



## Ann Arbor, Michigan (2007)'s Bicycle Friendly Community application

**Name of Community:**

Ann Arbor, Michigan (2007)

**Mayor or top elected official in municipality:**

John Hieftje

**Contact First Name:**

Eli

**Contact Last Name:**

Cooper

**Position:**

Transportation Manager

**Employer:**

City of Ann Arbor

**Address:**

100 N. Fifth Street

**City:**

Ann Arbor

**State:**

MI

**Zip:**

48104

**Phone:**

734-996-3026

**Fax:** (not required)

no answer provided

**Email:**

ecooper@ci.ann-arbor.mi.us

**Website:** (not required)

<http://www.ci.ann-arbor.mi.us/>

**Population:**

113271

**Square mileage of municipality, Total Area:**

28.00

**Square mileage of municipality, Water Area:**

1.00

**Square mileage of municipality, Land Area:**

27.00

**Population Density:**

4193.00

**Average temperature for January:**

23.00

**Average temperature for April:**

46.00

**Average temperature for July:**

72.00

**Average temperature for October:**

51.00

**Average precipitation for January:**

1.80

**Average precipitation for April:**

2.90

**Average precipitation for July:**

3.00

**Average precipitation for October:**

2.50

**Median Income:**

45798

**Age distribution, % under 20:**

19.80

**Age distribution, % 20 - 64:**

72.00

**Age distribution, % 65 - 84:**

6.90

**Age distribution, % 85+:**

1.30

**Race, % Hispanic or Latino :**

3.30

**Race, % Not Hispanic or Latino:**

96.70

**Race, % One race:**

98.10

**Race, % White:**

74.50

**Race, % Black or African American:**

7.00

**Race, % American Indian and Alaska Native:**

0.04

**Race, % Asian:**

14.90

**Race, % Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander:**

0.03

**Race, % Some other race:**

1.60

**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?**

2.40

**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 a state with an economy heavily dependent on the automobile, the City of Ann Arbor has committed to providing balanced transportation choice in their city by increasing bicycle and pedestrian options. The City Council has made a long-term commitment to bicycling by earmarking 5% of the City's gas and weight tax revenues (Act 51 of 1949). That 5% is starting to pay off in a big way in Ann Arbor. In the past year the City Council has approved the Citywide Non-Motorized Plan and implementation of that plan is in full effect. In addition, voters recently approved a parks millage, which will provide funds for bicycle trail development and maintenance.

**List current community activities that encourage/promote bicycling.**

Ann Arbor has community bicycle events year-round, including Bike Winter in December-January, Curb Your Car Month (as part of National Bike Month) in May, and Bike Fest in June. These are not all stand alone events. They are coordinated with other social events in Ann Arbor in order to maximize exposure and participation. The Washtenaw Walking and Bicycle Coalition and the Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce's getDowntown program both promote bicycle events as part of Ann Arbor's multi-modal transportation effort.

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

Eli Cooper

**What department is the bicycle coordinator located in?**

Systems Planning

**How many hours are spent per year in this capacity?**

1250

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

no answer provided

**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.**

Eli Cooper (734) 996-3026

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Engineering Section

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**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**

All key city planning and engineering staff are issued a copy of the recently passed Non-Motorized Plan. For all others the plan is available on the city's webpage. Training seminars are available to all staff upon request.

**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 multi-use paths?**

all bridges feature at least one of the above

**Do you have a bike parking ordinance?**

Yes

**Provided policy**

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

**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

**Can bikes be brought inside transit vehicles?**

No

**Please describe any restrictions**

no answer provided

**How many miles of bike lanes do you have?**

21

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

57

**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 designated bike routes do you have?**

no answer provided

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

no answer provided

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

Bicycle lanes throughout the city's network are swept two times a year. Snow is removed on bicycle lanes by the City's Field Services Department. Ann Arbor also maintains a call number for citizens to report bicycle route problems. The City is dedicated to a quick turnaround on all bicycle route problems reported. Ann Arbor also regularly refreshes bicycle lane pavement markings.

**Capital Improvements:**

There is a dedicated section of the City's Capital Improvements Plan for Non-Motorized Improvements and Maintenance.

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

The City's Engineering department has changed the design of all detector loops at intersections to a "figure 8" design to allow for detection of bicycles. In addition, bicycle lanes are marked all the way through intersections, with markings showing that both bicycles and automobiles share the intersection.

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

22

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

50

**How many miles of natural surface trails do you have?**

no answer provided

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

no answer provided

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

2055

**Are these area open to cyclists?**

All

**Please describe any maintenance programs or policies for multi-use paths.****Routine maintainance:**

Maintenance of non-motorized paths is the responsibility of the City's Field Services Department. Field Services removes snow in the Winter and completes necessary vegetation removal.

**Capital Improvements:**

There is a dedicated section of the City's Capital Improvements Plan for Non-Motorized Improvements and Maintenance.

