

2024 Progress Report – 2014 Campus Bicycle Plan

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SUSTAINABILITY INTERN

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FACILITIES & SERVICES | UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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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 Since that time, funding cutbacks have led to degraded and disconnected pathways, outdated and insufficient bicycle parking, and limited support for bicycle services and programs.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:

1. 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.

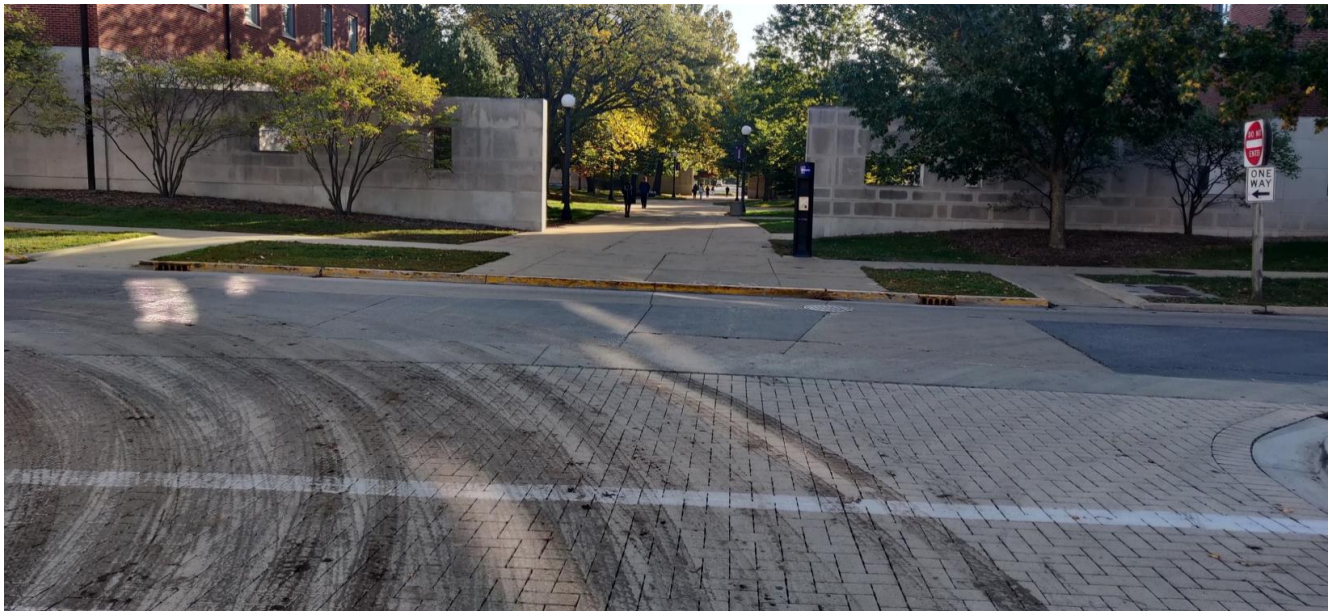
This document reports the progress made in the FY24 to achieve the goals listed in the 2014 Campus Bike Plan. The Facilities & Services Transportation Demand Management (F&S TDM) department published a progress report in 2019, 2022, and 2023 as well.

Goals and Objectives

In FY24, we have achieved the following goals and objectives from the Bike Plan:

1. Increase safety for all campus users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and motorists
 - a. Added new bicycle repair stations at:
 - i. Main Library
 - ii. West of Smith Hall
 - iii. ECE/Micro Nano
 - iv. Loomis Lab
 - v. Grainger Library
 - b. Curb cut improvement at the intersection of Main St and Mathews Ave. SSC awarded \$30,000. Improvement makes intersection safer for bicyclists. Please refer to the picture below:





2. Increase sustainability of campus transportation

- a. Held “Bike to Work Day 2023” with 1,075 pre-registered participants, 100 on-site registrations, and 1,100 t-shirts handed out.

