

Joyce Wickman

From: <Saved by Microsoft Internet Explorer 5>
To: <Saved by Microsoft Internet Explorer 5>
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2003 7:00 AM
Subject: Bicycle Friendly Community Administrator



Lincoln, Nebraska's Bicycle Friendly Community application

Name of Community:

Lincoln, Nebraska

Mayor or top elected official in municipality:

Don Wesely

Contact First Name:

Terry

Contact Last Name:

Genrich

Position:

Natural Resources & Greenways Manager

Employer:

Parks & Recreation Department

Address:

2740 A Street

City:

Lincoln

State:

NE

Zip:

68502-3113

Phone:

(402) 441-7939

Fax: (not required)

(402) 441-8706

Email:

tgenrich@ci.lincoln.ne.us

Website: (not required)www.ci.lincoln.ne.gov/main/govern.htm**Population:**

225588

Square mileage of municipality, Total Area:

80.29

Square mileage of municipality, Water Area:

0.74

Square mileage of municipality, Land Area:

79.55

Population Density:

2835.8

Average temperature for January:

21.4

Average temperature for April:

51.6

Average temperature for July:

78.1

Average temperature for October:

53.6

Average precipitation for January:

0.7

Average precipitation for April:

3

Average precipitation for July:

3.1

Average precipitation for October:

2.1

Median Income:

52558

Age distribution, % under 20:

28.5

Age distribution, % 20 - 64:

61.1

Age distribution, % 65 - 84:

8.9

Age distribution, % 85+:

1.5

Race, % Hispanic or Latino :

3.4

Race, % Not Hispanic or Latino:

96.6

Race, % One race:

98.1

Race, % White:

90.1

Race, % Black or African American:

2.8

Race, % American Indian and Alaska Native:

0.6

Race, % Asian:

2.9

Race, % Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander:

0

Race, % Some other race:

1.7

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?

1

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

Some

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

Most

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

Some

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

Most

Do you have a Bicycle Master Plan?

Yes

Do you have a written bicycle accommodation policy?

No

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

The most significant investment involved extensions and additions to Lincoln's system of shared-use trails. These included: Acquisition and clearing of land for the "Husker Link" trail, a one-mile paved trail that will extend the existing MoPac trail to the Rock Island Trail in such a fashion that it can be used as a safer and more convenient means to cross North 27th Street and to commute between the University of Nebraska's East Campus and downtown campus. Acquisition of 8 miles of abandoned Union Pacific right-of-way to create the Jamaica North Trail. Ultimately, this will provide a link to the Homestead Trail (which is a currently underdeveloped 58-mile stretch of newly acquired railroad right-of-way that begins a few miles south of Lincoln). Construction of the Bison Trail, a 3-mile paved trail that connects Lincoln's Pioneers Park west of Lincoln to the western edge of the city. For a period of years, the Salt Creek Bypass had severed convenient bicycle access to Pioneers Park, which is a large park with bicycle paths that lead up to...a heard of bison. Dedication of a trailhead facility on the MoPac Trail on 84th Street. A parking lot had already existed there; a building with restrooms and a concession facility was newly built. Paved extensions were made to the Williamsburg Trail, including connections under arterial streets. Paved trails were extended in the Highlands neighborhood. A bridge was built over Salt Creek in Wilderness Park that allows cyclists a continuous ride through the park rather than having to ride on a county road to get around Salt Creek. Paved trails were put in the Haymarket Park and Oak Lake Park areas. Trails were completed along 84th Street and Old Cheney Road in conjunction with street improvement projects that allow better connectivity of existing trails. The paved trail along Salt Creek was extended from North 27th Street to near the sewage treatment plant, including a new section of the trail underneath Cornhusker Highway. A pedestrian/bicyclist bridge was constructed from the Haymarket downtown area over the Burlington Northern Railroad Tracks to Haymarket Park.

List current community activities that encourage/promote bicycling.

