

City of Springfield BPAC 2023 Report



Overview

Established in 2011, the Springfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) is a volunteer body of nine voting members and four non-voting liaisons that provides input to the Springfield City Council and staff on bicycle and pedestrian issues, policies, programs, education, enforcement, and facilities. The BPAC meets every other month. Subcommittees meet during the remaining months. Accomplishments are listed below.

Key Highlights from 2023

The Springfield BPAC had a productive year in 2023. This report provides a summary of the accomplishments the Committee made this year including two Safe Street Audits and community outreach and providing guidance to staff regarding bicycle parking enhancement and bike share expansion.

Safe Street Audits

Throughout 2023 the Committee performed two Safe Street Audits. Both of these areas have known pedestrian and vehicle conflicts and apparent needs for infrastructure improvements. The first audit targeted the area near Hamlin Middle School, with the second occurring along South 'A' and Main Streets between Mill and 10th Street; a summary of these audits is provided as an attachment to this report.

Community Outreach and Education for Path Etiquette and Electric Assist Vehicle Safety

In August, a new web page, Walk Bike Springfield, was launched. This site consolidates all information and resources related to pedestrian and bicycle projects and activities in Springfield as well as useful links to our partners in surrounding communities. Although much of this information was already available online, it was sometimes difficult to locate. A QR Code linking the Walk Bike Springfield site is already in use and will become more prevalent on signage and resource materials in the future. The site includes information such as:

- News about current and future projects and activities related to walking and biking in Springfield.
- Links to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Service Request Tool to report areas where repairs are needed.
- Information on the Path Etiquette Campaign.
- Links to various bicycling and pedestrian maps in Springfield and surrounding communities.
- Links to a variety of walking and biking resources including Oregon Pedestrian Law Guides and Oregon Bicycling Manual.
- Links to partner organizations including Safe Routes to School, Willamalane, and others.

Walk Bike Springfield is easily viewed on either a computer or phone and will become an important asset to improving visibility to Alternative Transportation initiatives in Springfield. Initial website data shows Walk Bike Springfield website is being utilized since its inception; we project this page will get more hits as the QR code will be added to future promotional materials.

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Initial Website Data:

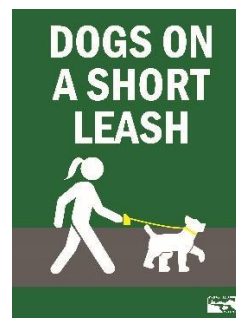
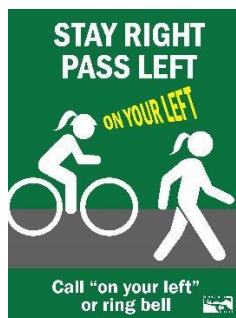
Walk Bike Springfield

- 206 views
- 137 users
- 1.5 views/user
- 1m 14s average engagement time

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

- 791 views
- 521 users
- 1.52 views/user
- 00:36 average engagement time

Springfield's Transportation Options Specialist Kelsey Moore kicked off the first path etiquette campaign in 2022 with continued efforts in 2023. The campaign aims to promote courtesy and safety among all path users and includes community outreach, education, media, and temporary signage.



The key messages of the path etiquette campaign were:

- Paths are for everyone (non-motorized)
- Travel a safe speed—20 MPH speed limit, 10-12 MPH when others are present
- Stay in your lane—stay right, pass left, don't take more than your half
- Give warning when passing—call "passing on your left" or ring bell
- Dogs on a short leash



Several pop-up events, featuring path etiquette trivia and prizes, free bicycle repairs, maps and resource handouts, were held. The BPAC further assisted with the development of the campaign by working with staff to create a new Walk Bike Springfield webpage, placing QR Code stickers, directing users to the webpage, and etiquette signage used during the campaign events. Path etiquette has become an ever-growing concern in the community with the accelerated usage of alternative mobility devices such as E-bicycles and E-scooters. It is likely that path etiquette will be an ongoing topic of discussion with the BPAC and the community at large.

Bicycle Parking Enhancement Project Outreach

The City of Springfield received \$86,500 in Regional Bicycle Enhancement grant funding to strengthen bicycle infrastructure. The funding supports the purchase and installation of public bicycle racks in locations lacking quality bicycle parking, but does not include lighting enhancements or covered structures. The BPAC recommended considering equity, popularity, and security when installing the new bicycle racks. The BPAC also recommended prioritizing bicycle rack placement in neighborhoods that have a high percentage of households without access to a personal vehicle, businesses within targeted census block areas, affordable housing providers, and organizations serving community members living on low incomes. Outreach and community engagement was led by Kelsey Moore, Springfield's Transportation Options Specialist, and a majority of locations have been vetted with finalization to occur in 2024, with installation commencing in 2025.

Bicycle Share Proposal Development and Outreach

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee explored expanding the existing bicycle share program to the City of Springfield, and staff brought the discussion to City Council early in 2023. Staff conducted public outreach and community engagement, led by Kelsey Moore, which took place in the winter of 2022/23 and produced multiple letters of support from downtown Springfield businesses and general support from the community. The planned system would have been a three-year pilot program that included multiple hub locations to provide 100 bicycles in the proposed service area: I-5 to 14th Street and Centennial to Main Street. The proposed system would be operated at a regional level so that a user could pick up a bicycle anywhere within the service area and ride between Springfield and Eugene without any penalties or fees. While City Council elected to not pursue bicycle share in 2023, they expressed interest in exploring this as a future possibility.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Service Request Tool

The Springfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) would like to highlight the online "Walking and Biking Maintenance Request Tool". This valuable resource has allowed our community members to actively engage by reporting concerns and suggestions related to biking and walking infrastructure. Ongoing communication through social media channels, as well as the City of Springfield website at <http://bit.ly/SpringfieldRequest>, has played a helpful role in keeping our residents informed and engaged. Additionally, our continued efforts in organizing education and outreach events have

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strengthened our commitment to promoting safer and more accessible biking and walking opportunities in Springfield. We look forward to building on these achievements in the coming year and remain dedicated to enhancing our city's pedestrian and cyclist experience. 2023 saw only 29 requests from citizens, 28 were the responsibility of the City, and Springfield Operations addressed 20 of the issues to date.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Service Request

Bicyclists and Pedestrians, Have you noticed something that needs repaired? Reporting it is as easy as 1-2-3!

- 1** Visit bit.ly/SpringfieldRequest or scan the QR Code.
- 2** Save the page as a button on your phone's home screen or bookmark it in your web browser for easy use in the future.
- 3** Submit service requests with geo-located photos to improve walking and biking in Springfield!

Scan the QR code to request service

You can also call Operations staff to make a service request at 541.726.3761

Springfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Service Request

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This tool was developed through the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). To learn more and get involved with BPAC visit bit.ly/Springfield. You can also call Operations staff to make a service request at 541.726.3761

Other 2023 BPAC Activities

- Willamalane Comprehensive Plan presentation and feedback
- Capital Projects overview presentation and feedback