

OAK LAWN PATRIOT STATION



LEGEND

The map suggests on-road routes and off-road trails for cycling to Metra stations.

Preferred On-Road Bike Routes

- Dark Green Line: More Comfortable
- Light Green Line: Less Comfortable

Off-Road Bike Routes

- Blue Line: Trails
- Light Blue Line: Sidewalks

Other Symbols

- Black Star: Railroad
- Red Star: Metra Stations
- Red Dot: Difficult Intersections

ABOUT THIS MAP

This map identifies on-road routes and off-road trails for cycling to Metra and exploring the Village of Oak Lawn. The roads shown in the network are rated using two relative levels of cyclist comfort and are geared to adults who have at least a moderate level of traffic tolerance. Other cyclists may choose alternate routes appropriate for their abilities. As much as possible, roads with lower traffic volume and speed, ample width, and fewer stop signs are identified as preferred routes. Sidewalks are noted at locations that lack suitable alternatives. Though some routes may be less than ideal, local cyclists judged them as the best available in the area.

NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER: Illinois traffic laws (625 ILCS 5/11-1502) apply to persons riding bicycles. Bicyclists shall be subject to all duties applicable to drivers of a motor vehicle. This map is published as an aid to bicyclists by the Village of Oak Lawn, Illinois and is not intended to be a substitute for a person's use of reasonable care. The Village of Oak Lawn, Illinois makes no express or implied warranty as to the safety or condition of the roads indicated to bicyclists for shared bicycle/motor vehicle use. Unpredictable changes in traffic, road, and weather conditions require the bicyclist to constantly review all routes for suitability. Thus, bicyclists using this map ASSUME ALL RISKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES for their own safety when cycling on the routes indicated on this map.

CREDITS

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OAK LAWN PATRIOT STATION



BIKE TO METRA



BIKE TO METRA

*Your guide to bicycle commuting
to and from the Oak Lawn
Patriot Station*



SELECTING AND PREPARING A BIKE

Find a bike that is affordable and can withstand the weather. Position the seat and handlebars for a comfortable fit and make sure it is tuned up with fully inflated tires, working brakes, and smooth shifting gears. A bike shop can help with adjustments and finding accessories, such as a helmet, lights and a lock. Consider installing fenders, as well as a basket or rack for carrying items.

FINDING A ROUTE

Plan your trip by using this map and/or seeking advice from other people who bike. Look for streets with low traffic and speeds, good lane width, and stoplights at busy intersections. If the sidewalk is the only viable option, reduce speed, pay extra attention at intersections, and yield to pedestrians. Do a test ride to learn roughly how much time the trip takes, including locking the bike.

All Pace buses can carry two bikes. Route information and instructions for loading bikes is at www.pacebus.com. Metra also allows bikes on many reverse commute, off-peak, and weekend trains. Learn more at www.metrarail.com. The City of Chicago's bike share program provides a quick and easy way to travel from downtown Metra stations. www.divvybikes.com

SECURING YOUR BIKE

When locking your bike:

- Look for a spot that is well lit, covered, and near activity.
- Use a high quality U-lock to secure the frame and at least one wheel to the rack, if possible.
- Consider using an extra lock to fasten your rear wheel to the bike frame.
- Secure any removable items on your bike, or take them with you.
- Whenever possible, use a bike rack. No trees or street furniture, please!

STAYING SAFE

- Follow all signs and signals.
- Use a helmet, high-visibility clothing, and front and rear bike lights.
- Be predictable and ride in a straight line whenever possible.
- Ride to the right in the direction of traffic.
- Never assume a driver sees you. Try to make eye contact.
- Ride in single file or, conditions permitting, no more than two abreast.
- When passing parked vehicles, watch for opening doors.

Cyclists fare best when they act and are treated like others on the road. For more information on safe riding and bike laws, see www.bikesafetyquiz.org.

KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

Cycling does not require specialized clothing. Many people simply wear their regular outfits—including suits and dresses. An ankle strap or chain guard keeps pants out of the bike chain. Another option is to change at the destination. Rolling clothes helps minimize wrinkles. If concerned about sweat, ride at a leisurely pace or plan to freshen up after the ride. Learn more about balancing biking and professional attire at www.bikelib.org/maps-and-rides/bike-commuting.

STICKING WITH IT

It can take a few days—and some logistical experimenting—to gain comfort and confidence with bike commuting. You might be sore at first if you have not been in the saddle for a while. Don't give up! Over time, you will likely settle into a routine, become more accustomed to riding in traffic, and discover how easy and fun a two-wheeled commute can be.

Cycling to Metra can be a pleasant and convenient commuting option. Benefits include:

- Starting the day with physical activity and a mental boost.
- Reducing the stress of finding vehicle parking.
- Parking closer to the train platforms.
- Saving money on gas and parking fees.
- Playing a part in helping the environment.

This brochure offers you tips on how to begin bicycle commuting.