The extensive paved trail system of 80+ miles that connects the various areas of Lincoln is probably the biggest encouragement to bicycling. Community organizations like the Great Plains Trails Network, the Great Plains Bicycling Club and the People's Transportation Alliance sponsor bicycle rides and other bicycle-related activities. Other community organizations that are not necessarily bicycle-centric also sponsor bicycle rides. One particular project that will encourage and promote bicycling in Lincoln will be the "Tour de Lincoln", a project of the Lincoln Arts Council. In the summer of 2003, approximately 50 modern art "objects," which will be built upon steel bicycle structures that are four feet tall, seven feet long and that will weigh nearly 400 pounds each, will be placed at prominent location throughout the city, with many of them adjacent to Lincoln's trail system. One will be able to take a "Tour de Lincoln" by riding their bicycles around Lincoln's shared-use trail system.

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

Terry Genrich

What department is the bicycle coordinator located in?

Parks & Recreation Department

How many hours are spent per year in this capacity?

1000

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

No other person in Lincoln's city government is primarily devoted to bicycle-related activities

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.

Jayne Syder, 2845 South 70th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506-3360 Tel: (402) 489-1999, Fax: (402) 489-4153 jsnyder@apta.org

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

You have not provided a copy of this legislation

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

Yes

Description

The City's Traffic Engineer and Transportation Planner have training in this area. The Traffic Engineer has had training in engineering and developed Pedestrian/Bicycle Programs in other communities. The Transportation Planner has received training in National Training Institute Programs.

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

No

How many bridges are in your community?

98

How many are closed or inaccessible to cyclists?

Two

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

All but six.

Are there bike racks or storage units at Schools?

All

Are there bike racks or storage units at Libraries?

All

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?

All

Are there bike racks or storage units at Office Buildings?

Most

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?

None

Are bicycles permitted on public transit?

No

Please describe any restrictions

N/A

How many miles of bike lanes do you have?

0

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

2

What is the mileage of your total road network?

1245

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

0

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

98

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

135

How many miles of designated bike routes do you have?

83

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

41

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

None

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

Our multi-purpose paths are maintained by our Parks and Recreation Department. These paths are checked weekly. All paths that are on school routes are also plowed by 7:00 AM when necessary. The city is currently going for a bond issue to provide funds for current maintenance needs of all trails. Our current funding pays for some maintenance, but is inadequate to pay for areas that need major upgrading.

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

None

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

Yes

If yes, please describe:

The trails themselves promote bicycling in the community. We also have visible trailheads located along major arterials that promote the facilities with more planned in the future. These include the Novartis Trailhead, Bison Trailhead, and the future Jamaica North Trail and Homestead Trail.

Education Section

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

We have no program in place at the present time. The Comprehensive Plan does encourage programs be developed to accomplish this. Document 1 will explain this.

How many community motorists do you reach with these efforts?

None

Are there other bicycle education opportunities for adults?

Yes

Please describe

Some of the bicycle shops have offered classes in bicycle maintenance and in riding mountain bikes on single-track dirt trails. There doesn't appear to be a demand for other types of bicycle education.

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

Yes

Please describe

Bicycle safety is contained in the health curriculum in the elementary schools. The student learning objectives in 4th grade health include the identification of safety rules to practice in several different situations, including bicycles. In addition, some physical education teachers include it in their teaching. The local chapter of the Safe Kids Coalition works with all elementary schools to promote pedestrian/bicycle safety.

How many schools participate?

35 out of 35

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

Lincoln provides a variety of opportunities for children. These include bicycle rodeos offered by the Kiwanis Club in cooperation with the Lincoln- Lancaster County Health Dept. These rodeos reached 2050 students last year. In addition, a variety of agencies coordinated by the Safe Kids Coalition sponsored a Safe Kids Night to promote bicycle safety. Bicycle helmets were sold and fitted to 777 students. The Parks and Recreation Department sponsors several bicycle safety programs throughout with the help of the Health Dept. to not only promote safety but also health and wellness

How many children participate?

3077

Do you make bicycle safety materials available to the public?

Yes

Please describe

This information is available at all bicycle shops and Parks and Recreation Dept. facilities.

Do you have League Cycling Instructors in your area?

