

Summer 2010 Bike Parking Count & Cyclist Survey

In the summer of 2010, two projects were conducted to help the DDA better understand cyclist's behavior and target bike parking infrastructure in the downtown: a downtown bike parking count and survey of cyclists.

Bike Parking Count: During the spring and fall of 2010, DDA intern, Chris Canna, conducted counts of bikes parked within the Ann Arbor DDA boundary. On each block, he recorded the number of bikes parked on hoops/racks and the number parked on other street features such as trees or light posts.

Findings:

- Bike parking in downtown Ann Arbor appears to fit demand well, but there are some opportunity areas where additional bike hoops and on-street racks should be added.
- The count data itself identifies four primary areas with unmet demand due to a higher than average number of bikes attached to street features: 300 Maynard, N400 Fourth, W100 Liberty and S300 State (See Table 2).
- On-street racks were well used this summer with the exception of the rack on E. University. Two additional blocks, 300 Maynard & 400 N. Fifth were identified as possible additions in 2011.

Table 1

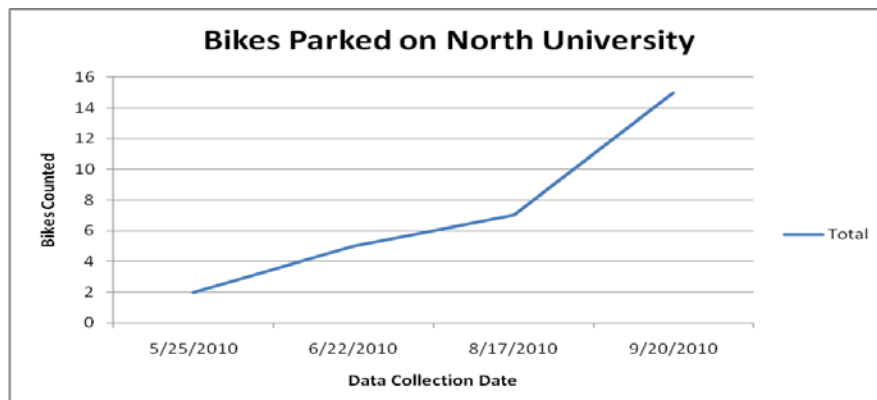
Blocks with the Highest Concentration of Parked Bikes		
Street	Block	Average/Count
Forest	500	22.8
Maynard	300	15.5
State	S300	12.0
North University	700	10.3
Liberty	E500	10.2
State	S100	8.8
East University	600	8.5
Fourth	N200	7.7
Liberty	E600	7.7
Church	600	7.5

Table 2

Blocks Averaging Two or More Improperly Parked Bikes		
Street	Block	Average/Count
Maynard	300	5.0
Liberty	W100	3.7
Fifth	N400	3.0
State	S300	3.0
South University	1100	2.4
South University	1200	2.3
East University	600	2.3

- Far more bikes were counted on hoops/racks than on other street features - 1,249 of 1,565 bikes counted (80%).
- The number of bikes parked downtown increased significantly in August & September as students returned for school – with a particularly large effect on the Downtown areas adjacent to campus. It is clear that they are using the parking to shop, dine, and work downtown. (N. University for example – see Chart 1).

Chart 1



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Downtown Survey of Cyclists: In the summer of 2010, cyclists were surveyed at on-street racks in 3 downtown locations –the majority of surveys took place in front of the People’s Food Co-op on the 200 block of N. Fourth and Bivouac on the 300 block of S. State).

Some interesting highlights:

- When asked how much do you plan on spending today – the average response was \$21.43.
- When asked how often in the last month have you ridden your bike – 88% reported riding multiple times a week or daily downtown.
- When asked why they use their bikes instead of another mode and why they choose bike parking locations – the majority of respondents reported convenience.

These findings align with surveys conducted in other downtowns. Cyclists are a strong and loyal target market for spending in the downtown. Convenience however is key and bike parking must be properly located in order for it to be used.

- When asked how often do you ride on the sidewalks – 80% reported riding only sometimes (for example when on the diag), rarely, or never. Those who reported riding always or frequently cited fear of riding in the roads due to cars traveling at high speeds, poor bike lanes, and a lack of confidence in their own abilities.

Open-ended additional comments:

- The majority of respondents cited a need for additional bike lanes and improved, well maintained bike lanes.
- Respondents also indicated a need for rules of the road education among car drivers and cyclists.