



7. onsite bicycle facilities

Bicycling is growing in popularity around the country and in the greater Memphis area. Bicycling to work is becoming more popular as a cost-effective, environmentally friendly and healthy way to commute. New facilities in the region, such as the Green Line have been highly successful, and the MidSouth Greenprint Plan has developed a series of recommendations for bicycle trails, onstreet bicycle lanes, and other infrastructure to provide connections throughout the region.

This expansion of bicycle infrastructure opens up bicycling to many more potential commuters. However, this regional infrastructure is only one part of encouraging bicycling. Prospective bicyclists also need to be supported once they reach their destination. In many places, employers are providing on-site bicycle amenities for use by employees and visitors. Bicycle facilities are included as part of new constructions, but can also easily be retrofitted into existing buildings and employer campuses.

On Site Bicycle Parking Facilities Can reduce Parking and Traffic Demand by up to 15% for minimal one-time capital investment

Types of Facilities

Bicycle Parking

Bicycles can cost anywhere from a hundred to several thousand dollars, but all bicyclists are seeking safe, secure, weather protected bicycle parking for their bicycles. Parking could be located inside the building, in a parking garage, or in a weather-protected facility in a parking lot. Bicycle parking should be located near the employee entry.



Shower and Changing Facilities

End of trip and support facilities are key parts of a complete bicycle trip. Shower, changing, and locker facilities promote bicycle commuting by providing a convenient place for bicyclists to shower, change, and/or store their clothes if they arrive in sweat, mud, or rain. Existing locker rooms can serve this purpose, or simple secure facilities are an easy addition to on-site



Bicycle Repair Facilities

A simple do-it-yourself bicycle stand is an inexpensive investment that provides essential support for cyclists, including tire gauges, air pumps, and wrenches and other tools for minor repairs. A bicycle stand can fit in a small space in the building or co-located with bicycle parking.



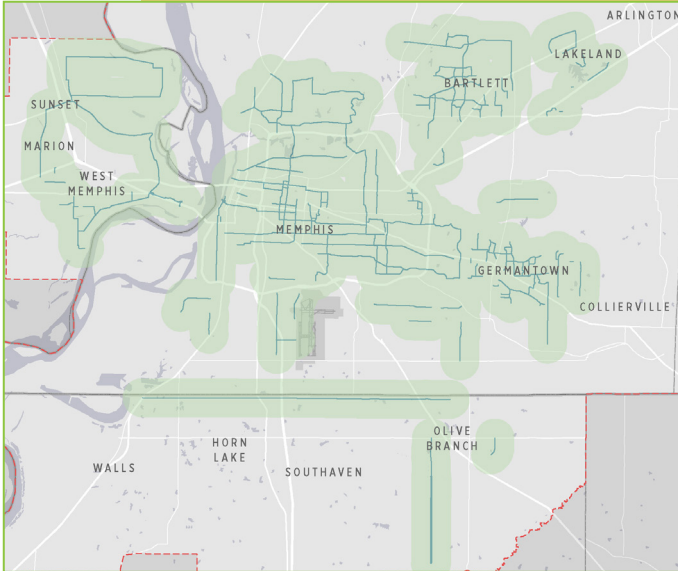
Additional Bicycle Amenities

For larger employers, or in areas with multiple bicycle facilities, a full-service staffed bicycle repair facility could add professional repair services as well as bike rentals, valet bike parking, and bike share registration.

The City of Urbana, IL has installed six bicycle repair stands around the city for public use.

Application to Mid-South / Implementation

As bicycling grows in popularity, the provision as possible on-site bicycle facilities can and should be done at as many employers in the Mid-South region. The larger the employer, the more intensive should the bicycle program be, as the need for bicycle parking is greater, and it becomes more cost effective to provide other on-site facilities. Remote facilities in industrial areas (like President's Island) are the least conducive to attracting bicyclists, but even in these conditions, providing even minimal onsite facilities can remove barriers to attracting bicyclists.



Areas near Bicycle Infrastructure

Employment locations near regional bicycle paths, or major on-road facilities are the easiest to access and the most likely to attract bicyclists in significant numbers. The map shows the areas of the Mid-South region within a mile of existing and proposed bicycle routes.

Areas near MATA service

All MATA buses are equipped with on-board bicycle racks, which can significantly extend the potential reach of bicycle commuters. Employment areas within easy bicycling distance of a MATA stop are also good candidates for on-site bicycle facilities

Developing Guidelines for New Construction

The Mid-South Greenprint Plan could develop general guidelines for the provision of on-site bicycle facilities, including

proposed ratios and siting guidelines. These could be adopted or encouraged as part of ongoing development permitting or incorporated into building codes.

Provide Audits for Existing Sites

The Office of Sustainability, individual municipalities or a Transportation Management Association could work with individual employers to provide audits and apply bicycle facility guidelines to current sites.

Additional Considerations

Developing on-site bicycle facilities are all about understanding the needs of bicyclists and removing barriers to bicycle use. Additional considerations to be reviewed/applied on a Site specific basis should include:

- **Bicycle Signage** – Prominently place, easily read signs directing bicyclists from the entry point to the bicycle parking facility. These should be included inside the building if parking is located there.
- **Short term bicycle parking** – Simple, easily accessible racks located near building entries for customers, visitors, or employees who take several trips during the day
- **Lighting** – Bicycle parking areas and the paths to reach them should be well lit to provide added visibility and protection
- **Bicycle entries** – Many Greater Memphis employers are located in gated facilities only accessible by vehicles. Whether manned or card controlled, special accommodations should be made to allow bicyclists to use these, or even more convenient entries if possible.
- **Onsite Connections** – Once past the gate, facilities should have paved, accessible roadways or paths to building entries or bicycle parking.
- **Offsite Connections to Regional Facilities/MATA stops** – The “last mile” connection between an employers front door and the regional facility can be the most difficult for bicyclists and should be reviewed and improved on an individual basis.