

Engineering Section

Do you have a policy that requires the accommodation of cyclists in all new road construction and reconstruction and resurfacing?

No

Provided policy

You have not provided a copy of this legislation

Have you provided training for your engineers and planners on how to accommodate cyclists?

No

Description

Only training or information provided is through professional publications

Is there a mechanism to provide training on an on-going basis?

No

How many bridges are in your community?

12

How many are closed or inaccessible to cyclists?

7 are overpasses or bridges over other roads on MDOT maintained roads.

Of those accessible by bike, how many have shoulders, bike lanes, wide curb lanes, or multi-use paths?

Two have unpaved shoulders, one has multi-use path, one constructed wide enough for bike lanes

Do you have a bike parking ordinance?

No

Provided policy

You have not provided a copy of your ordinance.

Are there bike racks or storage units at Schools?

All

Are there bike racks or storage units at Libraries?

All

Are there bike racks or storage units at Transit Stations?

n/a

Are there bike racks or storage units at Recreation Centers?

Most

Are there bike racks or storage units at Government Buildings?

Most

Are there bike racks or storage units at Office Buildings?

Few

Are there bike racks or storage units at Retail Centers?

Some

Are there bike racks or storage units at Public Spaces and Parks?

Most

**If your community has transit service:
Are buses equipped with bike racks?**

n/a

Can bikes be brought inside transit vehicles?

no answer provided

Please describe any restrictions:

No transit system at present. Proposals are being developed to start a joint City-County-University transit system. For question 7 below - 120 is the total road mileage, not specific to bicycles. Present bicycle-specific roadway mileage would be closer to 8 miles.

How many miles of bike lanes do you have?

5

How many miles of bike lanes are in your bicycle master plan?

10

What is the mileage of your total road network?

120

What percent of arterial streets have bike lanes or paved shoulders?

5

How many miles of designated bike routes do you have?

12

How many miles of signed bike routes are in your bicycle master plan?

20

Please describe any maintenance programs or policies that ensure bike lanes and shoulders remain usable.

Routine maintainance:

Bike lanes are on the highest priority for regular street sweeping. Maintenance is scheduled no differently than other city streets.

Capital Improvements:

No special policy for capital improvements.

Please describe initiatives your community has taken to ensure or improve bicycle access, safety and convenience at intersections, including bicycle detection, signing and marking.

Bicycle signs and striping are included in the present construction of our phase 1 pathways project at all rail/trail roadway intersections and on all new bike lanes.

How many miles of paved or hard surface trails do you have?

7

How many miles of paved or hard surface trails are in your bicycle master plan?

7

How many miles of natural surface trails do you have?

10

How many miles of natural surface trails are open to mountain bikes?

10

What is the estimated acreage of open space and public lands within the community (city, county, state, and federal public lands)?

130

Are these area open to cyclists?

Most

Please describe any maintenance programs or policies for multi-use paths.

Routine maintainance:

Paved multi-use paths are on the highest priority for regular street sweeping. Crushed rock path is groomed and maintained by City / University partnership. Maintenance is scheduled no differently than other city streets.

Capital Improvements:

No special plans for capital improvements.

Does your community have an ordinance or local code requirement for employers to provide bicycle parking, shower facilities, etc.?

No

Provided ordinance

You have not provided a copy of this legislation

Describe recreational facilities for cyclists such as a low traffic rural roads and signed routes.

Oxford is a small community of only about 18 square miles, surrounded by low traffic rural roads. The Oxford cycling club has regular road rides most weeknights and weekends that typically range from 15-50 miles at a variety of paces. Oxford is a popular destination for cyclists from Jackson, MS and Memphis, TN among other places for a weekend get away in a great little college town with great riding.

Are there other facilities that have been created to promote bicycling in your community?

Yes

If yes, please describe:

Phase 1 of the oxford pathways project is a railway conversion that is currently in the construction phase and will be complete in June 2007. There are 3 miles of paved mixed-use pathways through the center of town and the University that are linked to 4 miles of hard surface trail south of town in a 450 acre wooded area owned by the University. A network of mountain bike trails - the "Old Taylor" trails originates at the railway. The railway has traditionally been used by walkers, bikers, the University Cross Country team. The pathways project will introduce this beautiful area to a wider segment of the Oxford population.

