

Wilmington Bicycle Plan – DRAFT of Vision Statement & Goals

Vision: The Wilmington Bicycle Plan will promote safe and convenient bicycle transportation for commuters and recreational riders within Wilmington, DE.

Goals:

Design a Coordinated Network

- Develop a coordinated, connected network of bicycle facilities with a combination of off-street and on-street bikeways. On-road facilities should be designed as “complete streets”, and appropriate to both the street classifications and traffic volume. The network should be well-signed for ease of use to provide a viable alternative to the automobile for residents and commuters to bike to work, school or play.
- Create and distribute a Wilmington Bicycle Network Map, including tips on safe bicycling practices.

Provide Access to Network

- Network should provide access within ¼ mile of all Wilmington residents.
- Design improvements to the street network for bicyclists by eliminating barriers, creating access along arterials where warranted by land use, creating bicycle and pedestrian "short cuts" and accommodating bicycles on bridges and underpasses.
- Identify access to the East Coast Greenway and Northern Delaware Greenway networks.
- Improve bicycle access to transit by identifying safe and convenient bicycle routes to and from transit hubs and bus stops.
- Create a Wilmington Cycling Center for public information and education. The facility should also provide bicycle rentals as an alternate transportation mode and to promote tourism.

Provide Bicycle parking

- Develop standards for bicycle parking, including bike rack types, public locations, garage locations, lighting and security measures.
- Identify locations where public bicycle parking should be provided. Encourage adequate and secure bicycle parking at all major destinations.
- Recommend locations where adequate and secure bicycle parking should be provided within the transit system, including the Amtrak station, Rodney Square and other bus stops.

Promote Safety and Education

- Recommend safe design and maintenance practices for all bikeways and shared-use facilities, including lighting and signage.
- Develop a public education program to promote safe bicycling practices.
- Provide bicycle and pedestrian education and training for City police officers regarding bicycle-vehicle safety measures and issues faced by on-street bicyclists.
- Develop signage aimed at motor vehicle drivers to improve awareness of the needs and rights of bicyclists.

- Develop appropriate residential and commercial street designs to control vehicle speeds and encourage bicycle use.
- Clean and maintain bicycle lanes and paths.

Create Bicycle Policies

- Add criteria for bicycle amenities to design review procedures and provide incentives for bicycle accommodations.
- Incorporate bicycle elements into transportation and development action plans.
- Add criteria for non-motorized facilities into all construction and maintenance activities of Public Works or Transportation Departments.
- Review bicycle parking requirements in zoning codes and recommend revisions as needed.
- Encourage the appointment of a City non-motorized coordinator.

Develop a Phased Implementation Plan

- Identify and target factors with highest needs and most benefits. Short-term goals should include providing bicycle parking.
- Use prioritization factors such as connectivity between existing facilities, high-hazard roadways near schools and employment centers, opportunities for major linkages (railroad right-of-ways, utility lines, etc.), and high-hazard roadways which can be improved for bicycle travel in conjunction with the Transportation Improvement Program and Regional Transportation Plan.
- Petition regional and state agencies to make funding available for this plan. Investigate ways to improve non-motorized mode's competitiveness for transportation funding. Seek private/corporate partners for project funding and event sponsorship.
- Provide adequate resources to achieve the goals of this plan, including training and technical assistance.
- Develop a plan to maintain and improve the quality, operation, and integrity of bikeway network facilities.
- Provide for integration and coordination of bicycle planning between the State, New Castle County, other municipalities and the City.

Involve the Community

- Involve the community in the development of the Plan with public outreach and workshops.
- Develop grassroots support at the neighborhood level to assist in the legislative adoption and implementation of the Bicycle Plan.
- Create education and outreach materials to raise awareness and encourage use of the Bicycle Network.