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Bike Day 2021

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

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Facilities & Services

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Bike Day 2021

This presentation will highlight the success of combining the annual Bike to Work Day and Light the Night events.



Demographics of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)

UIUC is a Land Grant University, established in 1867

- 51,000+ students
- 14,000+ full-time employees

Facilities & Services (F&S) provides all physical plant, operational, and essential services for sustaining an environment that fosters the research, teaching, and public engagement activities of the university

Silver Bicycle Friendly University status; Goal to become Gold in the next cycle

Surrounded by City of Champaign, City of Urbana, and Village of Savoy

Campus Bicycle Master Plan 2014

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Bio

Sarthak Prasad

- Sustainable Transportation Assistant in the Transportation Demand Management department
 - Manage the Bike at Illinois Program
 - Encourage active modes of transportation
 - Ensure sustainability through our transportation system and infrastructure
 - Work closely with the Sustainability department
- Joined UIUC as a Grad student in 2015; at F&S since May 2016
- America Walks Walking College (Class of 2021) graduate
- LAB and APBP member



Bike at Illinois and Campus Bike Center

Website: <https://bike.illinois.edu>

Campus and community partnership to promote bicycling in the campus community as a safe, healthy, and sustainable mode of transportation

Resources available on Bike at Illinois:

- Bike maps
- Bicycle Registration
- Bicycle Count information
- Bike Safety information
- Videos

Campus Bike Center (<https://go.illinois.edu/cbc>)



Bike Day 2021

Collaborations

- Bike Month Planning Team
- Light the Night Planning Team

How it came to be?

- Bike to Work Day (BTWD) is normally the main event during Bike Month in May
- Light the Night (LTN) – the main bike event during the fall semester in September
 - 14th Annual event organized in 2021
- BTWD was combined with Light the Night for 2021
- Bike Month Planning team and LTN Planning team decided to hold it on the same day
- BTWD in the morning and LTN in the evening



Bike to Work Day 2021

What do we do?

- Acknowledge and thank regular bicycle commuters and encourage and invite first-time riders
- Use publicity to raise driver awareness
- Survey the participants – their biking preferences and what would encourage them as well as other first time riders
- Cyclists visit welcoming stations on their morning commute for snacks, giveaways, educational materials, and meet with bike advocates as well as local planners and others involved in bike infrastructure and enforcement



Bike to Work Day 2021 - highlights

Champaign-Urbana hosted the first C-U Bike to Work (and School) Day on May 4, 2010

- Annual event since 2010
- More than 800 pre-registered to participate and nearly 150 walk-ins during BTWD 2021 (highest to date)
- 16 welcoming stations across Champaign County, including 9 on-campus



Light the Night 2021

Light the Night is an annual free bicycle light giveaway

First Light the Night event was held in 2008

- Organized every year in September
- In 2021, installed nearly 750 light sets (front and rear)
- Had nearly 40 volunteers

Educate the public that state law in Illinois requires bicycles to have a front light and rear reflector, at minimum, when riding at night

Three campus locations

Participation from UIPD has been much appreciated



Light the Night 2021 - Highlights



Lessons learned

Fall is better than Spring as it feels like a welcome to the campus event

Organization and promotion can be done together

Better recruitment of volunteers and participants



Bike Week for 2022

Bike week in September 2022

- Bike to Work Day
- Light the Night
- Bike Census
- Potential other activities



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Recommendation

Universities/Communities (on semester system) could consider organizing their Bike to Work Day events during the fall semester

Holding this event in Fall semester is welcoming for returning and new students to start the academic year

Gives the students an opportunity to explore the campus and community on bike and learn about the bike program at the beginning of school year





Thank you!

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