Education Section

How do you educate motorists to share the road with cyclists? Please describe:

There are currently no active motorist education programs.

How many community motorists do you reach with these efforts?

None

Are there other bicycle education opportunities for adults?

Yes

Please describe

The local cycling club, Oxford Cycling, <http://groups.google.com/group/OxfordCycling> has regular week night and weekend rides at a variety of speeds and skill levels. There are both mountain bike and road rides, newcomers are welcome, a fair amount of informal education goes on during these rides. The Oxford Pathways committee has open monthly meetings to discuss ped/bike issues. Some very large turnouts (30 to 50) came during the planning stages of the railway conversion with a lively discussion between hikers, cross country runners and cyclists on the trail surface choices for a wooded stretch of trail south of town. To celebrate the opening of our Rail/Trail conversion and help set priorities we are having a series of community rides to educate, encourage and get feedback on future projects.

Do you have a bicycle safety program for children in schools?

Yes

Please describe

None presently, but an application to the Mississippi DOT Safe Routes to Schools program was submitted March 1, 2007. If funded school programs will begin next fall at three schools, Oxford Middle (Grades 6-8), Della Davidson School (Grades 4-5) and Bramlett Elementary (Grades PreK-1). Oxford Elementary (Grades 2-3) is not included in our first-year SR2S program because of its site on a high traffic road.

How many schools participate?

3 out of 4

What other types of bicycle safety and education opportunities are available for children?

Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi, in conjunction with the bicycle patrol units of the University and Oxford Police Departments have sponsored a bicycle safety fair for the past five or six years. The officers set up a safety course and instruct the children through. We register their bikes with the police station. The hospital purchases and fits safety helmets. They are given free of charge. The event is usually held in May or early June at the Mid-Town Shopping Center/Baptist HealthPlex. Another event this year is being planned for Bike Month in May.

How many children participate?

60

Do you make bicycle safety materials available to the public?

Yes

Please describe

At the bike rodeos in the past. In the future these will be available at community rides, city hall and other events.

Do you have a bicycle ambassador program that educates community members on local opportunities for bicycling and answers their questions?

Yes

Do you have League Cycling Instructors in your area?

No

Please list their names:

no answer provided

Is bicycle safety education included in routine local activities (e.g. tax renewal, drivers licensing and testing, or inserts with utility bills each month)?

No

Please describe

no answer provided

Encouragement Section

How do you promote National Bike Month in May (or another month)?

We have traditionally had a bike rodeo for kids aged 4-10 in May or June. This year we are having a bike to work day and a "bike to lunch" event in the town square. The Double Decker festival is an annual Music/Arts festival in late April. We have had century rides in the past. This year the rides will be 24, 38 and 50 miles. We are making a special effort to reach out to new cyclists in the community by starting Sunday afternoon community rides of 3-7 miles around town. We will have bike tune-up opportunities as well.

How many people do you reach with events and activities during this celebration?

60

Do you actively promote Bike to Work Day or other bicycle commuting incentive programs?

Yes

Please describe

As stated above this will be the first year for a bike to work event.

What portion of the community workforce do you reach?

Some

Is there an annual bike tour or ride promoted to the general public in your community?

Yes

Please describe

The Double Decker festival is an annual Music/Arts festival in late April. We have had century rides in the past. this year the rides will be 24, 38 and 50 miles. With the opening of our rail/trail this spring we will institute a large-scale community ride to celebrate the opening.

Are there community road and mountain bike clubs, bicycle advocacy organizations or racing clubs?

Yes

Please describe

The Oxford Bike Club has recently reorganized as Oxford Cycling. It is very much the same organization that has existed for at least 10 years. The name change was in deference to the fact that there are now two bike shops in town and the old name Oxford Bike Club had been associated closely with the Oxford Bike Company - The oxfordcycling.groups.google.com group was started just last year and now has over 100 members.

