



Carbondale Bicycle Master Plan

Overview Brochure



www.CarbondaleBikePlan.com

Background

There is a high desire and demand for bicycle usage in the City of Carbondale (a recent survey found 53% of Southern Illinois University alumni reported that they primarily walked or rode a bike while attending SIU). The purpose of the Carbondale Bicycle Master Plan will be to create a master plan for citywide bicycle improvements with short, intermediate, and long term implementation strategies. The Bicycle Master Plan will build upon the positive momentum of improving bicycling in Carbondale.



A bicyclist using the bike lane on University Avenue.

Master Plan Elements

Key elements of the Bicycle Master Plan include:

- Conduct an inventory of the existing bicycle network.
- Identify connections between routes in the existing network.
- Identify existing roadways that could accommodate bicycle facilities.
- Recommend policy changes to assist in short and long term bicycle improvements.
- Develop action items to move Carbondale toward being recognized as a ‘Bicycle Friendly Community’.
- Public engagement including stakeholder meetings, public meetings, and outreach.

Schedule

The Bicycle Master Plan will be completed by late spring/early summer 2016. In the fall of 2015, the planning team will review existing conditions and get input from residents, students, and community stakeholders.

Stay up to date on the planning process and share photos and comments of biking in Carbondale using the hashtag:

#BikeCarbondale



Common Questions Regarding the Bicycle Master Plan

Why is having a Bicycle Master Plan important?

A few of the numerous benefits include: increasing the number of people biking, increasing the safety of bicyclists, and providing more transportation choices. In addition, the plan is an economic development tool. A bicycle friendly community can help attract businesses and residents, who often prefer to live where they can bike and walk.

How can I be involved in the process?

Great question! Public involvement is a very important part of this process. You can attend a public open house in mid-October and a second open house in early 2016. An online community survey will take place from late September through the end of October. In addition, the planning team will be meeting with numerous community stakeholders and organizations. Email to bikeplan@thei5group.com or visit www.CarbondaleBikePlan.com to stay up to date.

Who is leading the Bicycle Master Plan?

The Southern Illinois Metropolitan Planning Organization (SIMPO) is funding the plan. The plan will be used by SIMPO, the City of Carbondale, IDOT, SIU, and other partners. The planning team is led by the i5Group, along with the League of Illinois Bicyclists and Horner Shifrin. The planning team is working with a Technical Committee and an Advisory Committee in developing the plan. Contact Joe Zdankiewicz at SIMPO at 618-997-9351.

I don't bike (or seldom), why should I be interested in the Bicycle Master Plan?

Bicycling is an important quality of life component. Businesses and residents often choose to locate in a city with a high quality of life. A recent survey found 53% of Southern Illinois University alumni reported that they primarily walked or rode a bike while attending SIU. A bicycle friendly community is key to attracting and keeping students, young professionals, and families.

How will the Bicycle Master Plan be implemented?

The Bicycle Master Plan will be a guide for the City, SIMPO, IDOT, SIU, and other partners to improve bicycling in Carbondale through additional facilities, education, encouragement, enforcement and evaluation. A master plan does not force a community to fund new projects. Instead, it is a commitment to plan for the needs of bicyclists, especially when new streets are built or current streets are improved. If new bicycle facilities are a priority for the community, the master plan will help prioritize projects and leverage support and funding options.

What will be the key elements of the Bicycle Master Plan?

Key elements of the Bicycle Master Plan include: an inventory of the existing bicycle network, identify connections between routes in the existing network, recommend new bicycle facilities, recommend policy changes to assist in short and long term bicycle improvements, and develop action items to move Carbondale toward being recognized as a 'Bicycle Friendly Community'.

Schedule - Carbondale Bicycle Master Plan

August 2015 - June 2016

Aug

Existing Conditions, Community Input, Guiding Principles

- Review existing plans and field data collection.
- Meetings with community stakeholders and organizations.
- Develop guiding principles and plan goals.
- Online community survey (late Sept. to Oct. 30)

Sept

Oct

- **Open House #1** - Wednesday, October 21
6:00 - 8:00pm, Carbondale Civic Center

Nov

Development of Bicycle Network Recommendations

- Draft bicycle network recommendations.
- Review draft network with Technical and Advisory Committees.
- Draft master plan components.

Dec

Jan

Feb

Finalize Bicycle Network and Draft Master Plan

- **Open House #2**
- Review of draft bicycle network and draft master plan.
- Finalize bicycle network recommendations.
- Revise and finalize master plan.

Mar

Apr

May

Adoption of Final Bicycle Master Plan

- Adoption of Bicycle Master Plan

June

Thank you for your interest! For more information about the Carbondale Bicycle Master Plan and to stay up to date on upcoming meetings, visit: www.CarbondaleBikePlan.com