Biking at Boston College
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Boston College administration and students have been working on creating more bike friendly opportunities for Boston College students. Initially looking to create a bike share program, all efforts failed due to expense and liability. Their efforts have shifted to be directed at making the campus more bike friendly and accessible to bike riders.

2. Assess past and current campus initiatives through meetings with:
- BC Bike
- Paul Cappadona (Office of Transportation and Parking)
2. Assess campus through field observations on bike to:
- Determine challenges facing bike riders on and around campus
- Make recommendations for making campus more bike friendly
3. Consider Boston College’s 10 year plan to:
- Make further recommendations

Current Initiatives

Bike BC is an organization that aims to provide “a better environment for bikes on or around campus through advocacy and communication with students, university officials, and members of the community.” Recently granted official recognition by the Organization of Student Affairs, Bike BC is involved in several awareness activities that it hopes will increase student interest of bicycles on campus. These include group rides, bicycle maintenance classes, guest lectures, and movie screenings that could appeal to a wider audience among the student body. Bike BC hopes to succeed in implementing an on-campus bicycle sharing program following examples of local schools such as Boston University, Harvard University, and MIT. In the meantime, Bike BC has taken steps in planning areas on campus that could be better utilized by building a bicycle rack or stand, which could be accomplished in the next two years. Membership to Bike BC is open to any member of the Boston College community at no cost, with the hope that enough bicycles will be available to provide for each member.

Methods:
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In the last decade, biking as a mode of commuting has grown 47% in the US

23% of BC students have a bike on or off campus

There are 60 miles of bike lanes in Boston

Boston is the 16th most friendly city in America for bicycling

There are 587 bicycle spots on bike racks on campus

Recommendations to make Boston College a more bike friendly campus

1. Increase the number and locations of bike racks on campus

   Purpose: to accommodate the growing number of bicycles
   Current: It is estimated that 23% of students own a bike on campus (~1500 bikes) but only 521 (Main Campus) and 66 (Newton) rack spaces are available
   Key locations in need of additional or new racks:
   - Additional: Walsh Hall, Edmonds Hall

   New: Outside of Corcoran Dining Hall, O’Neill Library and Plaza

   Criteria for determining locations:
   - Population density (dormitories)
   - Level of activity
   - Road accessibility

2. Work with the City of Boston and Newton to install bike lanes on major roads

   Purpose: to make biking on, off, and between campuses more safe
   Current: While Boston College’s main campus is surrounded by four streets, only one (Beacon street) has a bike lane

   Key roads:
   - Commonwealth Avenue
   - College Road
   - St. Thomas More Road and Chestnut Hill Drive
   - Centre Street
   - On campus roads: Campenella Way, Linden Lane, Newton Campus and Brighton Campus

3. Host transportation workshops for incoming freshman

   Purpose: to introduce freshmen to biking at BC and in Boston
   - During Freshman Orientation or in collaboration with the Residence Hall Association
   - Distribution of map of bike racks on campus, bikeable routes on and between campuses, and sources for bike routing
   - Education about benefits (physical, environmental, and convenience) and safety (helmet/gear use, maintenance, and weather)

4. Establish a bike repair and equipment service station on campus

   Purpose: to increase accessibility to tools and repair services and offer educational experiences

   Option 1: A staffed repair shop that will offer basic repairs and maintenance services with the option to learn and perform repairs on your own and sell basic gear and equipment like helmets and locks

   Option 2: Self-service repair stations that will offer necessary tools to perform basic repairs and maintenance, from changing a flat to adjusting brakes. Dero’s Fixit® comes with a Quick Read (QR) code that can be used to view instructions for repairs on a smartphone

References:


10 Year Plan

Boston College’s 10 Year Plan
Strategic plan was approved by the Boston Zoning Committee in 2009
It lists a total of 17 proposed institutional projects over the 10 years. Relating to bicycling, it entails:
- Additions of green relief through linked quads
- Hoping to meet 100% of student demand for on-campus housing
- Expansion and scattering of residential halls
- Emphasis on better pedestrian environment and healthier lifestyles
Finally, while bicycle activity on public roadways is limited, and only modest increases in bike trips are projected, BC will continue to promote bicycling as an alternative mode of transportation.”

27 Apr. 2014

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