No

Please list their names:

no answer provided

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

Official Proclamation

Bike Month posters/flyers are posted throughout the community

Other Description: The Mayor has proclaimed May and June to be Lincoln's Bike Months. This proclamation recognizes National Bike Month in part, but it also recognizes Trail Trek, a large promotion of the local newspaper and local corporations that is held on Father's Day. This promotion raises funds for local bicycle trail activities.

Provide attendance numbers

1200

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

No

Please describe

no answer provided

What portion of the community workforce do you reach?

None

Is there an annual bike tour or ride promoted to the general public in your community?

Yes

Please describe

There are several including Trail Trek. There are also recreational rides during the Cornhusker State Games; The Great Plains Bicycling Club has an annual ride; the University Sertoma Club has a ride, and the Great Plains Trails Network usually has two rides. A local bike shop also coordinates the annual trail ride across the state of Nebraska that many local individuals participate in.

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

Yes

Please describe

We have many. They include the following: The Great Plains Bicycling Club is Lincoln-based club that organizes bicycle rides of a noncompetitive nature. The club sponsors weekly rides from March through November. The Club also gets involved in bicycling public policy and approached the city regarding the Bicycle-Friendly Community Program. The Great Plains Trails Network is another organization that raises over \$100K each year for trail acquisition and development. This club has over 800 family memberships. There are a number of organizations or teams for racers that include Capital Racing Team based out of

The Bike Shop that has 10 members and races both mountain and road bikes around the Midwest. S.N.O.R.T - mountain bike racing including some triathlon racing. KAOS - is a road racing team with both Omaha and Lincoln ties. Star City BMX Racing sponsors BMX racing for youth and adults.

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

Yes

How many schools are involved?

All

Please describe

The city has a traffic safety program that incorporates bicycle safety into it. This includes a safe route to school for bicycles and pedestrians. There are also signed bike routes to several of the schools. The Safe Kids Coalition sponsors the National Safe Walk/Ride to School Day in October, stressing walking and riding to school for exercise and safety. The coalition includes hospitals, Parks & Recreation, the Police Dept., Health Dept., local nursing home, State Farm Insurance, et

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

Yes

Please describe

Again, this is accomplished in a great part by the Safe Kids Coalition. This committee has been involved in identifying pedestrian/bicycle accidents in Lincoln to identify potential problem areas and solutions to reduce bicycle accidents. They promote a variety of safety issues including supporting separated crossings for bicycles and pedestrians. The Coalition has received grants to promote safety around schools and parks and has received funds for pedestrian crossing lights.

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

Yes

Please describe

The bike map is in the Parks and Recreation Department brochure. The map is included in the Parks and Recreation Department quarterly pamphlet that goes to all residents in Lincoln. The Great Plains Trails Network also publishes an up-to-date trails map. The phone book includes the trails map and it is also on the city's website.

Please describe any other efforts in your community to encourage cycling

The Lincoln Arts Council recently sponsored "Tour de Lincoln", which is 71 modern art "Objects" which are built upon steel bicycle structures that are four feet tall and are exhibited at prominent locations throughout Lincoln. (www.artscene.org)(See Document 2) Many of these are adjacent to Lincoln's trails currently. An auction will be held this fall after which many of the bicycles will be located along the trails, at park trailheads, and in area parks. This has been a phenomenal promotional tool for encouraging cycling in the community. The Trail Trek discussed earlier has also been extremely successful promoting cycling

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

We have police officers that attend the Mayor's Pedestrian/Bicycle Advisory Committee when needed. They also work with the Safe Kids Coalition on their accident analysis reports and go to schools to promote safety related issues. Many officers are active members of the Great Plains Trails Network.

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

Yes

If yes, please describe

The Police Department is always willing to work on traffic law as it applies to bicyclists. They recently worked on changing policy relating to rear reflectors on bicycles. They regularly participate on the Mayor's Pedestrian/Bicycle Advisory Committee to answer questions regarding bicycle/pedestrian issues.

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

There are bike patrols in Lincoln's downtown area that monitor safety issues. Patrols are also available at special requests to monitor problems that might arise on trails.

