

Memorandum

City of Lawrence

Public Works

TO: Diane Stoddard, Interim City Manager
CC: Scott McCullough, Director of Planning & Development Services
Chuck Soules, Director of Public Works
Mark Hecker, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation
FROM: Jessica Mortinger, Senior Transportation Planner
Carol Fittell, Project Engineer
DATE: October 12, 2015
RE: LiveWell Community Wellness Grant Downtown Bicycle Parking Grant Proposal

Summary

The Lawrence - Douglas County Bicycle Advisory Committee recommends the City apply for a LiveWell Community Wellness Grant to install 74 additional bicycle parking spaces in downtown: 30 spaces of on street bicycle parking spaces in bike corrals, replacing 2 on street parking spaces, and 44 spaces at inverted U racks on existing pavement on the perimeter of the sidewalk.

Background

The Lawrence - Douglas County Bicycle Advisory Committee has had recent discussions regarding requests from business owners and the public for the following with regard to bicycle parking in the downtown area:

- Existing Capacity - There is not enough parking at high demand locations (library, event venues, restaurants) downtown.
- Location Security - The location of the racks is both inconvenient and not in the most secure/visible locations.
- Type of Rack Security - The style of racks provided does not allow the bicyclists to lock their bike in two locations and new meter pole and light styles no longer allow bicyclists to lock their bike frame to the pole with a U-Lock.

Each of these areas is explored in detail below.

Existing Capacity - In 2010, an inventory was conducted of downtown bicycle parking. That inventory was updated based on known development and bicycle rack additions and removals. The summer 2015 count found 306 bicycle parking spaces based on the various racks' design capacities; however, some of these racks have been installed in a way that prohibit their proper use and limit their useable capacity. A map showing the location and style of rack is included in page 2. The summer 2015 count found 4,083 automobile parking spaces. These spaces and their percentage of the total makeup are shown in the table at right.

Downtown Parking Inventory			
	Type	Spaces	% of Total (Auto + Bike)
Auto	Private	1,011	23.03%
	Public	2,152	49.03%
	Right-of-Way	920	20.96%
	Bicycle	306	6.97%
Total Automobile		4,083	
Total Auto + Bike		4,389	

Downtown is a destination for bicyclists, and the current inventory does not meet the ratio the City requires for commercial development.

Location-Security - The current City Code, Article 7, 17-703 states it shall be unlawful for any person to:

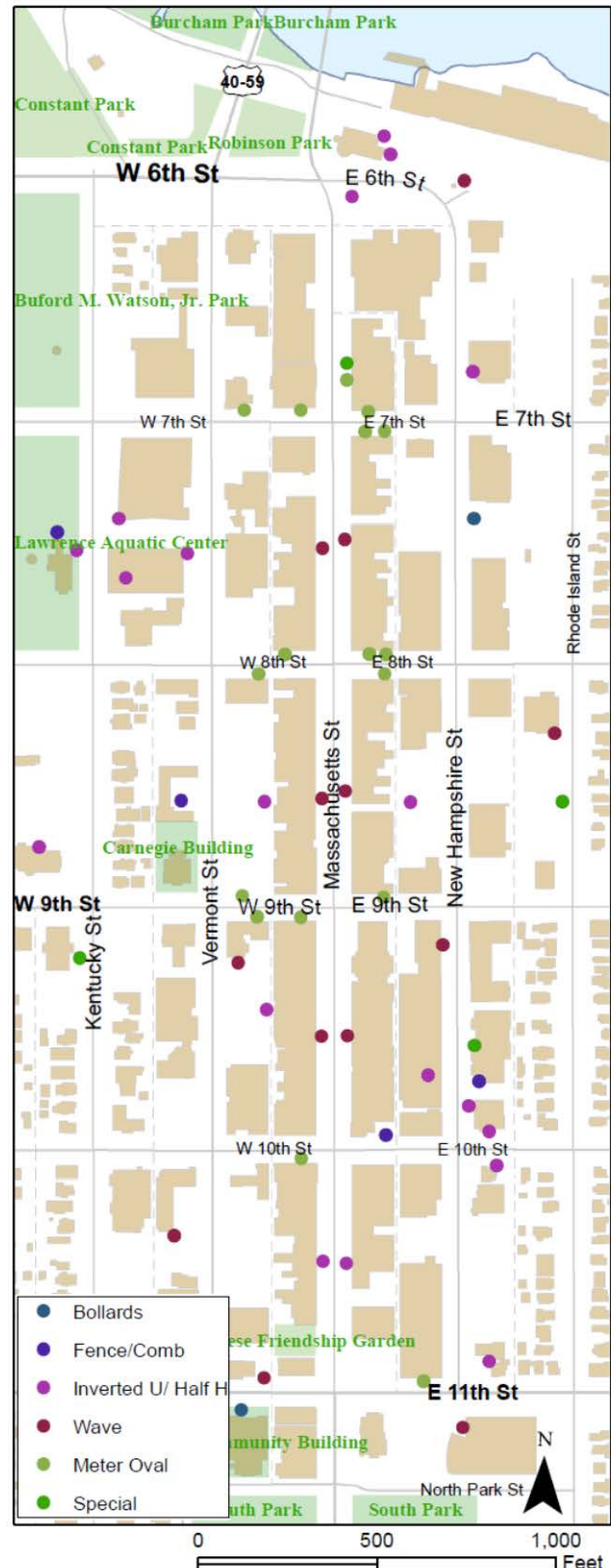
- Park a bicycle upon the streets, alleys, or sidewalks to cause a significant obstruction to a pedestrian or vehicle.
- To lock a bicycle to a tree, fire hydrant, traffic control device or sign, street light, utility pole, or parking meter post serving a space designated for disabled parking.