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

Yes

**Provided ordinance**

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

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

There are several roads in the outlying areas of Ann Arbor that are designated on the Washtenaw/Ann Arbor bicycle map as preferred bicycle routes due to low vehicular traffic. The same map also promotes the Huron River Greenway Border to Border Trail.

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

Yes

**If yes, please describe:**

The getDowntown program provides 30 bicycle lockers around the downtown area for bicycle commuters.

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Education Section

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

The getDowntown Program will launch a community-wide, coordinated, sustained education and enforcement campaign in June of 2007. The purpose of this campaign is to increase awareness and acceptance about the fundamental rights and responsibilities of cyclists and motorists in Ann Arbor and, as a result, increase the quality of the interactions between motorist and cyclists. Further education on bicycle issues is at an informal grassroots level with organizations such as Washtenaw Biking and Walking Coalition (WBWC) and the Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society (AABTS). These organizations provide information on cycling to their members and other motorists through print and electronic media. The organizations also make informal word of mouth efforts to educate throughout the community. The Ann Arbor Police Department has a IPMBA-certified staff member who educates officers about Michigan cycling law. Finally, the local public access channel (CityTV) has been running a feature on the program FYI regarding bicycle efforts in the city.

**How many community motorists do you reach with these efforts?**

All

**Are there other bicycle education opportunities for adults?**

Yes

**Please describe**

The Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society regularly holds Road 1 seminars. The getDowntown program provides maintenance and lightbuilding workshops. getDowntown also coordinates with the Ann Arbor Police Department on a cycling skills workshop twice a year - in May and December.

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

Yes

**Please describe**

The Ann Arbor Public School District holds a Safetytown program from kindergarten children at the end of each academic year. Participation is voluntary, though almost every school-age child attends the program.

**How many schools participate?**

21 out of 21

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

no answer provided

**How many children participate?**

no answer provided

**Do you make bicycle safety materials available to the public?**

Yes

**Please describe**

The Washtenaw Bicycling & Walking Coalition, the Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society, and Critical Mass all distribute bicycle safety materials to the community. These materials are available as various 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?**

Yes

**Please list their names:**

Jeni Pierce, Peter Hines, Kathy Vonk, John Waterman, Chris Fosket, Ken Clark, Bruce Fields, and Carole Hann

**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

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**Encouragement Section**

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

Curb Your Car Month is a month-long campaign in May that challenges Ann Arbor commuters and residents to try sustainable modes of transportation. The month-long campaign includes 20+ events, including a month long Commuter Challenge. Launched in 2005, and building off the successes of past Bike to Work Week activities, this campaign has seen incredible growth and success. In 2005, our Commuter Challenge had 52 businesses & 754 employees participated. In 2006, 66 organizations and 999 employees participated.

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

2000

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

Yes

**Please describe**

Bike to Work day is part of Bike Week in Ann Arbor. The Bike to Work event is led by Ann Arbor's Mayor (Mayor Hieftje).

**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 sponsors One Helluva Ride, which usually draws between 1500 and 2000 participants. 2007 will be the 31st ride, and will feature a choice of six tours of various lengths. The ride explores the rural areas outside of Ann Arbor and the surrounding counties. The getDowntown program also sponsors a Worst Day of the Year ride as part of their Bike Winter events. Every May Ann Arbor has a Ride of Silence to commemorate those who have been injured or killed in bicycle related accidents.

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

Yes

**Please describe**

1.The Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society continues to be active in the community, promoting various bicycle rides from April to November and opportunities for bicycle education. 2.The Ann Arbor Velo Club promotes youth bicycling competition through a variety of events. They also promote bicycle safety, education, and awareness to their members. 3.The Washtenaw Walking and Bicycling Coalition is involved in promoting alternative transportation in the community. They provide input on bicycling matters in both formal and informal channels throughout the city. 4.Critical Mass is a University of Michigan student based group that organizes rides and promotes bicycle awareness on the Ann Arbor campus. 5.The University of Michigan Cycling Club is a competitive team that represents the University in collegiate bicycle races across the country. 6.Michigan Mountain Biking Association, Metro South Chapter - Is active in advocating for more bicycle trails in southeast michigan. Also participates in train maintenance.

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

4

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

There is currently 16 miles of unofficial mountain bike trails in the city (maintained by the Michigan Mountain Biking Association). In addition, Olson Park also has mountain biking trails as part of the City's Parks system.

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

no answer provided

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

Yes

**Please describe**

Gallup Park, located on the Huron River on the City's eastside, has bicycles for rent and trails along the river.

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

Yes

**How many schools are involved?**

Some

**Please describe**

The Safe Routes to School program in Michigan is mandated to be a grassroots effort (and thus there is no city intervention). Several of the schools within Ann Arbor promote a bike and walk to school day as part of their Safe Routes program.

