

Bike to Work Day 2021 Report and Summary

Bike to Work Day 2021, postponed from May (cancelled in 2020), was held Tuesday Sept 14. There were 16 Welcome Stations: 9 on the University of Illinois campus, 2 in each of Urbana and Champaign as well as in stations in Mahomet, Savoy, and Rantoul. There were 806 pre-registered participants breaking the previous record set in 2010 and approximately 150 walk-ins. To date, 987 shirts, including shirts to sponsors, have been distributed.



As part of the overall Bike Day/Week/Month theme, Light the Night was also held the afternoon of Sept. 14 at three University of Illinois locations. Over 750 light sets were distributed. Additionally, Bike to Work tables were set up at the 3 Night the Light Stations, bike tabling was done for 3 Saturdays at the Urbana Farmers Market, there were several organized community rides, and there were two events in early October, an Open Roads/Bike your Park event at Crystal Lake Park October 3, and Walk and Roll to School Day Oct 6.

The Bike Month Planning group consisting of representatives from local agencies and bike interests chaired by Gabe Lewis of CCRPC and Light the Night efforts led by Sarthak Prasad, University of Illinois, began meeting last January with a wrap up meeting early October. The group consensus was that the events were very successful and several items noted for improvement. The group is very thankful for the many city, campus, and business staff who helped out as well as the many community and student volunteers who spent many hours helping out at these events. It's not possible without participating agency in kind and/or monetary support as well as the volunteerism, coordination, and teamwork that took place. Finally, the T Shirts would not have been possible without the generous support of sponsors, MTD in particular, as well as several bike shops, bike groups, and community foundations.

Various thoughts and comments on how to make the events even better next year were collected from volunteers, site coordinators, and group members. Analysis of the survey data collected and results is ongoing. Planning for 2022 events will begin soon with various activities for both May and September. Bike to Work Day and Light the Night will both be in September again but not on the same day. Suggestions for community bike events, particularly to coincide with the national Bike Month in May are welcome and can be emailed to info@ChampaignCountyBikes.org

Over 160 participants made donations to Champaign County Bikes. 586 (71%) of the pre-registered had not participated in a Bike to Work day before, 253 only bike to work, while another 379 use a bicycle and something else, and 38 walk or walk with something else. 79 individuals indicated that they drive alone most days. A different way of asking the question yielded the following results:

How often do you ride to work or class	Count
Always!	228
Occasionally	152
Often	277
Rarely	70
This is my first time biking to work or class!	67
Grand Total	794

Statistics from pre-registration show that 3 campus locations are very popular, Alma Mater, Campus Rec Center East (CRCE), and University High School, followed by downtown Urbana. Though tracking actual participation is attempted, the results don't correspond completely to the number of shirts actually distributed with an undercount of 65-75 participants. The importance of afternoon and market pickup is shown with 112 participants picking up their shirts at these alternative events.

Station Summary	Actual Attendance				Totals
	Pre-Registered	Registered	Registered-elsewhere	Walk-in	
<i>Campus-Alma Mater</i>	203	135	9	27	171
<i>Campus-Bike Center</i>	53	31		6	37
<i>Campus-CRCE</i>	127	82		38	120
<i>Campus-DRES</i>	22	13	0	1	14
<i>Campus-NSRC</i>	25	15	4		19
<i>Campus-Orchard Downs</i>	43	41			41
<i>Campus-Research Park</i>	47	41	3	4	48
<i>Campus-Uni High</i>	99	89		15	104
<i>Campus-VetMed</i>	14	11	1	6	18
<i>Champaign</i>	34	11			11
<i>Mahomet</i>	5	5		4	9
<i>Rantoul</i>	5	5	4		9
<i>Savoy</i>	13	13		2	15
<i>St. Joe</i>	3	3			3
<i>Urbana</i>	60	36		6	42
<i>Urbana-Brookens</i>	18	15		3	18
<i>Wolfram</i>	27	19	1	2	22
<i>Sat Market</i>	9		45	25	70
<i>Campus Bike Center</i>					
<i>LTN</i>			10		10
<i>Hallene GW LTN</i>			10	54	64
<i>Alma LTN</i>			42		42
<u>totals</u>	807	565	129	193	
Grand Total					887

Registrants were asked how Covid affected their bicycling. 195 said that it was unchanged, 115 bicycled more for fun and decreased or stopped commuting by bike, 22 indicated they stopped commuting by bike, 65 individuals indicated that they decreased bicycling, 306 indicated starting or increasing bicycling with variations on amount of walking and commuting by bike, and 42 indicated that they started or increased walking. Average commuting distance is 2.5 miles but the median is 1.3 miles. There is an inverse relationship between bicycle commuting frequency and distance commuted.

How does weather affect your bicycling?	Count
I only ride on nice days	329
I ride almost always (avoiding snow, ice, major storms, have need for car, etc.)	388
I ride year round regardless	76
Grand Total	793

When asked about how bicycling can be improved from a list of options (where as many as they liked could be checked):

Adding wayfinding or other signage to bike routes	220
Better and/or covered bike parking	361
Better connectivity between parts of the community where intersections are difficult to cross	463
Better bike infrastructure (including more bike lanes or protected bike lanes)	595
Better street cleaning of bike routes	264
Better road patching that doesn't introduce gravel and rough surfaces	459
Slower speed limits on bike routes and residential streets	141
I would like someone to help me feel more comfortable bicycling in our area	42

Included additional comments (about 80 of them) mentioned showers, covered bike parking at dorms, better road surfaces or patching work, protected bike lanes, a number of people referred to glass and debris, and multiple comments on the issue education of motorists and of enforcement of speed, parking in bike lanes, pedestrians walking on bike lanes and similar.

The CU Bike Month 2021-22 Planning Team thanks you for making Bike to Work Days and CU Bike Month possible.

Jeff Yockey / Charlie Smyth	Champaign County Bikes
Cynthia Hoyle	CU Safe Routes to School Project
Evan Alvarez	Champaign Urbana Mass Transit District
Ben LeRoy	City of Champaign
Lily Wilcock/Shannon Beranek/Kat Trotter	City of Urbana
Gabe Lewis	CC Regional Planning Commission
Morgan White/Sarthak Prasad	University of Illinois
Dennis Donaldson/Nick McDuffee	Village of Savoy
Mary Ellen Wuellner	CC Forest Preserve District/Kickapoo Rail Trail
Jake Benjamin/Barry Israelwitz	The Bike Project
Susan Jones	Prairie Cycle Club
Ellen Hedrick	Village of Mahomet

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C-U Safe Routes
to School Project
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