
MEMORANDUM

Date: August 6, 2013
To: Lawrence & Douglas County MPO Countywide Bike Plan Steering Committee
From: Tom Huber & Kevin Luecke
Re: Bicycle WikiMap user input summary

This memo provides a brief overview of the user input from the WikiMap interactive mapping tool for bicycling in Lawrence and Douglas County. WikiMaps allows users to draw specific types of points or lines on a map and then enter comments on those points or lines if they choose to. Following is a breakdown of the entries received on the map:

- 266 lines
 - 70 commute to work/school routes
 - 46 transportation routes
 - 80 recreational routes
 - 70 routes that needs improvement
- 153 points
 - 38 bike destinations
 - 33 trail/path connections
 - 32 challenging locations
 - 50 difficult intersections/crossings
- 419 total entries from 53 unique users
- Comments collected from April 10 to July 17, 2013

The vast majority of the points and lines that were entered in the WikiMap were within the greater Lawrence area, although entries were also made in outlying communities and rural areas. Of greatest value, the bicycling WikiMap has been able to direct us to “hot spots and segments” that need attention often confirming public, steering committee, and staff comments made at meetings. Maps are attached that display the line entries and the point entries. Patterns clearly emerge on both maps. On the map of lines, popular bicycling routes are clearly apparent, as are routes that need improvement. Recreational routes largely follow paths and low-traffic streets, while commute and transportation routes are more varied and utilize even very busy streets. The map of points displays many problem intersections and challenging locations along busy streets, which is not surprising. Bike destinations are largely concentrated downtown, although parks, schools and commercial areas are also noted.

Because of the large number of comments received on the bicycling WikiMap, the actual comments are not included in this memo. However, a “word cloud” is included on the following page that lists the 100 words that occurred most frequently in the comments. The larger a word is displayed, the more frequently it appeared; word color does not indicate anything specific. It is notable that both positive and more negative words appeared frequently in the comments: “route,” “trail” and “path” were all common, but so were “narrow,” “dangerous” and “cars.” A number of street names including “Clinton,” “Iowa” and “Kasold” also frequently appeared.

The maps attached and the specific comments that users provided will inform the final recommendations of the Countywide Bike Plan. In particular, some recommendations will focus on improving routes that were noted as problematic, offering alternative routes to avoid problem areas, and recommending improvements for difficult intersections and street crossings. All comments will be shared with the local planning and public works staffs.

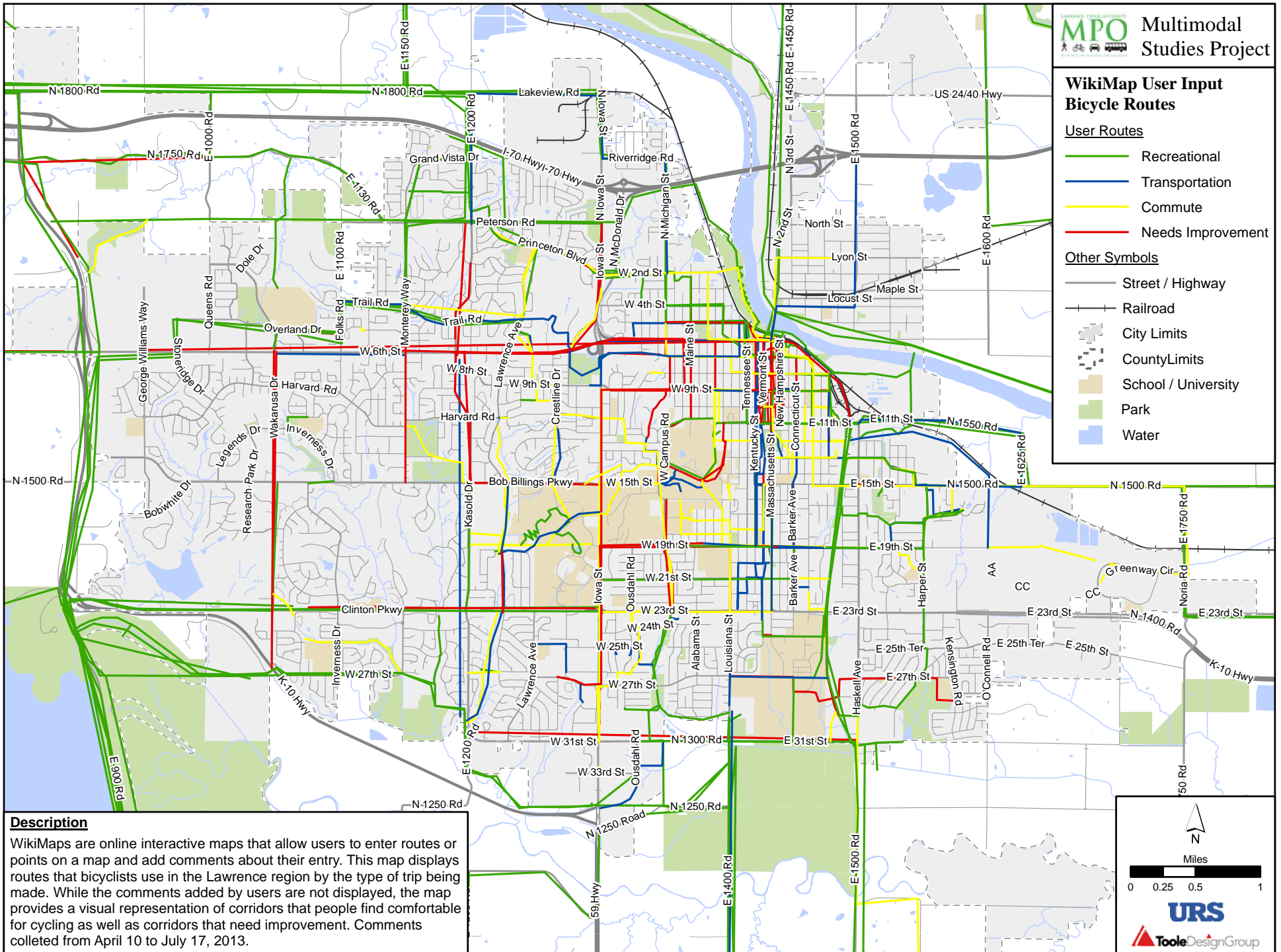
WikiMap User Input Bicycle Routes

User Routes

- Recreational
- Transportation
- Commute
- Needs Improvement

Other Symbols

- Street / Highway
- Railroad
- City Limits
- County Limits
- School / University
- Park
- Water