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

Yes

**Please describe**

PEAC (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's 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 update of the Ann Arbor/Washtenaw County Bicycle Map was printed in November of 2005. However, with anticipated improvements to bicycle lanes in the City upcoming, the map will need to be updated again within the next year.

**Do you publish a map of mountain bike trails?**

Yes

**Please describe**

The Ann Arbor/Washtenaw bicycle map notes all mountain bike facilities in Ann Arbor

**Please describe any other efforts in your community to encourage cycling**

In 2006 the getDowntown program sponsored the first ever Bike Fest in downtown Ann Arbor. The intent of Bike Fest was to showcase the entire Ann Arbor biking community~ freestyle, road, mountain, racers, & commuters. The Ann Arbor Bike Winter activities and programming continues to grow. The getDowntown program launched the programming last winter and turned it into an official campaign with 12 events in December and January ranging from winter bike maintenance classes, cycling skills workshops, light building workshops, recreational rides to social gatherings, and the Worst Ride of the Year event.

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Enforcement Section

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**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**

Three officers on the staff at the Ann Arbor Police Department communicate with the public on bicycle issues. Lt. Sheik is working with the getDowntown program on its new Share the Road program. Kathy Vonk is active in the bicycling community and regularly educates her fellow officers about cycling laws. Martin Morales has joined the City's Alternative Transportation Committee as a representative of the Police Department. Input regarding the Alt Committee is two ways - with Martin informing the committee about what the Police Department is doing, and the Committee giving feedback on bicycle issues.

**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. This April Kathy Vonk of the Ann Arbor Police will hold a training event for police officers throughout the community.

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

Yes

**If yes, please describe**

Ann Arbor's Share the Road program is slated to begin in June/July of 2007 to educate motorists on bicycle awareness.

**Do you have public safety employees on bikes?**

Yes

**If yes, please describe**

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

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

The City has approximately 12-15 patrolling officers, of which 2-4 are on 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

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Evaluation & Planning Section

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

Yes

**Please describe**

According to the US Census Journey to Work data, 2.4% of trips to work in Ann Arbor occur by bicycle. Further, the University of Michigan Department of Urban and Regional Planning conducts a survey of downtown commuters on a semi-annual basis. The last survey, conducted in 2005, estimates that 4.2% of commuters to the downtown area do so by bicycle and 0.2% commute via bike and ride. This is an increase from 2.2% and 0.5% found in the 2002 survey

respectively.

**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?**

208

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

Yes

**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. The City also has a hotline number dedicated to bicycle issues. Citizens are encouraged to call and log their ideas and issues. Finally, the City's Alternative Transportation Committee is open to the public. Any citizen with an issue can come to the meeting to voice ideas and issues to the collection of city staff present.

**Do you have a comprehensive bicycle plan?**

Yes

**When was it passed or updated?**

01/08/2007

**Is it funded?**

Yes

**What percentage has been implemented?**

Some

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

no answer provided

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

no answer provided

**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?**

Most

**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 adoption of the City's Non-Motorized Plan has allowed Ann Arbor to move forward with recommendations in the plan for a comprehensive bicycle network in the city. To that end, there are nine identified corridors where 6.2 miles of bicycle lanes will be implemented during the spring and summer of 2007. In addition, as part of the city's Resurfacing and Reconstruction Plan, there are four projects which will receive 1.89 miles of bicycle lanes along with other improvements. Two of those projects are "Road Diet" projects: four to three lane conversions. This is where the city has identified corridors that have too many motor vehicle lanes and has decided to use the excess pavement instead for bicycle lanes. Other projects within Ann Arbor include bicycle paths constructed along Washtenaw Avenue (the city's main east-west trunkline) and on S. Main Street. Another project is upgrading a bridge over Interstate 94 to include bicycle and pedestrian amenities.

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

**Reason One:**

There are a large number of bicyclists who use the City's network of bicycle facilities as a primary or secondary means of transportation.

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

**Reason Two:**

The City has embraced a bicycle policy that starts at the top with Mayor Hieftje. This policy includes completing and implementing the master plan and then dedicating several hundred thousand dollars to expand and maintain the system. The goal is to provide for existing bicyclists and attracting new ones.

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

**Reason Three:**

The City has provided and promoted encouragement through the getDowntown program, police training, and the City's TV network.

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

Funding. While the City has earmarked significant dollars towards non-motorized transportation, more can always be done. More funding would go towards the implementation of the bicycle network plans already adopted in the City's new Non-Motorized Plan.

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

Education. While there are significant groups involved in the education of bicyclists, motorists are a different story. There needs to be a sustained effort by the city to educate motorists on the rules of the road regarding bicyclists. This is especially important as the city presses on with its implementation of bicycle lanes in the City.

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

Maintenance. The maintenance of city trails and paths could use significant attention, especially in the wintertime.