

**City of Urbana  
Bicyclist and Pedestrian Advisory Commission**

Annual Report  
2006-2007



# What is BPAC?

The primary purpose of the Commission is to advise City Council on how to make bicycling and walking viable modes of transportation.

Other duties include:

- ❖ Advise City Council on bicyclist and pedestrian issues
- ❖ Analyze routing, operation, and safety of bicycles
- ❖ Review and make recommendations regarding the City's Capital Improvement Plan and Bicycle Master Plan
- ❖ Perform a regular evaluation and recommend an action plan for biking and walking facilities
- ❖ Coordinate with external agencies on maps and regional connections
- ❖ Develop education and public outreach opportunities on bicycle and pedestrian issues

# BPAC Members

## Current Members

Rick Bernotas, since 2006

Gary Biehl (University of Illinois), since 2006

Brandon Bowersox, 2006 – since 2006

Gary Cziko, 2006 – since 2006

Gary Engelgau, 2006 – since 2006

Audrey Ishii, 2006 – since 2006

Susan Jones, 2006 – since 2006

Dana Mancuso (Urbana Park District), since 2006

Barak Rosenshine, since 2006

Jennifer Selby (Public Works engineer), since 2006

## Former Members

Sheldon Katz, 2006 – 2007

Bruce Meissner, 2006

## Staff

Bill Gray - Director of Public Works

Theresa Hoffman - BPAC Recording Secretary (Public Works)

- ❖ 11 member commission
- ❖ Includes representatives from Urbana School District, Urbana Park District, University of Illinois, Urbana Public Works as well as residents of the City

# BPAC Meetings

Meetings held 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.  
in City Council Chambers

Meeting discussions included education, engineering and  
enforcement issues.

All meetings are open to the public and are also televised on  
UPTV.

Public input is accepted at every meeting.

## Meeting Dates:

July 18, 2006

August 15, 2006

October 17, 2006

January 23, 2007

March 20, 2007

May 15, 2007

September 18, 2007

November 20, 2007

# BPAC Meetings - Education

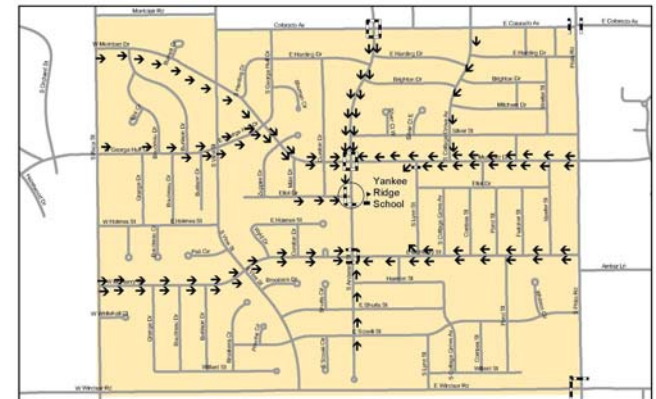
Champaign County Greenways & Trails Plan  
– presentation by Susan Chavarria

