Advocacy Session: “Make Biking Better” campaign

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A request for some help...

Green Bay Road, Glencoe

Options considered...

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Green Bay Road, Glencoe

Make Bicycling Better campaign

1. (We/others) identify problem locations needing infrastructure improvement
2. Investigate/document current conditions
3. Recommendations to road agencies

Ride Illinois expertise

- Bike planning consultant for 17 IL cities, advisor for dozens others
- National best practices, IDOT manuals, applicable standards
- Topics not usually covered in civil engineering/planning colleges
Kinds of improvements

Adding Bike Accommodations

1) Retrofit: separate project (e.g. bike plan; grants)

2) Opportunistic: as part of a road project (policy, specific projects)

1) Identifying retrofit priorities

Hearing from cyclists!
...Serve as a liaison between bike riders and government agencies

Form at rideillinois.org/advocacy/make-your-biking-better

1) Retrofits – whose road is it?

- IDOT: State/US routes, some others
- County road projects – see maps
- Local roads in towns
- Rural none of the above: townships
2) Opportunistic: bikes in road design

Cheaper than retrofitting!

Ideal: Complete Streets policy, good design standards

Policy or not – (early) specific input is helpful

2) Opportunistic: what projects coming up?

- IDOT: “Multi-Year Program”
- County road projects
- Local “Capital Improvement Programs”
- Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) – urban Metropolitan Planning Org’s (MPO)

2) Opportunistic: road project letters

Filtering lists of upcoming road projects:

• IDOT District 2, now D5 – high priorities
• DuPage, other urban counties’ highways
• Eventually, key cities’ Capital Impr. Pgms

Making the requests

Current conditions

- Check current demand (Strava), estimate latent demand
- Bike plans?
- Analyze specific needs/hazards
- Further input from local members, others

Detailed road suggestions
Detailed road suggestions

- Quoting state and national standards
- Peer examples
- Awareness of other engineering concerns
- Follow-up

Hierarchy of requests

Reasonable expectations on what to ask, in different situations…

Conclusion

Partner with Ride Illinois to “Make (your) biking better”
- Retrofit projects
- Upcoming road projects