This creates a lot of challenges to finding a safe and secure bicycle parking location in downtown. The Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) Bicycle Parking Guidelines 2nd Edition (2010) recommends bicycle racks should be placed no more than 50' from the door, visible from the destination, located in a high traffic area with passive surveillance or eyes on the street. These recommendations support the local requests for more convenient and visible bike parking locations.

Type of Rack - Security - Finding well located, secure bicycle racks downtown is a challenge, based on comments the BAC has received. The APBP Bicycle Parking Guidelines 2nd Edition (2010) recommends the rack elements should:

- Support the bicycle upright by its frame in two places.
- Prevent the wheel of the bicycle from tipping over.
- Enable the frame and one or both wheels to be secured.

Downtown Bicycle Parking by Rack Type



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- Support bicycles without a diamond-shaped frame with a horizontal top tube.

Fifty percent of the existing bicycle parking downtown do not meet APBP guidelines. Here is a breakdown of the rack types:

Rack Type	# of Spaces	% of Total Bike Parking Downtown
Bollard*	14	4.6%
Fence/Comb*	36	11.8%
Inverted U/Half H	119	38.9%
Wave*	86	28.1%
Meter Oval	34	11.1%
Special*	17	5.6%

* Racks generally do not meet APBP guidelines



Meter Ovals



Fence



Inverted U



Wave



Half H



Bollard



Special (example)

Project Description

Bike corrals are a new strategy to provide substantially more bicycle parking and reduce sidewalk congestion, particularly in heavily-used commercial areas. They place bicycle parking in a parking space. Bike corrals provide a 10-to-1 customer to parking space ratio, and advertise “bike friendliness” and bring legitimacy and visibility to bicycling for transportation. They also improve the pedestrian environment by removing bicycles from the sidewalk. This supports the current City Code Article 7 17-702 which prohibits bicyclists from bicycling on a sidewalk in the Downtown Commercial District. Depending on their placement, bike corrals can also improve sightlines at intersections by eliminating the opportunity for larger vehicles to park at street corners.

Staff met with the Bicycle Advisory Committee and Downtown Lawrence Inc. to discuss potential locations for bike corrals in downtown. Three locations were identified to implement a pilot bike corral project (map on page 5):

1. 8th & Massachusetts St– South east corner, first angled parking space in front of Central National Bank (shown in the sketch on page 4.) This location is based on a request from an adjacent business owner.
2. 100 East 9th St – Next to US Bank Building, parallel parking space closest to the alley
3. 707 Vermont St– In front of Lawrence Public Library, in the space currently unallocated to automobile parking.

**The locations for bike corrals are currently proposed locations, additional public engagement of downtown owners and tenants is anticipated following successful receipt of the grant.



Sketch of Proposed Bike Corral Design for 8th & Mass

In an effort to also identify other locations along the sidewalk in the right of way that would adequately allow for bicycle parking, staff identified 22 locations where inverted U bike racks could be installed on the existing pavement. These locations had 4 ft by 6ft areas of space for a rack and adequate spacing on each side to allow bicycle access and not impede the flow of the pedestrian way. A map of these locations can be found on page 5.

These proposed additions would add 74 secure spaces: 30 spaces of on street bicycle parking and 44 spaces of on sidewalk bicycle parking. In addition to this one time proposal to increase the number, proximity and secure style of bicycle parking in Downtown, a more long term solution is needed. Ideally, like sidewalk dining, there should be a systematic program/process for local businesses, community groups and the City to request and fund additional bicycle parking in the future as demand grows. The pilot project provides a way to assess the success and feedback for bike corrals in Lawrence and provides an opportunity to analyze and develop a process while at the same time providing for the current demand and need for secure bicycle parking.

LiveWell Community Wellness Grant

The grant seeks projects that make policy, systems or environmental change to improve the health of Douglas County residents by making it easier for people to eat healthy foods and be physically active. Better located and more secure downtown bicycle parking is an environmental change that can encourage bicyclists to ride downtown to eat, shop and play.

Estimated Implementation Costs- Bike Corral Racks + Bollards/Parking Barrier \$1500 each or \$4500 for 3 locations.

Inverted U Bike Rack + Mounting Kit \$200 each or \$4400 for 22.

Total Cost: \$8,900

Installation: \$3,700

Cost per space: \$170

Funding Breakdown:

Racks & Bollard Materials Cost: \$8,900,
Grant Request

Installation: \$3,700, Public Works Staff
(InKind)

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that a grant application to LiveWell Community Wellness Grant be submitted by October 22nd to seek assistance funding the additional bicycle parking, as appropriate.

Action

Direct staff to apply for a LiveWell Community Wellness Grant to install 74 additional bicycle parking spaces downtown: 30 spaces of on street bicycle parking spaces, in bike corrals replacing 2 on street parking spaces, and 44 spaces at inverted U racks on existing pavement on the perimeter of the sidewalk.

Proposed Bike Parking Locations



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