



About the Brookings Bicycle Master Plan

What is a bicycle master plan?

A bicycle master plan is a document that assesses the current state of bicycling in a community and serves as a guide for its future. The foundation of an effective plan is input from the community. The planning process is a way to engage community members, develop support, and set priorities for making bicycling a safe and comfortable option for transportation, health, and recreation.

Transportation planners organize the community input into clear action steps to achieve the vision and goals people have for their community. The plan will include recommendations for policies, programs, infrastructure improvements, and funding strategies.

Transportation engineers also contribute to the content of the plan by recommending designs for city streets and trails to encourage a safe, comfortable, and convenient bicycle network to serve the whole community.



Why do communities invest in bicycling?

To address other community priorities

Oftentimes, communities set goals and policies that can be achieved through investing in bicycling, even if the relationship isn't obvious. For example, improving school performance is influenced by student bicycling rates because exercise stimulates brain activity conducive to learning. In addition, many communities attract tourism dollars through promoting recreational bicycling in and around their downtowns, neighborhoods, and parks.

To provide transportation options

Bicycles transport children to school, college students to class, adults to work, and seniors to social engagements and recreational outings. Some people enjoy the choice to bicycle; some people without access to a vehicle bicycle because it's one of their only choices for getting around. But getting from one place to another is only part of the reason to focus on bicycling.

To improve the health of adults and children

The health of people who ride bicycles improves by leaps and bounds, because exercise is built into daily routines. Improved bicycle infrastructure in communities leads to increased bicycling and more people meeting their recommended exercise. Research shows that exercise, including walking and biking, helps kids with brain development and long-term health. When kids walk and bike to school, they arrive focused and ready to learn.

To benefit local businesses and the economy

Bicycle riders have been found to spend more money at local businesses, since their trips are close to home. Communities which are friendly to bicycling attract people, whether they are new residents or visitors, who want transportation options when they travel around a new city.

Brookings has already made bicycling a priority.

- The Allyn Frerichs trail system connects parks, schools, and recreation centers with 22 miles of off-street and on-street bicycle facilities.
- All middle school students receive hands-on training in physical education class on bicycle riding skills.
- Despite the winter climate, year round surveys show three percent of Brookings commuters regularly use a bicycle to get to work, five times the national average.
- Previous community plans have prioritized bicycling as a goal, and have contained high level goals for expanding the city's trail network.



What is the process for completing the plan?

The process starts with input from you. The planning team wants to know about your experiences with, and priorities for, bicycling in Brookings. Through the end of September, ideas will be collected at community workshops, listening sessions, and through online surveys. After this initial round of community engagement, the planning team will analyze the community's feedback and share the results.

The priorities of Brookings residents will guide the development of a draft plan over the following four months. At the end of this period, a draft plan will be presented to the community for review. Your feedback on the draft plan will help the planning team refine the recommendations. A final plan will then be presented to the Brookings City Council for review and adoption.

Throughout the process, the Brookings Bicycle Advisory Committee (which is made up of local residents) will meet on a regular basis to guide the planning team.

What is today's workshop about?

Today's workshop is about gathering feedback from you. We want to understand:

- Where you would like to bicycle
- What types of facilities are most comfortable
- Where more bicycle parking is needed
- What type of education bicycle riders and drivers need
- Anything else you want to share about bicycling in Brookings

How can I stay involved?

There are a few ways to stay involved. One of the easiest ways is to sign in with your email address. We will send regular updates on the bicycle master planning process, including future opportunities to give input after today's workshop.

You can also visit our website at: www.cityofbrookings.org/index.aspx?nid=492 or follow us on the Brookings Bicycle Advisory Committee Facebook at: www.facebook.com/brookingsbicycleadvisorycommittee.

The plan's project manager is City Clerk Shari Thornes. She can be reached at sthornes@cityofbrookings.org or 697-8641.

We also encourage you to spread the word to friends and family members who cannot attend today's workshop to take our online survey, which is linked at the websites above.