Safe Walking Route Maps – presentation by  
Susan Chavarria

League of Illinois Bicyclists – presentation by  
Ed Barsotti

Pro-Walk / Pro-Bike Conference –  
presentation by Jennifer Selby

Safe Routes to School Training – presentation  
by Jennifer Selby



# BPAC Meetings - Engineering



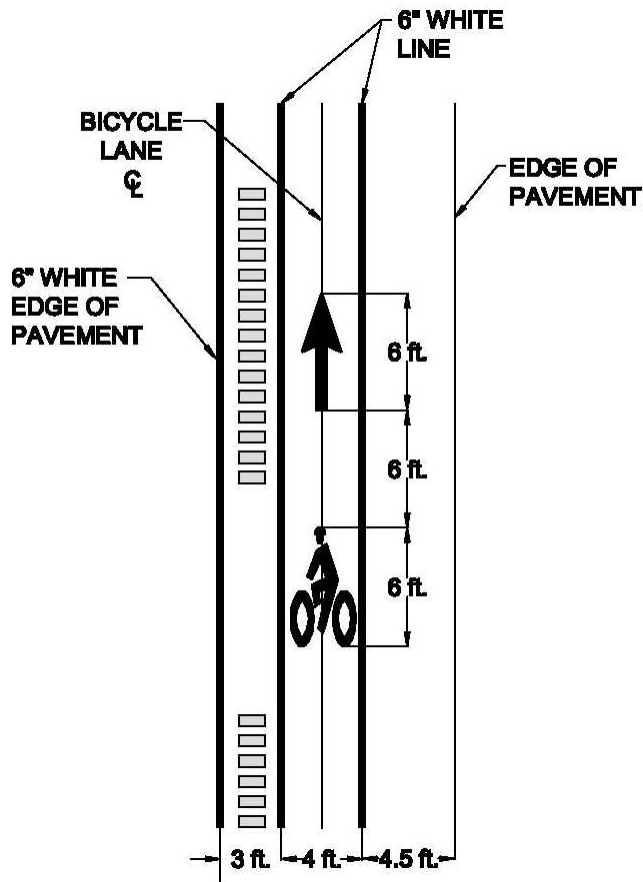
Illinois Street Before

Update of 2007 construction projects  
– Illinois Street and Windsor Road



Illinois Street After

# BPAC Meetings - Engineering

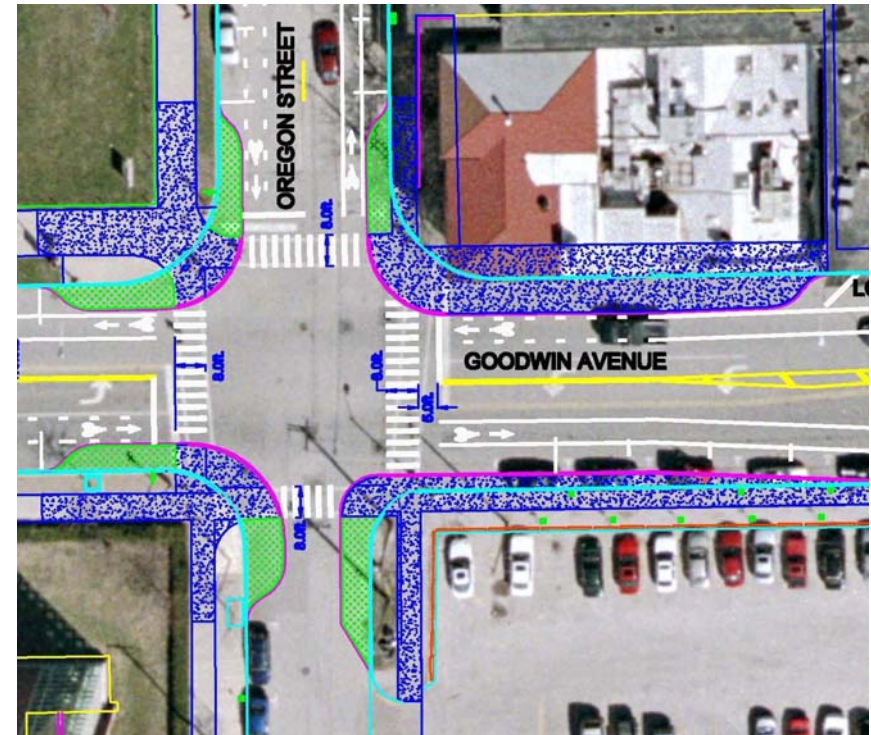
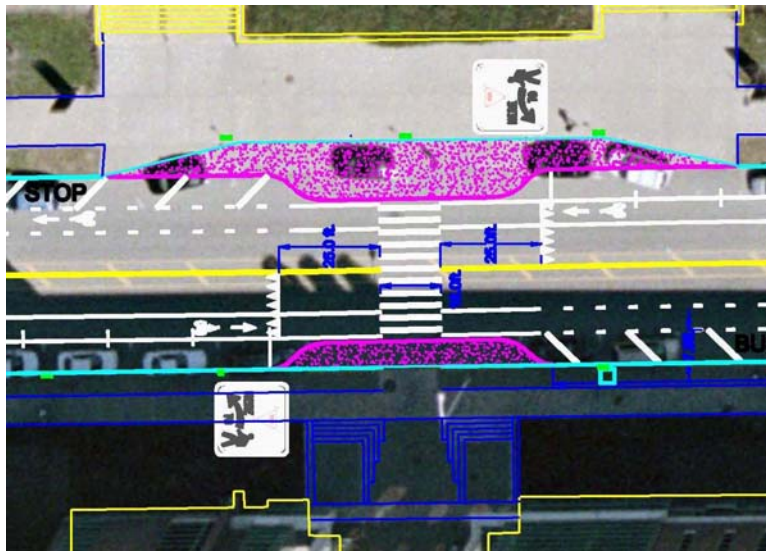