3. Improve mobility and convenience for cyclists on campus

- a. Updated campus bicycle map. Bike rack locations have been updated and all bike racks have a picture associated with it.

4. Identify funding needs and prioritize funding allocations for improvement of bicycle facilities, services, and programs on campus

- a. Requested SSC to fund \$85,000 in Spring 2024 for shipping containers for bicycle storage
 - i. Storage for students only
 - ii. Seasonal storage – winter, summer, during the semester
 - iii. Storage for abandoned bicycles over the summer
- b. In FY24, we received the Bike Fee funding and the allocation was approved by the SFAC.¹ These funds have been used for the following:
 - a. Bike at Illinois promotional giveaway material

¹ <https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/project-update/fy24-bike-fee-allocations-approved-sfac>

- b. Digital signage in fall 2023 – completed
 - c. Bike Week 2023
 - i. Bike to Work Day
 - ii. Light the Night
5. Improve the university's standing as a national leader in bicycle friendliness
 - a. In August 2023, we applied to renew the Bicycle Friendly University (BFU) status for the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) campus. In 2023, UIUC was awarded the Silver-level BFU status, and this year we strive to achieve the Gold status.
 - b. In spring 2023, the planning process to update the 2014 Campus Bicycle Plan had begun. Current goal is to develop the final draft for approval by the end of FY24. The 2024 Campus Bicycle Plan will be presented to the Sustainability Council in November 2024.
 - c. Bike Registration numbers:
 - i. FY22: 685
 - ii. FY23: 927
 - iii. FY24: 821 (as of 1/26/2024)

Additional Notes

- Bicycle Census completed in April 2023.²
- Updated VEO contract to allow 750 bicycles on campus. Contract was updated for 5-years in FY23.
- Collected nearly 300 abandoned bicycles during the end of year round-up in summer of 2023. Used ArcGIS Field Maps for this project. 26 bicycles were returned to students. Nearly 214 bicycles were donated to the Bike Project of Urbana-Champaign and Campus Bike Center. Remaining bicycles were scrapped.³

² <https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/project-update/bike-census-2023-event-information>

³ <https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/project-update/deadline-passed-final-number-bicycles-returned>



- Light the Night- Free Bike Light Giveaway
 - Held Tuesday September 19th, at Alma Mater Plaza, Hallene Gateway, and the Ikenberry Commons Quad.
 - Approximately 850 bike light sets were installed.
- Bike to Work Day
 - Free T-shirts given to individuals riding their bike to campus on Thursday September 14th.
 - Welcome stations featuring drinks and snacks were available at eight university locations.
 - Pre-registration required.
- Collaborating with the Department of Urban & Regional Planning for the 2024 Campus Bicycle Master Plan update.
- Three bicycle repair stations maintained by F&S TDM were replaced and five additional bicycle repair stations and pumps were installed on campus
 - Existing locations:
 - Campus Bike Center (replaced)
 - Altgeld Hall (replaced)
 - Bike parking in the parking lot at Fifth St and Daniel St (replaced)
 - Siebel Center for Design
 - New locations:
 - Main Library
 - West of Smith Hall
 - ECE/Micro Nano
 - Loomis Lab
 - Grainger Library
 - Please refer to the pictures below:



Loomis Laboratory



ECE



- Published a TDM Plan Achievement Report in FY23.⁴
- Purchased and installed the Eco-Counters for the intersection of Wright Street and John Street.
- Purchased 14 Eco-Counters for 7 locations. SSC funded \$120,000 in spring 2022 for the purchase and installation of 12 counters at 6 locations. The Bike Fee funding was used for the counters at the 7th location. Locations have been approved for the installation for these counters. Expected installation by the summer 2024. Installed Eco-Counters can be seen below:

⁴ <https://docs.fs.illinois.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/TDM-Plan-Achievement-Report-FY23.pdf>

