



Ann Arbor, Michigan's Bicycle Friendly Community application

Name of Community:

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Mayor or top elected official in municipality:

John Hieftje

Contact First Name:

Jacob

Contact Last Name:

VanDyke

Position:

Community Involvement Director

Employer:

Two Wheel Tango

Address:

3162 Packard Rd.

City:

Ann Arbor

State:

MI

Zip:

48108

Phone:

(734) 528-3030

Fax: (not required)

(734)528-0392

Email:

whistlingcyclist@yahoo.com

Website: (not required)

www.twowheeltango.com

Population:

114110

Square mileage of municipality, Total Area:

27.68

Square mileage of municipality, Water Area:

0.67

Square mileage of municipality, Land Area:

27.01

Population Density:

4221.1

Average temperature for January:

23

Average temperature for April:

46.2

Average temperature for July:

72

Average temperature for October:

51.3

Average precipitation for January:

1.8

Average precipitation for April:

2.9

Average precipitation for July:

3

Average precipitation for October:

2.5

Median Income:

46299

Age distribution, % under 20:

25.2

Age distribution, % 20 - 64:

67

Age distribution, % 65 - 84:

6.9

Age distribution, % 85+:

1.1

Race, % Hispanic or Latino :

3.3

Race, % Not Hispanic or Latino:

96.6

Race, % One race:

97.7

Race, % White:

74.9

Race, % Black or African American:

8.6

Race, % American Indian and Alaska Native:

0.4

Race, % Asian:

11.7

Race, % Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander:

0

Race, % Some other race:

0.3

Race, % Two or more races:

If you have Journey-to-Work census data on bicycling to work, what percentage of people in your community bike to work?

2.4

How many households are within 1/4 mile of a retail or business area?

Most

How many neighborhoods have significant grass, flowers, and trees?

All

How many neighborhoods have significant amenities such as parks, water fountains, benches, and public art?

Most

How many neighborhoods in your community would you consider a good place to raise children?

All

Do you have a Bicycle Master Plan?

Yes

Do you have a written bicycle accommodation policy?

Yes

What was your community's most significant investment for bicycling in the past year?

In addition to the development and ongoing implementation of a citywide non-motorized transportation plan (www.greenwaycollab.com/AANoMo.htm), the City Council has made a long-term commitment to earmark 5% of state gasoline and weight tax revenues (Act 51 of 1949, www.michiganlegislature.org) for non-motorized transportation purposes. In a state with a profound level of political sympathy for the automotive way of life, the City of Ann Arbor is taking money from the motorist community and giving it to cyclists and pedestrians. This revenue, secured during the first Hieftje administration, is driving the implementation of the city's non-motorized plan and has resulted in the construction or demarcation of over 15 miles of bike lanes within the city limits in the last two years (2003-2004).

List current community activities that encourage/promote bicycling.

1. Ann Arbor is host to monthly Critical Mass rides which take place at the corner of North University Ave. and State St., where the campus area abuts Ann Arbor's downtown. Largely organized by the student community, these rides occasionally draw up to 50-100 cyclists. 2. Two local bicycle retailers (Two Wheel Tango and Ann Arbor Cyclery) host monthly maintenance and safety clinics during the season. 3. The Helluva Ride, the largest local organized non-competitive ride (www.aabts.org), involves tens of thousands of cyclists as well as hundreds of volunteers, and wanders through rural areas north and west of Ann Arbor. 4. The Ann Arbor Velo Club (www.aavc.org) maintains an active youth racing program and enjoys sponsorship from companies such as Ford Motor and GDX Automotive. 5. Ann Arbor is also home to the largest competitive children's (under 12) race in North America, the Tour de Kids (www.tourdekids.org), which includes a bicycle-related art contest among local elementary schools.

List your official bicycle/pedestrian coordinator or bicycle issues contact person on government staff.

Amy Kuras

What department is the bicycle coordinator located in?

Parks & Recreation

How many hours are spent per year in this capacity?

400

List all other government staff or contractors whose primary duties are devoted to bicycling issues.

Donald Todd, Department of Engineering and Public Services (500 hours/year non-motorized)

Do you have a Bicycle Advisory Committee, Ped/Bike Council or other venue for citizen input?

Yes

List the name of the Chair and their contact information.

Don Todd (734) 994-6178

Engineering Section

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

Yes

Provided policy

Your accomodation policy is on file, [click here](#) to view it.

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

Yes

Description

In conjunction with the implementation of the city's non-motorized plan, a member of the city planning staff, working with a representative from the city parks and recreation department, has developed a cycling needs checklist as part of the site plan review process. Site plans submitted by developers must meet checklist guidelines in order to be approved.

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

Yes

How many bridges are in your community?