Windsor Road



# BPAC Meetings - Engineering

Goodwin Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Project  
- \$900,000 grant award



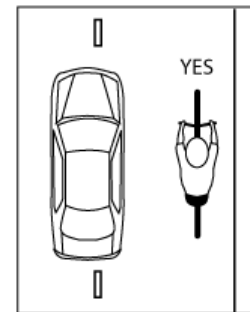
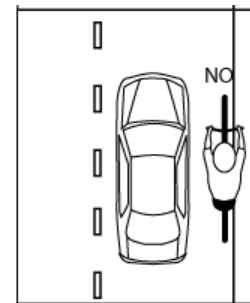


# BPAC Meetings - Enforcement

Walk Your Bike on Downtown Sidewalks - policy and signage

League of Illinois Bicyclists – Safe Roads for Bicycling Police Training  
(9 officers, Chief and Assistant Chief attended)

New Illinois Bicycle Legislation



# BPAC Meetings – Public Input

Public input was given at nearly every meeting held. Topics brought up included the following:

- ❖ Distracted driving and cell phones
- ❖ Use of bicycle lights
- ❖ Enforcement of safety regulations
- ❖ Green Street Corridor (HEUNA)
- ❖ Rails-to-Trails
- ❖ “No Turn on Red” signs at traffic signals
- ❖ Complete Streets

More information regarding public input can be found in the minutes for each meeting.

# Recent BPAC Activities

## Safe Routes to School Grant Application

The City of Urbana and the Urbana School District applied for grants for dozens of engineering and education projects to benefit K-8 schools and improve the safety and practicality of walking and biking to and from school. BPAC endorsed the School Travel Plan and all of the projects submitted with the grant applications.

Grant applications submitted: Late June 2007  
Grand award anticipated: Late December 2007

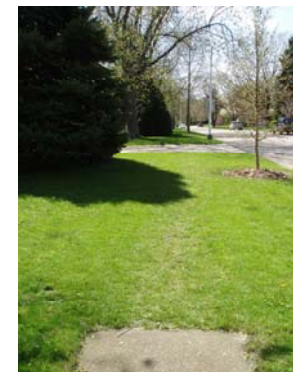
**Install New or  
Improved Signage**



**Make Existing Walkways Accessible  
to Disabled Students**



**Construct, Replace or Repair Sidewalks**



# Recent BPAC Activities

## Walk and Bike to School Day 2007

This annual event at Urbana elementary schools is organized by the Safe Kids Coalition, CUMTD, CU Public Health District and many others. This year, all 6 Urbana elementary participated. Members of BPAC walked and biked with students at various schools.



Walking parade at Wiley School



BPAC member Gary Cziko and his “jazz cycle” at Leal School

# Recent BPAC Activities

## Bike Rodeo at Market at the Square

In conjunction with Walk and Bike to School Day 2007, a coalition of groups organized a bike rodeo at the Market to teach bike safety and give hands-on practice on a safety course. Members of BPAC were one group as part of a larger community coalition that hosted the rodeo with other WBTSD organizers and the Champaign County Bikes advocacy group.



