



BICYCLE TRANSIT CENTER: LINKING TRANSPORTATION MODES

More and more people are choosing to use their bicycles to get to work and other destinations all along the Wasatch Front. The 2000 Census report indicated there were 1,331 regular bicycle commuters in Salt Lake City (1.5 percent of commuting mode share), which is nearly four times the average rate for other cities in the United States. A 2005 University of Utah survey found that there were approximately 2,730 daily bicyclists on campus (student and faculty), and a 2008 study indicates this may have doubled. Because of the rise in bicycle use, the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), the Utah Transit Authority (UTA), Salt Lake City and the Salt Lake City Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Committee, are partnering in a study to implement a bicycle transit center in Salt Lake City.



WHAT IS A BICYCLE TRANSIT CENTER?

A bicycle transit center is a facility that provides secure, fee-based bicycle parking and related services and amenities at transit hubs and other destinations. A bicycle transit center encourages and enables greater bike usage by providing a cost-effective option that links bikes to transit. Depending on the desires or needs of a community, amenities might include bike storage with 24/7 access, bike rentals, showers, minor repairs, limited retail/café and an education and information station. There are currently 30 bicycle transit centers in locations across the U.S. with more being planned for the future.



A bicycle transit center in Salt Lake City would encourage bicycle commuting and support UDOT's TravelWise strategies. It also helps to meet the governor's and Salt Lake City and County mayors' goal to increase bicycling opportunities.

SALT LAKE CITY'S COMMITMENT

Salt Lake City's mayor has stated that he wants to make his city a "national leader in bikeability." The "America's Top Bicycling Cities" article published in Bicycling Magazine's November 2008 issue recognized Salt Lake City as a "Future Best City," based on its flat, wide streets and paths and other efforts including the possible addition of a bicycle transit center.

The city's commitment to elevating bicycle travel is also evidenced by the 53 miles of striped bike lanes already in place, and plans to add 127 miles more. In addition to striping bike lanes, the city also installed shared lane markings (SLM) or "sharrows" on 200 South between Main and State Streets to indicate where bicyclists should ride in the travel lane. The SLMs will be

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evaluated in September 2009, and if deemed successful, additional SLMs will be installed in other locations. These and other efforts by the city will likely increase the number of bicyclists in the Salt Lake area.

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE STUDY?

The Intermodal Hub was selected as a possible site because of its logical transportation connections with local buses, FrontRunner commuter rail, TRAX light rail, Greyhound bus and Amtrak rail. The study also included evaluating other possible site locations around the Intermodal Hub.

Through a competitive process, the project partners selected Bikestation, a non-profit biking organization, to proceed with plans that included public open houses in Salt Lake City and Ogden to evaluate the needs of the communities. In addition to comments received at the open houses, there have been 579 responses to a web-based survey, with 51 percent indicating they regularly commute to the Salt Lake downtown area. Once information was gathered from Bikestation and presented to the Steering Committee, the potential bicycle transit center has been selected to be located in the south building at the Intermodal Hub. A final report for Phase I is available on the UTA and UDOT websites.

NEXT STEPS

The following steps may be implemented to open a bike transit center:

- Research funding opportunities and partnerships
- Establish an operating plan
- Contract with a bicycle transit center operator
- Develop a public information/marketing plan

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

UTA: www.rideuta.com

TravelWise Solutions:
www.travelwise.utah.gov

Salt Lake City Corporation:
www.slcgov.com/transportation/BicycleTraffic

Mayors Bicycle Advisory Committee:
www.slcgov.com/transportation/BicycleTraffic/MBAC.htm

UDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning:
www.udot.utah.gov/walkingandbiking

Bikestation: www.bikestation.org

