

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Facilities & Services

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

Dear Student Sustainability Committee,

As the new Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Coordinator in Facilities & Services, I am writing to introduce myself to the Committee and provide you with an update on the Bicycle Parking Upgrade project, which I have taken over as part of my new role. We have been transitioning the role of TDM Coordinator from Morgan Johnston to me since June, and she has been working to bring me up to speed on the large number of transportation infrastructure projects happening across campus, including bicycle parking upgrades. While we have made progress toward the completion of this project, we are requesting an additional extension to finish the work.

In addition to the delay from the staff transition period, we have taken some time to evaluate our various options to ensure that the upgraded racks provide the long-term solution that was intended by SSC's funding award. One of the primary challenges with this project is that many of the bike parking locations selected for this project are in need of concrete or pavement upgrades; however, funding is not in the TDM budget to pay for these upgrades. One location, the Art & Design Building, has been completed so far with financial support from the Art & Design Department to re-lay new concrete at that site. For the majority of the other locations, however, there is no funding available from the departments to repair or replace the cracked and degraded concrete. This has made us hesitant to install new bicycle racks onto pavement that will need to be replaced in a matter of years.

As a more permanent solution, we are going to install surface mounted U-loop racks mounted on rails, which makes the racks moveable and easily be relocated – whether to upgrade the pavement beneath them, to accommodate a construction project, or to permanently relocate a building's bicycle parking to a more optimal location over time. A rack unit can also be placed on permeable pavement, or even in a gravel/grass location temporarily as needed. The lifespan of a bike rack unit is significantly higher, and offers much greater flexibility for placement and upkeep of the racks and surrounding landscape.

In the original request approval from SSC for phase I, the number of bicycle parking units was to be around 1000 (500 U-loops, in sets of about 5 loops). For the rail mounted racks, we are anticipating being able to install at least the same amount of parking units, with the hope of being able to install more with the \$225,000 original funds. The cost of pre-fabricated U-loop racks on rails will be comparable to the single U-loops (and it may even be less expensive).

I would like to point out that in the SSC Funding Award & Acceptance Letter dated March 28, 2012 there was some confusion on the number of bicycle parking loops that would be able to be installed with the awarded funding amount. The request, submitted by Morgan Johnston, on February 15, 2012, stated the following: *the \$200,000 - \$225,000 requested in Phase I would allow between 400 and 450 U-Loops to be installed.* This number was misrepresented in the SSC's approval letter as:

“SSC is pleased to inform you that we are recommending to the Office of Sustainability that your project receive a \$225,000 grant as requested in Phase 1 of the Campus Bike Parking Overhaul proposal SSC would like to ensure the value of this funding is achieved by requesting that approximately 1,000 bicycle parking loops are installed with these funds.” This should have stated either “500 bicycle parking loops”, or “1000 bicycle parking units”.

Since we were not able to complete the rack installations by the original date specified of June 30, 2013, I am requesting an extension. We anticipate being finished with the installation of these racks by December 2014.

Please let me know whether this change in the scope of the project is acceptable to the SSC. I will keep you informed on the status and look forward to working with you on the best solution for our campus. Facilities & Services is incredibly grateful to the SSC for your ongoing support for sustainable transportation initiatives on campus, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to make the campus more bike-able, walkable, and transit-friendly.

If you would like more detail, please contact me.

Thank you,

Stacey DeLorenzo

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