Volunteers helping out at bike rodeo

Bicycles to be given away for Walk and Bike to School Day – donated by Durst Cycle



# Bike Master Plan

The City of Urbana is currently working with the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission to create a plan that identifies bicycle transportation improvements throughout the City. The plan will include a strategy for providing a network to make transportation by bicycle a safe, efficient and practical travel option city wide. BPAC has provided feedback and direction throughout the process.



BPAC Member Sue Jones at first public workshop – May 3, 2007



BPAC Members Gary Engelgau and Barak Rosenshine at second public workshop – Dec 6, 2007

# Bike Master Plan

## Public Workshop #1



- Held May 3, 2007
- Approximately 70 people attended
- Presentation on goals and tasks of project
- Marked up individual maps – where do you go and how do you get there
  - Received 60 individual “idea maps”
- Broke into tables grouped geographically to develop consensus priorities for their section of town
- Generated one large map of requested routes
- Outcome = Prioritization of the routes to be studied for possible inclusion in the bikeway network

# Bike Master Plan

## Existing & Planned Bicycle Network and Facility Inventory

- Researched official documents such as: CIP; Downtown Strategic Plan; G&T Plan; Champaign Transportation Master Plan; Park District Master Plans; UIUC Master Plan
- Performed inventory of roadway characteristics for streets to include in network including street width, pavement condition, signage, parking, etc
- Collected data such as: crash data; traffic counts; bus routes
- Calculated the Bicycle Level of Service for each segment included in the proposed network



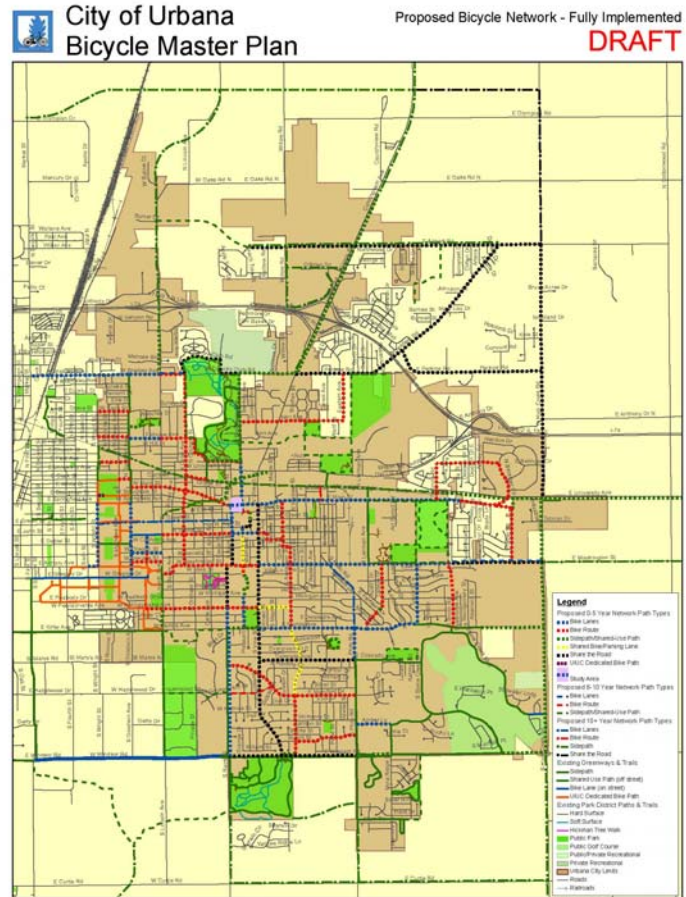
# Bike Master Plan

## Bicycle Network Guidelines

- Target casual adult cyclist
- Maintain and make use of existing roadway system
- Create a continuous, connected system of facilities spaced no more than ½ to 1 mile
- Give priority to connecting major generators such as schools, parks and destinations identified at the public workshop
- Integrate existing trails into the network