17

How many are closed or inaccessible to cyclists?

none

Of those accessible by bike, how many have shoulders, bike lanes, wide curb lanes, or sidewalks/walkways?

all bridges feature at least one of the above

Are there bike racks or storage units at Schools?

All

Are there bike racks or storage units at Libraries?

Some

Are there bike racks or storage units at Transit Stations?

All

Are there bike racks or storage units at Recreation Centers?

All

Are there bike racks or storage units at Government Buildings?

Most

Are there bike racks or storage units at Office Buildings?

Some

Are there bike racks or storage units at Retail Centers?

Most

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

Most

Are buses equipped with bike racks?

All

Are bicycles permitted on public transit?

No

Please describe any restrictions

no answer provided

How many miles of bike lanes do you have?

19

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

47

What is the mileage of your total road network?

300

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

30

How many miles of bike paths and trails do you have?

22

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

48

How many miles of designated bike routes do you have?

3

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

25

Please describe any maintenance programs or policies over and above routine roadway maintenance that ensures bike lanes and shoulders remain usable

The city's alternative transportation management regularly solicits feedback from the cycling community, which in turn guides the city's resurfacing schedule. In addition, bicycle retail outlets stock postage-paid Citizen Bicycling Improvement Request cards that city residents can fill out and submit to the city parks department.

Please describe maintenance programs or policies for your Multi-use Paths

The Parks and Recreation Department solicits feedback from user communities with surveys available at park facilities (including the Citizen Bicycling Improvement Request forms). While these surveys cover various types of park amenities, most of the multi-use path mileage in Ann Arbor is located in the city's parks.

How many businesses employing over fifty people have worksite bicycle accommodation programs such as worksite bicycle parking, shower facilities, or "guaranteed ride home"?

Most

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

Yes

If yes, please describe:

The Olson Park trails represent the first city park to recognize the mountain bike community as a primary user group.

Education Section

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

Motorist education efforts currently take place on an informal level, mainly through individual encounters or word-of-mouth communication among friends. The Ann Arbor police department has a IPMBA-certified staff member who educates officers about Michigan cycling law. On-line forums, such as the one maintained by the Michigan Mountain Biking Association, also engage in motorist education to the extent that many MMBA members are also motorists.

How many community motorists do you reach with these efforts?

Few

Are there other bicycle education opportunities for adults?

Yes

Please describe

The Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society regularly holds bicycle education seminars, and the local Critical Mass movement sponsors monthly workshops to educate cyclists about transportation rights.

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

Yes

Please describe

The Ann Arbor Public School District holds a Safetytown program for kindergarten children at the end of each academic year. Participation is voluntary, though students throughout the district are eligible to attend. In 2004, the program educated 68 students and attendance has historically been in the range of 60-80 students. 21 elem. schools.

How many schools participate?

21 out of 21

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

Participation in the Tour de Kids involves mandatory helmet use and rudimentary safety education. The Tour de Kids usually draws several hundred participants.

How many children participate?

100-300

Do you make bicycle safety materials available to the public?

Yes

Please describe

The three groups who perform most of the distribution work in this regard are the Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society, the Washtenaw Bicycling & Walking Coalition, and Critical Mass. Materials are made available at various events, including non-cycling gatherings.

Do you have League Cycling Instructors in your area?

Yes

Please list their names:

Michigan is home to nine League-certified Instructors, one of whom lives and works in Ann Arbor. Her name is Cathy Vonk.

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 Bike Month?

Ride(s) or event(s) celebrating Bike Month
Commuter Station(s)
Official Proclamation
Bike Month posters/flyers are posted throughout the community

Provide attendance numbers

172

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

Yes

Please describe

In 2005, Ann Arbor will continue its tradition of support for Bike to Work Day with an organized ride with the mayor, ending at City Hall. Starting from various points in the city, participants will converge on City Hall for breakfast. The ride occurs on the final (official) day of the Bike-to-Work Challenge, in which businesses compete to log bike-to-work miles. The ride also caps a week of bicycle-themed events, including skills workshops and group rides.

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 Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society's Helluva Ride is the largest ride in the area, but the Tour de Kids generally gets more local press and is much cuter. The Helluva Ride usually draws around 1500-2000 participants, with about 200 volunteers providing ride support.

