The Circle-Heights Bike Network

Connecting great destinations by bicycle in University Circle and the surrounding Heights

This map is a sustainable transportation planning project of EcoCity Cleveland, the nonprofit organization that promotes the design of cities in balance with nature in Northeast Ohio. Routes shown are the best available today. Additional routes and other improvements for a truly great bike system are described on the other side. For more information, see www.ecocitycleveland.org.

Project managed by Ryan McKenzie. Map drawn by Mary Kelsey.

Project funding from The Cyrus Eaton Foundation and University Hospitals of Cleveland.
Bicycling: The healthy alternative

Are you ready to start riding the suggested routes?

Help create the network!

¥	If you work in the Circle-Heights district, show this map to your local elected officials and city planners in Cleveland, Shaker Heights, and University Heights. Tell them it’s timely to be thinking about the concept of a bicycle-friendly district.

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¥	If you work in the Circle-Heights district, show this map to your employer and ask him or her to be an advocate for better bike facilities.

¥	Watch for notice of public meetings where the bike plan for the district will be continuing. A meeting was announced on the EcoCity Cleveland Web site at www.ecocitycleveland.org.

¥	Start using the bike network. Every bike on the streets is an advertisement for alternative transportation.

¥	Send us your suggestions for improving the network.

Support organizations, such as EcoCity Cleveland, that are working to create bike-friendly communities.

The Circle-Heights Bike Network can be phased in over time. Initially, a lot of simple and inexpensive things can be done with signage and paint markings on streets (such as bike symbols) — signs that create the impression of a bicycle-friendly community. As more people choose bicycles as their primary means of transportation, more structured and dedicated bike routes can be created. Cyclists know how to share their space with the road. The point of developing a special bike network is to encourage cycling as a major mode of transportation among a much wider range of people.

Needed improvements

Over the past year, EcoCity Cleveland has conducted a citizens’ process for planning the district. In the Circle-Heights district, bears the full responsibility for his or her safety. Bike safely!

This map is a concept from EcoCity Cleveland, not an official plan. Its purpose is to stimulate public discourse about the potential for bicycle transportation in the Circle-Heights district – and inspire people to start riding the suggested routes.

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In the coming months, the staff of EcoCity Cleveland will work with city officials, the region’s transportation agency (the Regional Transportation Authority), and the Circle-Heights Bike Network. Much of the network could be created immediately by marking existing routes with signs and paint. In some places, more expensive improvements (such as bike lanes, off-street paths, bike-only traffic lanes, or other enhancements) will need to be added. The bike network is available for all kinds of projects. The cities in the Circle-Heights district can obtain the facts of the project together in this exciting concept.

We started thinking about bike-friendly areas in the Circle-Heights district because it has one of the highest concentrations of knowledge and activity centers in Cleveland. If the concept succeeds, we hope to inspire other places to do similar conceptual plans. For example, other obvious choices would include Downtown/Ohio City and Lakewood and surrounding communities.

Kinds of routes

The Circle-Heights Bike Network would have two main kinds of streets: bike-friendly and off-street, such as parks. Some of the bike routes could be:

Bicycle boulevards — Residential streets where curbside motor traffic is controlled by physical design, and a bicycle-friendly environment is created withวางห์ signage, reduced number of stop signs, and high speed limit (15 mph). These streets can provide a comfortable environment for people of all ages and abilities. These streets can provide a comfortable environment for people of all ages and abilities. These streets can provide a comfortable environment for people of all ages and abilities. These streets can provide a comfortable environment for people of all ages and abilities.

Bike paths — These off-street paths allow cyclists to be separated from traffic. On the plus side, they provide a safe refuge for bicyclists who may be encroached upon by cars, trucks, and pedestrians. On the minus side, there can be dangerous conflicts between bikers and pedestrians on the trail, as well as between bikers and other trail users. As a fully developed area, the Circle-Heights district has limited opportunities for the construction of new bike paths. But paths should be considered where feasible, such as along North Park Boulevard.

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