# Bike Master Plan

## Proposed Bicycle Network



# Bike Master Plan

## Public Workshop #2

- Held December 6, 2007
- Approximately 50 people attended
- Presentation on work to date and bicycle facility types proposed
- Broke into tables randomly and prioritized top 10 routes for various timelines (0-5 yrs; 6-10 yrs; 10+ yrs)
- Broke into tables geographically to: prioritize top 5 projects in that area; list any items not considered that should be; make any other recommendations
- Outcome = Define priorities within each timeline and add anything that is missing



# Bike Master Plan

## Next Steps

- Respond to reactions and comments received from the 2<sup>nd</sup> public workshop
- Compile the Bicycle Master Plan
  - Proposed bicycle network
  - Bicycle parking recommendations
  - Education & enforcement strategies
  - Implementation plan
  - Cost estimates
  - List of funding sources
- Submit a Final Draft Bicycle Master Plan to the Bicycle Master Plan Steering Committee and BPAC for recommendation to Mayor and City Council
- Present Final Bicycle Master Plan to Mayor and City Council in Feb 2008

# Recommendations

- ❖ **Implement the Bicycle Master Plan** – During the planning process there has been strong community support for paths, trails and bike lanes. BPAC recommends that the Mayor and City Council implement the plan and budget adequately for implementation
- ❖ **Support Education and Enforcement**
  - City of Urbana police and public works staff work overtime or generously donate their time to support education and enforcement. These efforts have accomplished a lot with few resources. BPAC recommends that the Mayor and City Council provide explicit support (such as an itemized overtime budget for pedestrian and bicycle education) in order to institutionalize these activities.



Walk to School Day 2006

# Recommendations

- ❖ **Community-Wide Education and Enforcement Plan** – Most bicyclists and pedestrians cross boundaries into the cities of Urbana and Champaign and the University of Illinois. Urbana cannot educate and enforce safety rules alone. BPAC recommends that Urbana engage with other jurisdictions to create a community-wide plan. This could be coordinated through agencies such as G&T or CATS and could include outreach to schools and university students, information announced on UPTV, and safety messages for all audiences including drivers, bikers and walkers.
- ❖ **Idling Reduction** – BPAC recommends that the Urbana City Council consider drafting and approving legislation to reduce engine idling on a city-wide basis in addition to enacting this policy for the city's fleet, because engine idling impacts the environment provided for pedestrians and cyclists.



Bicyclist riding the wrong way

# Future BPAC Issues

- ❖ **Bicycle Safety Lights Program** – BPAC expects to study and recommend programs to educate the public about laws requiring front and rear lights after dark and to improve compliance with those laws. BPAC may recommend a “ticket forgiveness” program where police would begin writing tickets for riding without a light and the offender could buy a light on the spot for the same cost as the refundable ticket.
- ❖ **Gather and Report Statistics** – BPAC expects to discuss and recommend a plan for gathering and reporting annual statistics to measure the safety of biking and walking. Statistics should include information on bicyclist and pedestrian mode split, crashes and injuries.



Unknown photographer

# Future BPAC Issues

- ❖ **Bike Parking** – BPAC expects to further study bike parking and provide a recommendation for improving the availability and design of bike parking at both existing and new businesses. One possibility for existing businesses may be a cost share program to help them install bike parking. For example, Minneapolis' bike rack cost-share program allows private business owners to pay half and the city pays the rest and performs the installation.



Bike chained to tree on Main Street (bicycle rack is 30 ft east of tree)



Bike parking at Strawberry Fields



# Future BPAC Issues

- ❖ **Complete Streets** – In 2007, the Illinois legislature passed a Complete Streets bill requiring bicyclists and pedestrians to be accommodated in all IDOT projects. Many cities around the nation have a local complete street policy. BPAC expects to examine how the new complete streets policy is being implemented and whether a local complete streets policy or training would be beneficial.



Complete Street

# Resources

- ❖ **BPAC Agendas**

[http://www.city.urbana.il.us?URL=/urbana/mayor/boards/bicycle\\_commission/main.htm](http://www.city.urbana.il.us?URL=/urbana/mayor/boards/bicycle_commission/main.htm)

- ❖ **Bike Master Plan**

<http://www.ccrpc.org/planning/transportation/urbanabikeplan/urbanabikeplan.php>