Description

WikiMaps are online interactive maps that allow users to enter routes or points on a map and add comments about their entry. This map displays routes that bicyclists use in the Lawrence region by the type of trip being made. While the comments added by users are not displayed, the map provides a visual representation of corridors that people find comfortable for cycling as well as corridors that need improvement. Comments collected from April 10 to July 17, 2013.

North arrow pointing up.





Miles scale bar: 0, 0.25, 0.5, 1.

URS logo.








Toole Design Group logo.

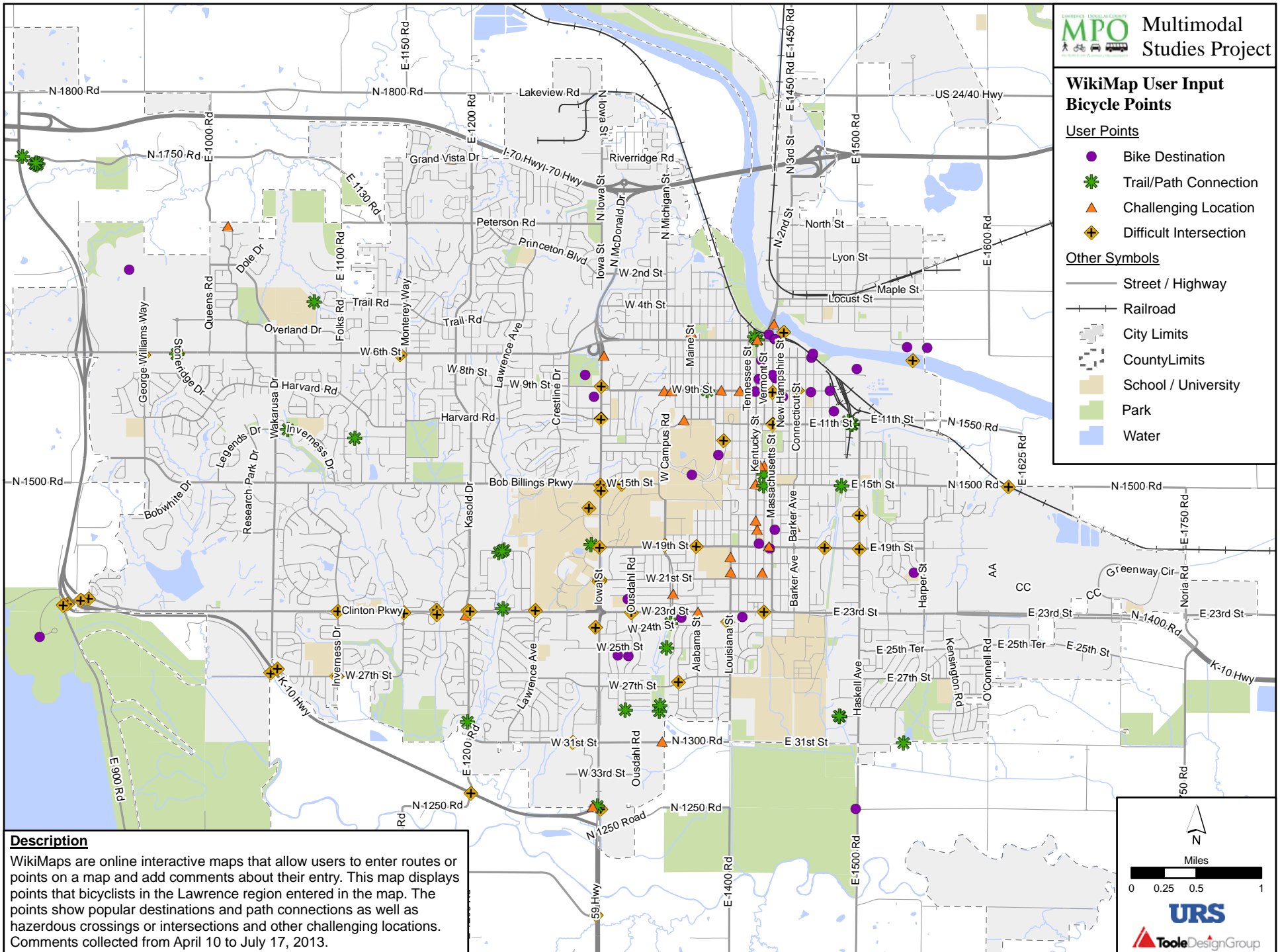
WikiMap User Input Bicycle Points

User Points

-  Bike Destination
-  Trail/Path Connection
-  Challenging Location
-  Difficult Intersection


Other Symbols

-  Street / Highway
-  Railroad
-  City Limits
-  County Limits
-  School / University
-  Park
-  Water



Description

WikiMaps are online interactive maps that allow users to enter routes or points on a map and add comments about their entry. This map displays points that bicyclists in the Lawrence region entered in the map. The points show popular destinations and path connections as well as hazardous crossings or intersections and other challenging locations. Comments collected from April 10 to July 17, 2013.


 Miles
