

3.2 Bicycle Coordinator

This Plan recommends the creation and funding of a new “Bicycle Coordinator” position within the City of Edina to coordinate implementation of the Plan, to attend to and coordinate response to bicycle network maintenance and operations issues, and to advocate for the needs of cyclists as other transportation and land use projects are designed and implemented.

The position need not be full time, but should be permanently funded and allow a new or existing staff person to dedicate a minimum of 10 hours per week to bicycle related issues within and around the geographic area of Edina.

Tasks and responsibilities would at minimum include:

PLANNING

- Coordinate and integrate bicycle planning and network implementation with other city, county, regional parks district and state programs, agencies and bodies
- Review all roadway and land use plans for impact on bicycle travel and conditions; make and pursue recommendations for improvement as needed before projects are constructed
- Review traffic-calming and other roadway measures for impact on conditions for cyclists
- Coordinate implementation of route recommendations as part of other projects (for example recommending that bicycle-friendly curb-and-gutter is specified in street reconstruction projects)
- Represent the interests of Edina cyclists by serving as liaison with adjoining jurisdictions and regional entities during design and implementation of their respective local and regional bicycle and other transportation infrastructure
- Provide advice to policymakers on transportation and land use issues with the aim of improving conditions for cyclists in Edina
- Coordinate bicycle-related transit infrastructure improvements, including provision of bike parking at key transit locations and coordinating improvements to bike parking and potential bike station at Southdale Mall as part of its operation as a transit hub

CITIZEN STEWARDSHIP

Ultimately, the purpose of improvements to Edina’s bicycle infrastructure is to bring benefits to its citizens. It is therefore critical that a structure for citizen stewardship of this Plan be devised and implemented.

This Plan recommends the continuation of the already-formed and active Bike Edina Task Force (BETF) with added responsibilities for providing citizen direction for implementation of Plan recommendations.

In addition, the following two recommendations are provided as potential components of a citizen guidance and stewardship mechanism for improving Edina’s bicycle infrastructure:

1. *Establish a Bicycle Advisory Committee*
Many cities that are successfully implementing improvements to their bicycle infrastructure owe a great deal of their success to the role that citizen-activists have played in guiding implementation of their bicycle plans and ensuring the ongoing improvement of existing facilities. A Bicycle Advisory Committee typically includes representation from interested members of the public and city engineering, public works and/or planning staff so that relevant issues can be promptly discussed and addressed
2. *Set up formal bicycle representation in transportation decision-making*
The Edina Transportation Commission advises the City of Edina on issues relating to transportation and transportation improvements over its surface street network. Formally including at least one member from the Bike Edina Task Force and/or from the potential Bicycle Advisory Committee would help ensure that the voice of cyclists is included during deliberations on improvements to Edina’s transportation network

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

- Create and administer a Spot Improvement / Bicycle Facility Maintenance Request program to reduce roadway hazards and to quickly respond to cyclists request for maintenance or repair of bicycle infrastructure

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Serve as City of Edina liaison to Bike Edina Task Force (BETF) and other Edina citizens' groups working on improving conditions for cycling in the City

EDUCATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT

- Provide information and conduct workshops to improve cycling safety, including coordinating with Edina schools to include bicycle education as part of their physical education programs, and coordinating community requests for training for older adults

MEASUREMENT

- Collect and maintain bicycle use data, including regularly monitored bicycle counts, studies of origins and destinations, accident information and infraction data
- Develop yearly reports detailing use of bicycle facility network, identifying focus areas for improvement

FUNDRAISING

- Pursue local, state, federal and private funds for improving bicycle infrastructure, for encouraging greater use of Edina bicycle network assets, or for conducting education and encouragement campaigns