How many specialty bicycle retailers (i.e., bike shops, not big box retailers like K-Mart or Wal-Mart) are there in your community?

2

Are there other bicycling areas or facilities such as BMX tracks, velodromes or mountain bike centers in your community? Please describe.

Clear Creek Trails at Sardis Lake is a 9 mile loop that was developed jointly by the Oxford Cycling club and the Army Corps of Engineers. Taylor trails has a number of mountain bike trails on several hundred acres of woods owned by the University of Mississippi. The trails are accessed by an old rail-bed that is currently being spruced up as a part of phase I of the Oxford Pathways project.

Does your trail system have a unit of the National Mountain Bike Patrol?

No

Are there opportunities to rent bicycles in your community or other recreational opportunities involving bicycling?

Yes

Please describe

No advertised rentals, bike shops sometimes make arrangements.

Do you have Safe Routes to School program that includes bicycling?

Yes

How many schools are involved?

Most

Please describe

A safe routes proposal was submitted March 1 2007. Will have programs beginning Fall of 2007. 3 of 4 K-8schools will be involved. High school students will be recruited to serve as crossing guards for PreK-1 students and their parents at the elementary school directly across the street. The kick off in the fall will focus on walking and walk to school Oct 3. In the spring we will promote biking and focus on bike to work (school) day at the end of the school year.

Does your community have youth recreation and intervention programs that are centered around bicycling?

Yes

Please describe

Bicycle facilities have been included at the new Boys and Girls Clubhouse as part of the SR2S program. This facility is directly adjacent to the rail/trail conversion and will be opening this summer, at about the same time that construction of the mixed use pathway is complete. Cycling events with local scouting groups are scheduled at regular intervals. BSA troop 144 completed the cycling merit badge last spring. <http://troop144.googlepages.com/>.

Do you publish a bike map and keep it up to date?

Yes

Please describe

Bike maps published on the web in several places. The new google group pages of the OxfordCycling Group: <http://groups.google.com/group/OxfordCycling/web/ride-maps> The Older Oxford Bike Club Site: <http://www.oxfordbikeclub.org/ride.htm> The bike club site will soon be transitioning to oxfordcycling.org The Lafayette - Oxford - University Pathways site will be a central source for bicycle and pedestrian advocacy efforts as opposed to the more recreationally oriented bike club sites: <http://www.loupathways.org/> Printed maps are in the works to promote tourism related riding in town, the county and local mountain bike facilities. The next version of the Oxford City Map will have a bike/ped overlay.

Do you publish a map of mountain bike trails?

Yes

Please describe

See above. Maps at trailheads and in paper form at Clear Creek.

Please describe any other efforts in your community to encourage cycling

We are currently developing plans for future phases of the pathways network. Part of the process will be a series of community rides that will begin with the rail /trail conversion and branch out into other parts of the city. These rides will serve to educate community members about bike safety, enhance their skills and fitness levels, and to solicit their opinions as to the best places for bike lanes, shared paths, bike boulevards and other enhancements.

Enforcement Section

Is your local police department aware of the concerns of cyclists in your community?

Yes

Is there a liaison that communicates with the bicycling community?

No

If yes, please describe

no answer provided

Do you offer specific training to police officers regarding traffic law as it applies to bicyclists?

Yes

If yes, please describe

University of Mississippi officers are trained/receive instructions from The International Police Mountain Bike Association.

Do you use targeted enforcement to encourage cyclists and motorists to share the road safely?

No

If yes, please describe

no answer provided

Do you have public safety employees on bikes?

Yes

If yes, please describe

The University of Mississippi has bicycle officers, the city of Oxford has had bike patrols in the past but not at the present time.

Indicate the number of employees on bike as well as the size of the entire staff.

UPD has 6 officers on bicycles out of a total staff of 50.

Do you have a mandatory helmet law?

Yes

To what ages does it apply?

University has a helmet law - for all ages. The city of Oxford does not.

Do you have mandatory sidepath laws?

No

If so, what is the status of these laws?

no answer provided

Are they enforced

No

Evaluation & Planning Section

Do you have any information on the number of trips by bike in your community including census data?

