

2026 Progress Report – 2024 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 Since that time, funding cutbacks have led to degraded and disconnected pathways, outdated and insufficient bicycle parking, and limited support for bicycle services and programs.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 2024 Campus Bicycle Plan (Bike Plan) explains the various ways in which the campus should improve cycling, in the coming years. The goals of the Bike Plan are six-fold:

1. Continue to increase safety for all campus users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and motorists.
2. Increase sustainability of campus transportation, in alignment with the Illinois Climate Action Plan.
3. Continue to improve the mobility, enjoyment, and convenience for cyclists on campus.

4. Identify funding needs and secure funding to support campus bicycle facilities, services, and programming.
5. Improve the university's standing as a national leader in bicycle friendliness.
6. Incorporate technological advances to the university's bicycle infrastructure for the best bicycle experience on campus.

The primary focus of this plan is on infrastructure improvements which can further enhance the university-owned bicycle network and bikeways on campus within the University District. Building off of the 2014 Campus Bicycle Plan, the University continues to make great strides in improving current bike infrastructure and developing new bike infrastructure, all while keeping safety and sustainability at the forefront. This document reports the progress made in FY26 to achieve the goals listed in the 2024 Campus Bike Plan.

Goals and Objectives

In FY26, we have achieved the following goals and objectives from the Bike Plan:

1. Continue to increase safety for all campus users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and motorists.
 - a. Bike lanes were added on Gregory Dr. from First St. to Oak St.

- b. The University Bicycle Ordinance¹ was updated, approved and published in January 2026.
 2. Increase sustainability of campus transportation, in alignment with the Illinois Climate Action Plan.
 - a. Bike to Work Day² was held on September 10th, 2025 with over 1,000 pre-registrations, while Light the Night³ was held on September 16th, 2025 with nearly 650 bicycles receiving light sets. Both events help to encourage sustainable transportation and promote safe cycling habits.
 - b. Completed the development of the Shipping Containers for Bike Storage and the Power and Ventilation for shipping containers projects⁴. The Shipping Containers for Bicycle Storage project was SSC funded and nearly \$60,000 of the \$70,000 budget has been spent. The budget for the Power and Ventilation for shipping containers was \$60,511. These shipping containers were used to store 281 bikes for the Abandoned Bicycles project over the summer of 2025 in an effort to reduce bicycle waste.
3. Continue to improve the mobility, enjoyment, and convenience for cyclists on campus.

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

² <https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/project/c-u-bike-work-day>

³ <https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/project/light-night>

⁴ <https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/project/shipping-containers-bicycle-storage>

- a. PSC was hired to design the Lorado Taft shared-use path between 4th and 6th street. Design is expected to be completed by May 2026 with a \$75,000 budget.
 - b. Several off-rack locations for Veo drop-off were demarcated to reduce conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists, and Veo users and improve accessibility.⁵
 - c. \$45,000 is allocated in the FY26 Bike Fee for bike parking upgrades. In an effort to ensure that all cyclists have a safe and convenient place to park their bikes, bike parking improvements have been considered around locations with high bike parking volume, like the Campus Instructional Facility.
4. Identify funding needs and secure funding to support campus bicycle facilities, services, and programming.
 - a. F&S TDM has applied for and been awarded SSC funds for various projects. Several recent projects include \$70,000 for the Shipping Containers for Bicycle Storage project, \$60,511 for the Power and Ventilation for shipping containers project and \$27,900 for sustainable transportation interns.
 - b. An increase of the Bike Fee to \$3.10 per student, as of academic year 2025-26, has allowed for an annual budget of \$279,000. These funds will be used for infrastructure improvement and programming projects on campus.
 5. Improve the university's standing as a national leader in bicycle friendliness.

⁵ <https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/project-update/rack-locations-veo-approved-arc>

- a. The University was awarded a silver-level bicycle friendly university status⁶ by the League of American Bicyclists in 2023 and is working to reapply by August 2027 to keep or improve our status. A silver-level bicycle friendly university status shows that the University is recognized for its efforts to create a more bikeable campus for students, staff and visitors.
 - b. Campus Bike Plan has an objective to achieve Gold-level bicycle friendly university status by 2027.
6. Incorporate technological advances to the university's bicycle infrastructure for the best bicycle experience on campus.
 - a. As electric micromobility devices like e-scooters and e-bikes become more prevalent on campus, the University Bicycle Ordinance was updated to include clearer regulations and new definitions for several electric micromobility devices.

Implementation List

High Priority Projects

1. South Quad Shared Use Path N-S Connection – Design in progress

- TERRA Engineering was hired to complete the design for the removal of the bike path and sidewalk and the installment of one 10-12' wide shared-use path for cyclists and pedestrians.

⁶ <https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/project/bicycle-friendly-university-status>

- The budget for this project is \$100,000 and the design is expected to be completed in early Spring 2026.

Medium Priority Projects

1. Hazelwood Path – Design in progress

- F&S hired TERRA Engineering to design the shared-use path with a budget of \$50,000.
- The design is expected to be completed in early Spring 2026.

2. Oak St. Complete Street & Sidewalk – Construction and acquisition of funds in progress

- Curb cut and crosswalk at G&C project in construction due to be completed by Spring 2026.

Additional Notes

- So far for FY26 there are 677 registrations for the University's Project 529 shield registration program.
- Bike to Work Day 2025 featured 3 new welcoming station locations
 - Main & Mathews (UIPD)
 - First and Windsor (Carle)

- Centennial Park (Champaign Parks)
- Bike to Work Day 2025 welcome stations passed out free t-shirts, bike at Illinois merchandise, and breakfast food items to participants who biked to one of the 16 welcome stations.
- Plans to organize a bike census in April 2026
- Out of the 655 bicycles tagged for the abandoned bicycles project, 218 were impounded and approximately 20 were returned.
- The seven shipping containers were identified as a safe and simple storage solution for students who want to leave their bicycles on campus over breaks. Currently, there are plans to allow for non-electric bicycles to be stored over break although research is being done as to how to safely store e-bikes in the shipping containers as well.
- The redesigned Bike at Illinois Website⁷ provides informational and educational resources for students who bike/ are interested in biking on campus.
 - Bicycle safety quiz, bike classes, bike map, bicycle registration etc.

⁷ <https://bike.illinois.edu/>