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

Yes

Please describe

1. Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society - The Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society organizes the Helluva Ride every June. In addition, they oversee a diverse array of bicycle education opportunities, from bike handling clinics to workshops on the cycling section of the Michigan Vehicle Code. 2. Ann Arbor Velo Club - The Ann Arbor Velo Club is a leading local force in promoting youth cycling competition. Consisting of several professional teams including a youth and masters squads, AAVC participates in local racing circuits as well as helping with trail maintenance. 3. Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition - Since 1998, the Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition has worked locally to promote alternative transportation policy and practice. Constant dissemination of information, workshops up the yinyang, and attending sub-committee meeting after sub-committee meeting. These are the real folks in the trenches and, incidentally, responsible for bringing this application before the League. 4. Ann Arbor Critical Mass - Started in 2001, this student-based group has organized monthly rides through Ann Arbor's downtown and campus area. Workshops on cycling safety and effective cycling precede each ride. 5. University of Michigan Cycling Team - Restarted in the early 1990's, the U of M Cycling team promotes University of Michigan athletics in collegiate competitions around the country. This group also acts as a sort of feeder organization for other local cycling organizations as its members graduate. 6. Michigan Mountain Biking Association, Southeastern Michigan chapter - The local chapter of the Michigan Mountain Biking Association coordinates trail maintenance in the area as well as advocacy for trail access.

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

No

How many schools are involved?

no answer provided

Please describe

no answer provided

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

Yes

Please describe

The Program to Educate All Cyclists conducts a Special Needs Cycling program for children with motion and balance disorders through the Spine Center at the University of Michigan Mott's Children's Hospital. The program maintains special bicycles for impaired riders, and rides are organized for patients at the Spine Center.

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

Yes

Please describe

The most recent edition of the City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County Bicycle Map was printed in June 2001. The key for the city map distinguishes between suggested cycle routes (i.e. wide outside curb lane or low traffic volume), roads with dedicated cycle lanes, signed bicycle routes, shared-use paths, and sidewalks. The county map designates roads with wide shoulders and preferred cycling routes. The map is being reprinted for the 2005 Curb your Car Month events

Please describe any other efforts in your community to encourage cycling

no answer provided

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?

Yes

If yes, please describe

Ann Arbor Police Department officer Cathy Vonk is not only active in the local cycling community, she regularly educates officers about cycling laws.

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

Yes

If yes, please describe

The Bicycle program at the Ann Arbor Police Department trains officers to patrol by bicycle as well as educates officers on Michigan cycling legislation

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

Members of both the Ann Arbor Police and the University of Michigan Police patrol by bicycle.

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

During any given shift, the Ann Arbor Police Department has 12-15 patrolling officers, of which 2-4 patrol by bicycle.

Do you have a mandatory helmet law?

Yes

To what ages does it apply?

12 and up

Do you have mandatory sidepath laws?

Yes

If so, what is the status of these laws?

State Law

Are they enforced

No

Evaluation & Planning Section

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

Yes

Please describe

one 2000 Census datum, which estimates that 2.4% of trips to work in Ann Arbor occur by bicycle

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

no answer provided

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

no answer provided

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

Yes

Please describe

Bicycle retail outlets stock postage-paid Citizen Bicycling Improvement Request cards that city residents can fill out and submit to the city parks department. Parks staff as well as the city's alternative transportation management team use this information to guide future policy

Do you have a comprehensive bicycle plan?

Yes

When was it passed or updated?

04/10/2004

Is it funded?

Yes

What percentage has been implemented?

Few

What improvements do you have planned for the following year?

The city's near-term roadbuilding and resurfacing schedule includes the addition of 1.2 miles of bicycle lanes and 13.35 miles of sidewalks.

How integrated is your bicycle network?

Currently, Ann Arbor's bicycle lanes and shared-use paths exist largely as separate rights-of-way, with a moderate amount of connectivity. The city's non-motorized transportation plan places emphasis on network integration, and the implementation schedule reflects that emphasis.

Do trails, bike lanes, and bike routes connect with each other to provide seamless transportation options?

Yes

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

Yes

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

The Ann Arbor City Council has not only voiced a commitment to an integrated bicycle network, they have taken political and financial steps to realize that end.

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

Since adding bicycle racks to their buses several years ago, the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority has seen a 12% increase in ridership.

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

The Hieftje administration has made alternative transportation a continuing priority, and the mayor has publicly stated that his second term will carry forward with the goals already set in this regard.

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

Though it should come as no surprise, Ann Arbor is located in a region with a profound level of political sympathy for the automobile and its attendant accommodations. While automotive hegemony pervades most of the country, its influence is especially significant in southeastern Michigan. By recognizing Ann Arbor as a bicycle-friendly community, the League of American Bicyclists would help the general population of the area understand that other transportation options can be viable and respected.

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

Unimproved rights-of-way within the city limits still lack any amenities for cyclists, including adequate space and lighting, and remain quite dangerous. Likewise, many of the rural roads around Ann Arbor could be improved for cycling use.

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

Currently, Ann Arbor's cycling community engages in a relatively modest amount of coordination toward reaching common goals. While each cycling organization exists for a different purpose, no coordinative body engages in consensus-building among cyclists at this time. Recognition as a bicycle-friendly community would not only help the cycling community realize its common interests, but also help grow the membership of different organizations.