

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Facilities & Services

Transportation Demand Management  
Physical Plant Service Building  
1501 South Oak Street  
Champaign, IL 61820



November 25, 2009  
Student Sustainability Committee

RE: Campus Bicycle Co-op

In 2009, the Student Sustainability Committee generously contributed \$30,000 toward the creation of a campus bicycle co-op. That grant helped enormously in the forward movement of the project, such that we are hoping to open the workshop in conjunction with the Naturally Illinois event in March 2010. Thank you!!

Due to your strong support of the project, we were able to receive a funding commitment from Facilities & Services for the part-time employee. We were also able to move forward with getting a formal estimate and design for the space. With these changes the start-up budget for the co-op is as follows.

Description	Expense	Income
2009 Student Sustainability Committee grant		\$ (30,000)
F&S staff person funding commitment		\$ (15,000)
conversion of space	\$ 36,260	
Initial bike repair tools and work-stands	\$ 3,075	
computer, printer, point of sale check-out system	\$ 3,000	
first 12 months of operating expenses and staff	\$ 17,220	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 59,555</b>	<b>\$ (45,000)</b>
	<b>Result</b>	<b>\$ 14,555</b>

We respectfully ask that you review the numerous positive benefits of this project and choose to allocate an additional \$15,000 this year. Without your additional support, this project would be placed on hold indefinitely as there are no other funding opportunities currently available.

On our campus, we have over 12,000 cyclists; about half the students own or have access to a bicycle; and the numbers are growing. The University did a transportation study in 2007, which led to the creation of the Transportation Demand Management department within Facilities & Services, dedicated to increasing the use of alternative / active modes of transportation on campus, and the study recommended a number of bicycle infrastructure and program improvements, including a campus bike shop.

The co-op we are working towards is a collaborative effort with a non-profit bicycle co-op in downtown Urbana, called The Bike Project. At their current location, at least 70 percent of the members are affiliated with the University. However, this space is operating at capacity and has had to turn visitors away due to space limitations. For many students, the downtown Urbana

location is not readily accessible, and the University is eager to move forward with offering students a central and accessible location.

The bike co-op will be a collaborative space where students can learn how to repair and maintain their bicycle for transportation throughout the year. They will gain bike safety skills, and the necessary access to bike safety gear. They will also be exposed to an active community of bike enthusiasts who share ideas, knowledge, and expertise on biking in this community. This model empowers people to maintain and share the habit of sustainable transportation, spreading the value of bicycle commuting far beyond the direct impact of the project.

Transportation is a universal need and this location will be open to all University members. Community members who might not otherwise interact would have a venue for meeting new and different people. By providing sustainable transportation to persons that would otherwise be limited to walking and public transit, the project will also increase trips to the neighboring business districts resulting in sustainable local commerce (for example, trips to the Urbana Farmer's market). Increasing student/staff/faculty mobility means people are able to become more active participants in their academic and surrounding community, regardless of income level.

Each year, the University collects hundreds of abandoned bicycles, which are processed through the bicycle registration database and held for responses from owners. After the owners are contact, any remaining bicycles are donated to The Bike Project. The effort to collect the abandoned bikes and contact owners, as well as efforts to increase the number of bicycles that are registered on campus, is coordinated by the Parking Department. With the creation of this bicycle co-op on campus, we intend to work with Parking to shift the responsibility for all bicycle related tasks to Transportation Demand Management with assistance from the campus bike co-op. Additionally, through education and encouragement about simple bicycle maintenance, we expect to see a decline in the number of bicycles that are abandoned each year.

Additionally, we are working toward bicycle sharing for University employees. The goal for that project is to reduce the number of motor-vehicle trips made on campus by faculty, staff, and graduate assistants, while increasing wellness of the participants. A key component of the bike sharing system is ongoing maintenance of the fleet of University-owned bicycles, through establishment of this campus bike co-op.

The support from SSC in 2009 was key to the movement and interest in completion of this project, and we are counting on your continued support. It is urgently needed so that this momentous shift in the bicycling culture on campus does not get waylaid. Please remember that this is not just a bike co-op in a corner of a garage. This co-op is a keystone in the social marketing bridge needed to change our culture and make the Urbana campus of the University of Illinois as well known for being bike-friendly as Portland, Oregon.

I look forward to hearing from you about this request.

Thank you,

*Morgan*

Morgan Johnston  
TDM Coordinator