



ACTION 14:

Bike Parking

Provide more secure bicycle parking on campus to meet growing demand and create a comprehensive bike parking management program.

Opportunity

With nearly half of OSU students and employees living within an easy bike ride of campus, bicycles will play an important role in reducing drive-alone trips to campus. Respondents to the 2019 OSU transportation survey consistently report that both more covered and secure bike parking would encourage them to bike more often. Among surveyed employees, 33% stated that secure bike parking near their building would encourage them to ride to campus more often. Additionally, 19% of students said that more covered bicycle parking near their building would make them more likely to bike to OSU.

Current State

OSU has added over 2,500 new bike parking spaces over the past decade, mostly in the form of uncovered and covered outdoor hoop racks. These outdoor racks are best suited for short-term bike storage from a few hours up to a day. OSU does not have internal or municipal requirements for the provision of long-term, secure bicycle parking (typically a bike locker, cage, or locked room). As a result, the availability of secure bike parking on campus is limited and the quality is inconsistent. Today, secure bike parking on campus includes a mix of bike lockers, bike rooms, and other locked areas, and these are only available to certain populations. The systematic provision and maintenance of bike parking, secure or otherwise, is hindered by the lack of a centralized bike parking management program.

Cost
\$\$\$

Timeline
Medium

Lead
University Facilities, Infrastructure and Operations

Complementary Actions
Commuter Incentives (Action 3)
Neighborhood Bikeways (Action 11)

Partners
OSU Transportation Committee

Discussion

Adopting a Standard for Secure Bike Parking

Secure bike parking is typically needed when a bicycle is parked in one place for more than a few hours, especially overnight, in order to protect the bicycle from weather and theft. This is especially critical for campus residents, as well as students or employees who are on campus late at night. The increased use of electric bikes, cargo bikes, and family bikes has also led to an increased need across campus for secure bike parking that can accommodate heavy or nonstandard bike frames.

In order to meet this need, OSU will develop a design standard for new secure bike parking installations on the Corvallis campus. The standard should employ modern design guidance to meet the needs of all riders. For example, the standard could ensure that riders can park their bikes securely without needing to lift the full weight of the bike to navigate stairs or to hang the bike on the rack.

In addition to fostering more uniform and high-quality facilities across campus, adopting a design standard for secure bike parking may also assist with the provision of these facilities. This is because secure bike parking is not included in the city’s bike parking standards, and therefore does not count towards the required number of bike parking spaces for new developments. Projects can rarely afford to provide secure bike parking in addition to the amount required by code. If the university’s new design standard for secure bike parking were recognized by the city as a means to meet development requirements,

then secure bike parking would be more likely to be included in new capital projects.

Dedicated Management

Just as vehicle parking benefits from careful management by an invested owner, the campus bike parking system cannot grow and thrive until it has a steward and a champion.

The OSU Transportation Plan describes a systems approach to bike parking. It provides guidance on the “best methods of determining the amount and type of bike parking for several primary building types on the OSU campus,” as well as recommended locations for new or consolidated bicycle parking to serve campus regions rather than individual buildings. The plan does not identify who will lead installations and maintenance or how it will be funded and managed. The creation of a comprehensive Bicycle Parking Management Program would advance the implementation of this systems approach.

OSU will designate a responsible party to own a Bike Parking Management Program charged with the following responsibilities:

Bike Parking Management Program:

- Asset management and maintenance
- Monitoring bike parking occupancy
- Responding to changing or unmet demand
- Access control and payment systems for secure bike parking
- Provide centralized bicycle expertise
- Budget for construction and installation of new bike parking facilities separate from other capital projects.