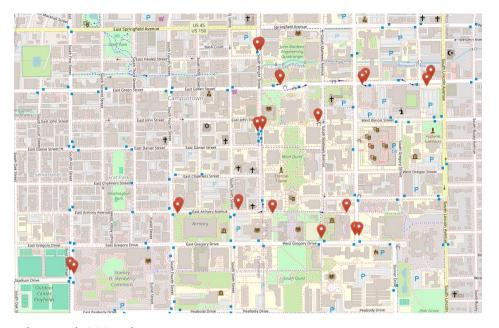
- a. Updated campus bicycle map. Bike rack locations have been updated and all bike racks have a picture associated with it.⁴
- 4. Identify funding needs and prioritize funding allocations for improvement of bicycle facilities, services, and programs on campus
 - a. Request to Student Sustainability Committee of \$70,000 in Spring 2024 for shipping containers for bicycle storage was approved
 - a. Seven 8' x 40' cargo shipping containers were purchased and received in fall 2024
 - b. Hooks for bicycle storage were installed within the containers in spring 2025
 - i. 40 hooks per container (on one wall).
 - ii. We can also accommodate up to 10 bicycles along the other wall of the shipping container.
 - iii. Overall capacity of nearly 350 bicycles.
 - c. Plan for Bicycle Storage:
 - i. Planning the installation of one storage unit before Winter 2025
 - 1. Online form will be developed in fall 2025
 - 2. Storage will be offered on first come first serve basis
 - ii. Storage for students only
 - iii. Seasonal storage winter, summer, during the semester
 - iv. Storage for abandoned bicycles over the summer
 - b. 23 bicycle and pedestrian counters (Eco-Counters) around campus⁵
 - i. 13 of those Eco-Counters were installed in 2024
 - ii. Data from counters are collected once a month and updated on iCAP

 Portal
 - iii. Pedestrian count for FY24: 8,624,261
 - iv. Bicycle count for FY24: 952,571

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⁴ https://bike.illinois.edu/maps/biking-map/

⁵ Pedestrian and Bicycle Counts



c. Bike Week 2024 photos

i. Bike to Work Day





ii. Light the Night







- 5. Improve the university's standing as a national leader in bicycle friendliness
 - a. 2024 Campus Bicycle Master Plan was published in December 2024⁶
 - a. April 2024: Infrastructure improvements projects finalized and presented to stakeholders
 - b. May Sept 2024: Plan document review
 - c. Sept Oct 2024: Public input period through online platforms and in person meetings
 - d. Nov 2024: Final revision
 - e. Dec 2024: Campus approval

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⁶ <u>Campus Bicycle Master Plan</u> (2024)

- f. Feb 2025: Official email announcement of 2024 Campus Bicycle Plan publication sent from to campus community⁷
- b. Bike Registration numbers:8
 - a. FY22: 685
 - b. FY23: 927
 - c. FY24: 925
 - d. FY25: 716 (as of February 2025)

Additional Notes

- Planning to organize a Bicycle Census in April 2025
- Veo's 750 e-bikes continues to be frequently used by campus community⁹
- 500 Bird Class 1 pedal-assist e-bikes were added to the campus's dockless bike share
 program¹⁰
 - o Bird has ceased operation on campus as of March 2025.
- Collected 262 abandoned bicycles during the end of year round-up in summer of 2024. ArcGIS
 Field Maps was used for this project. 15 bicycles were returned to students. Nearly 247
 bicycles were donated to the Bike Project of Urbana-Champaign and Campus Bike Center.¹¹
- Light the Night- Free Bike Light Giveaway 12
 - Held Thursday September 19th, at Alma Mater Plaza, Hallene Gateway, and the Ikenberry Commons Quad.
 - Approximately 800 bike light sets were given away.
 - 40 volunteers helped distribute bike lights and educated bicyclists on the Illinois bike laws
- Bike to Work Day¹³

⁷ F&S Newsletter - New Campus Bicycle Plan Approved and Published

⁸ Bike registration fee per month

⁹ F&S Newsletter – Bike Sharing Program: Veo Bicycles Return This Month

¹⁰ F&S Newsletter – Bird Takes Flight

¹¹ ISSS Newsletter Announcement

¹² Light the Night iCAP Portal

¹³ 2024 Bike to Work numbers

- o Total of 1,274 pre-registrations for all of Champaign County.
- Free T-shirts given to individuals riding their bike to campus on Wednesday September 18th.
- Welcome stations featuring drinks and snacks were available at eight university locations.
- Drafting TDM Plan Achievement Report for FY24