

ACTION 7A

Becoming a Bike-Friendly Community

Bicycling is growing in popularity as a means of transportation, upwards of 45% to 70% in some areas. Rising gas prices is one of the reasons. But people have also found it to be a great and fun way to exercise. Trigg County has an excellent opportunity to become one of the true “bike friendly” communities which, in turn, could be a major draw for the area.

Bicycling, the mode of transportation stereotyped by short-pants-wearing tykes or spandex-clad health nuts, has become fashionable. Not since the 1880s -- when the first bicycle craze hit the nation and produced some of its first paved roads -- has this two-wheeled, self-propelled machine been such a symbol of urbanity and style. - Alex Marshall

Already in place is a bike route paralleling Hwy 68 through Land Between the Lakes (LBL). And LBL recently opened the Canal Loop, an 11-mile mountain biking trail. Even the new bridge across Lake Barkley includes a dedicated bike lane. And according to plans provided by Kentucky Department of Transportation, the bike route will continue through Cadiz and eventually into Hopkinsville. *Conceptual maps of route are included in this section.* Trigg County needs to become known as a “bike-friendly” community.

Becoming bike-friendly can be as simple as providing bike racks throughout the community, designating bike-friendly routes, adding designated pedestrian & bike crossing areas, and putting up “Share the Road” signs. Bicycle repair shops should also be encouraged or at least provide bicycle repair stations.



Bicycle “fix-it” Repair Station



Bicycle Rack & Signs

BIKE SHARE PROGRAMS

With the increased interest bicycling, so has there been a growth in bicycle sharing programs. According to one recent article*

The growing popularity of urban cycling has led to a steady surge of bicycle infrastructure in many cities including Washington D.C., which has laid down over 50 miles of bicycle lanes. Additionally, the District has instituted a popular citywide bicycle sharing program called

Capital Bikeshare, supported through a combination of public and private funds, and utilizes over 1,500 bicycles across 165+ stations.

The Big Apple is preparing to launch its own bike sharing program, Citi Bike, which is privately funded. The program will be the largest of its kind in North American, consisting of 600 stations and 10,000 bikes and covering a swath of Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens. Though Citi Bike is generally popular – a 2011 poll found that 72 percent of New Yorkers support the idea of a bike share program – some find it to be too expensive, especially compared to similar programs in Washington and London. Still, Citi Bike represents an entirely new transportation network and will likely have an impact on the bicycle’s role in NYC.



There is interest in Trigg County to start a bike-share program similar to the ones noted above. Char Manning has done some preliminary research and found a very reputable company called Zagster to consider. See APPENDIX K for information on Zagster.

BIKE REPAIR AND RENTAL SHOPS

Another suggestion would be to open a bicycle shop that sells, repairs and rents bikes. This would be a wonderful entrepreneurial opportunity in Cadiz.

CASE STUDY: *The photo to the right is a bike & tube rental shop called the County Pedaler located in the small community of Livingston KY, pop. 223.*



Knowing business would be slow for a while, the community partnered in the business venture. A phone number was provided for people to call which was forwarded to whoever in town happened to be available that day to assist. The plan worked and the business has continued to grow.



SELF-SERVE RENTAL SYSTEMS

There are also innovative self-serve bike rental systems such as the one to the right where one can use a credit card machine to rent a bike thus alleviating the need for an attendant to be on-site. The photo (left) shows a system that uses solar to operate.