No

Please describe

no answer provided

How many cyclist/motor vehicle fatalities have occurred in your community in the past five years?

0

How many cyclist/motor vehicle crashes have occurred in your community in the past five years?

5

Do you have any specific plan or program to reduce these numbers?

No

Do you have a system in place that allows bicyclists to submit ideas and concerns to public officials?

Yes

Please describe

Pathways Committee has monthly open meetings.

Do you have a comprehensive bicycle plan?

Yes

When was it passed or updated?

11/01/2003

Is it funded?

Partially

What percentage has been implemented?

Some

Do you have a trails master plan that addresses mountain bike access?

No

And are there ongoing relations between the mountain biking community and the community recreation and planning staff?

Yes

Is your bicycle network part of the broader development plans, land use plans, and ongoing development projects?

Yes

How many trails, bike lanes, paved shoulders, bike routes connect with each other to provide a seamless transportation options?

Few

Have you evaluated your transportation network and prioritized bicycle improvements based on hazards and needs?

Yes

What specific improvements do you have planned for bicycling for the following year?

The city of Oxford has just received a 2.4 million dollar enhancement grant from the state to improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Scope of work to be determined. The Oxford Pathways Committee which has been operating as an informal advisory board to the Mayor and city planner, will be formally incorporated as a City Commission, with support from city staff, funding for ongoing projects and advisory input into city planning, transportation and recreation policy.

What are the three primary reasons your city deserves to be designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community? Reason One:

The Mayor and the city administration are committed to maintaining the small-town feel of Oxford, in the face of tremendous pressure for growth. The city and the University along with an active group of citizen-volunteers have worked for many years to plan and secure funding for the rail/trail conversion project. This project is finally underway and we are committed to maintaining the momentum to educate the citizens of Oxford to the enjoyment and practicality of travel by bike. We feel that we have an excellent start on infrastructure improvements and now need to recruit, educate and encourage the citizens of Oxford to use our dedicated bicycle facilities and to gain the fitness, bike skills and courage to ride in their neighborhoods and across town. Designation of Oxford as a bike friendly community will aid in shifting the public perception of cycling away from a terribly risky and odd behavior, to an enjoyable and practical pursuit.

What are the three primary reasons your city deserves to be designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community? Reason Two:

A network of bike paths is perfectly in keeping with the traditional, casual pace of life here and will reduce the increasingly frustrating problems with traffic. The draw of the car-culture is strong however, designation of Oxford as a bike friendly community will allow us to attract like-minded green developers to help us maintain our green space and oppose the suburban sprawl that is so typical of many American communities.

What are the three primary reasons your city deserves to be designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community? Reason Three:

Oxford really is a great place to ride a bike. Several members of the cycling community have come here from places more well known for their "bike-culture". A colleague at the University who came from Madison Wisconsin said "Oxford is a better place to ride, people just don't know it". The climate here is conducive to safe and comfortable riding 12 months of the year, the scale of the town is only 3 or 4 miles across. The terrain is beautiful, rolling hills, relatively undeveloped. Designating Oxford as a bicycle friendly city will help us spread the word. University of Mississippi athletic and cultural events make Oxford a popular destination for folks from throughout the state. We hope to set a shining example, for one of the poorest, least educated, most overweight states in our country of how communities can flourish and benefit from wise bicycle and pedestrian policy.

What are the three aspects of your community most in need of improvement in order to accommodate bicyclists? Number One Aspect:

Better coordination between City, County and University administrators.

What are the three aspects of your community most in need of improvement in order to accommodate bicyclists? Number Two Aspect:

Better coordination with local law enforcement / motorist education .

What are the three aspects of your community most in need of improvement in order to accommodate bicyclists? Number Three Aspect:

Increase educational awareness to the benefits of using bicycles as a means of transportation. Better outreach to the economically disadvantaged in our community, from "starving artists", to students and local residents. Getting the word out that Oxford's increasingly expensive housing market is suddenly more affordable if they can take advantage a cheap , safe, reliable and healthy form of transportation.