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

There are currently 9 police personnel (1 captain- as needed upon occasion, 2 sergeants - part-time, and 6 officers - fulltime) assigned to bicycle patrol duties. The city police force is 303 officers.

Do you have a mandatory helmet law?

No

To what ages does it apply?

no answer provided

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

The 2000 census found 138,151 workers age 16 and over, with 5,692 (4.1%) that either bicycled or walked to work. In addition, the Great Plains Trails Network has conducted a "Trails census" for the last 12 years in mid-july on a weekend day during the hours of 7:00 a.m and 9:00 p.m. There were 5,341 bicyclists counted on the trails during the most recent tabulated census. Counts of bicycle usage has also taken place at an elementary school and a middle school. These counts on any given day indicate 4-6 percent of students ride their bicycles to school.

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

2

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

707

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

Yes

Please describe

The Mayor's Pedestrian/Bicycle Advisory Committee was designed with this purpose in mind. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Department Advisory Board hears concerns as well as the City/ County Planning Commission.

Do you have a comprehensive bicycle plan?

Yes

When was it passed or updated?

07/14/2003

Is it funded?

Partially

What percentage has been implemented?

Most

What improvements do you have planned for the following year?

Many trail projects including a connection between city and downtown campus for the University called Husker Link. Development of 18 miles of a recently acquired railroad line. This will include City of Lincoln and local Natural Resources District working on this project. A 2 block connection that is a final link in a 4 mile trail near 56th and Hwy 2. Additional 2.5 miles of trail work adjacent to a major arterial that is being upgraded. Extension of Lincoln's oldest trail going out into a newly developed part of town. This will be 1.91 miles in length. A trail will be completed that is being built in conjunction with a new

bridge overpass as well as completion of another phase of the Salt Creek Levee Tra

How integrated is your bicycle network?

The Pedestrian/Bicycle Plan is an integrated system that is designed that way. A majority of the contiguous urban area is integrated into the bicycle network. In addition, the recently adopted Comprehensive Plan includes trails that will continue out into the county. (Document 3) shows our Trails Network that is part of this adopted plan.

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 City of Lincoln and local community groups have invested substantially over a period of several decades in an excellent trail system. This system provides a number of opportunities for the entire community to cycle (and walk/run) through mostly greenway-type areas, usually without frequent street intersections to contend with. This investment is deserving of recognition.

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

The community recognizes the value of trails including health and wellness, economic development and the contribution they make to Lincoln's Quality of Life. This support is given both in the form of financial support and political support for projects. This support is deserving of recognition.

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

The community of Lincoln has a very positive attitude towards bicyclists whether they are using the trails or on the streets. Lincoln has plenty of streets that provide convenient alternatives for cyclists wishing to travel to major destinations. The citizens are also willing to work with city leaders to improve on the existing program. This was demonstrated during the 2025 Comprehensive Planning process that brought out hundreds of interested cyclists that wanted to help shape the vision for the next 25-50 years. Their efforts demonstrated the friendly attitudes towards cyclists in our community and their efforts are deserving of recognition as a Bicycle Friendly Community.

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

We need to work on the development of bike lanes on our streets. This issue was discussed during our Comprehensive Plan review and was included in there as a need. As a result, we have hired a consultant to work with us on a Multi-Modal Transportation Study that will identify specific tools to use to make that happen. This study will not only address bike lanes, but also the use of bike racks on buses, methods to work with companies to increase the use of bicycles to commute to work, and other related issues.

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

There is a desire to increase the use of bicycles by middle school and high school students. The Safe Kids Coalition has been working with Lincoln Public Schools on biking and walking to school, and seeing to it that safe routes are provided. Much of their success has been with principals that support their beliefs. One of the steps the coalition has taken is to get a member of the Coalition on the School Board to promote their issues and concerns. That has happened.

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

We think education of bicycle riders is important for several reasons. Use of safety equipment is still important, even though much progress has been made. Safety issues related to riding on the trails and general consideration of other users is important. Another area where education is needed has to do with Adults who do not feel comfortable riding on the streets. This education needs to start at an early age to provide a level of comfort to encourage them to do this and hope it might encourage them to commute to work as well.

