



**The Key West  
Bicycle Master Plan**

**July 16, 2010**

## Key West Bicycle Master Plan

**Vision:** Key West as a preeminent bicycle friendly community with an international reputation as a safe, convenient place for bicyclists of all skill levels and where bicycling is a major form of transportation and recreation for residents and visitors.

**Goal 1.** Establish bicycles as a major mode of transportation for visitors and residents of Key West.

Policy 1.1. Integrate bicycle use with other modes of transportation including but not limited to transit, automobiles, pedestrians, taxi cabs, cruising yachts, ferries, bus companies and planes.

Objective 1.1.1. Outfit all city buses with the ability to transport bicyclists and their bikes.

Objective 1.1.2. Install safe, secure bicycle storage facilities at major transit centers where transit commuters from up the keys can store bicycles for their use in Key West.

Objective 1.1.3. Promote each taxi cab fleet to provide cabs that can transport bicyclists with their bicycles.

Objective 1.1.4. Provide bicycle renting businesses near or at the ferry terminal, airport and marinas with visiting yachts.

Objective 1.1.5. The city will work with ferry operators to allow passengers to carry bicycles on the ferries.

Policy 1.2. The city will blend a safe, convenient bicycle network system into the road system that is comprised of dedicated paths, dedicated lanes, and routes shared with vehicular traffic and identified as a preferred route for bicyclists.

Objective 1.2.1. The city will rank improvements to the bicycle system using the criteria of improving safety, improving links between route segments, improving links between neighborhoods and commercial/recreation areas anticipated usage, and providing safe routes to schools, parks and other destinations frequently visited by children of all ages.

Objective 1.2.2. Control the placement of parking meters, utility poles, fire hydrants, bicycle racks, vendors, phone booths, news racks, garbage containers and other obstructions on all bicycle routes and lanes including but not limited to North and South Roosevelt promenades.

Objective 1.2.3. New developments and redeveloped properties will be required to connect to adjacent bicycle routes, paths and neighborhoods. The city will

consider an amendment to the Land Development Regulations to establish standards for such connections.

Objective 1.2.4. Bicycle routes without separate paths or lane markings will have special signage to direct bicyclists to the route and to inform automobile drivers to watch out for bicyclists.

Objective 1.2.5. The city will strive to reduce and prevent street side parking that leaves insufficient space for automobiles and bicycles to safely proceed.

Policy 1.3. Bicycle racks will be provided throughout the city in order to provide a secure place for bicycles and to reduce the number of bicycles that lock up to city trees, fire apparatus, utility poles and other public infrastructure.

Objective 1.3.1. New developments and redevelopment of property will be required to provide bicycle racks commensurate with the anticipated level of use by residents, visitors and employees.

Objective 1.3.2. The city will review the number of bicycle racks required of private development to determine the adequacy of the number required and will amend the Land Development Regulations based on the findings..

Objective 1.3.3. The city will install bicycle racks at convenient locations throughout the old town commercial areas.

Objective 1.3.4. The city will install bicycle racks at all city facilities for employee and public use.

Objective 1.3.5. The city will establish a process and criteria whereby a business may request that on street parking be replaced by public bicycle racks.



Objective 1.3.6. The city will have an active campaign to remove bicycles locked to city trees, fire apparatus, utility poles and other public infrastructure.

Objective 1.3.7. The city will have an active campaign to remove abandoned and damaged bicycles from public bicycle racks.

Objective 1.3.8. The city will require events approved by the city to provide safe, secure bicycle storage for at least 35% of the customers at peak attendance unless specifically exempted by the city. Such storage may include but not be limited to placing temporary bicycle racks or providing bicycle check stations.

Policy 1.4. Bicycle use throughout the city will be promoted.

Objective 1.4.1. At least once a year the city will hold an event; such as but not limited to a race, bike around the island, or poker run; that attracts a wide range of residents and visitors.



Objective 1.4.2. The city will promote a bike to work day.

Objective 1.4.3. The city will work with the school system to promote a bike to school day.

Objective 1.4.4. Annually, the city commission will proclaim a bicycle awareness month.

**Goal 2.** Establish bicycle recreation as a major attraction and amenity for visitors and residents of Key West.

Policy 2.1. The city will seek the assistance from and work with local, state and national bicycle associations.

Objective 2.1.1. Enhance the stations of the Overseas Heritage Trail and East Coast Greenway with amenities such as but not limited to the trail head at the foot of the White Street pier and the Key West Botanical Garden. Enhancements will include but not be limited to signage, water fountains, restrooms, landscaping, maps and interpretive materials.



Key West Mayor Craig Cates and the City's Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator Diane Nicklaus commemorated May as Bike Month during Tuesday's City Commission meeting. Nicklaus urged city cyclists to become involved in the bicycle action committee, which meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. in City Hall at 525 Angela St.

Objective 2.1.2. The city will provide internet linkages between the city's website and the websites of local, state and national organizations and

governmental agencies such as but not limited to the East Coast Greenway, the Overseas Heritage Trail, and Rails to Trails. The purpose of these linkages will be to inform the public about bicycling in Key West.

Policy 2.2. The city will accurately promote the Key West bicycle system to prospective visitors to the island.

Objective 2.2.1. Add information about the Key West bicycle system on the website of the City of Key West and a link to Monroe County's website.

Objective 2.2.2. The city will provide internet linkages between the city's website and hotel websites to inform prospective hotel guests with information about bicycling in Key West.

Objective 2.2.3. The city will request the Tourist Development Council and Key West Chamber of Commerce to include Key West bicycle system in information available to the public.

Objective 2.2.4. The city will develop handout literature in a variety of languages to welcome bicyclists to Key West and explaining safe bicycle practices and rules. These brochures will be available in brochure racks throughout the city, and will be provided to the Chamber of Commerce, visitor centers, hotels and similar entities providing information to prospective visitors.

Objective 2.2.5. At least every two years, the city will work with private businesses to develop a current map of the bicycle network in Key West and major destinations.

Policy 2.3. Develop marketing materials to be used by the Tourist Development Council, Chamber of Commerce and other entities that are engaged in marketing Key West as a tourist destination.

Objective 2.3.1. The city will work with the Tourist Development Council to produce videos of bicycling in Key West.

Objective 2.3.2. The city will work with the Tourist Development Council to develop an inventory of still photographs and video clips to be used in marketing materials.

Policy 2.4. The city will promote events that highlight bicycle use.

Objective 2.4.1. The city will work with a non-profit organization to provide a major bicycle event once a year that is promoted to appeal to and bring bicyclists to the city.

Objective 2.4.2. Each year the city will hold events to promote bicycle use and educate the public about safe bicycle handling, rules of the road. Such events may be coordinated with other scheduled events.

**Goal 3.** Key West shall be a safe place for bicyclists of all skill levels.

Policy 3.1. The city will promote safe bicycling and driving practices to all bicyclists and drivers.

Objective 3.1.1. At least once a year the city will hold an event oriented to children to promote safe bicycle practices and improve bicycle skills.

Objective 3.1.2. The city will develop and distribute bicycle safety literature developed for different age groups and languages.

Objective 3.1.3. The city will develop a safe driving education signage system to inform automobile drivers of safe practices.

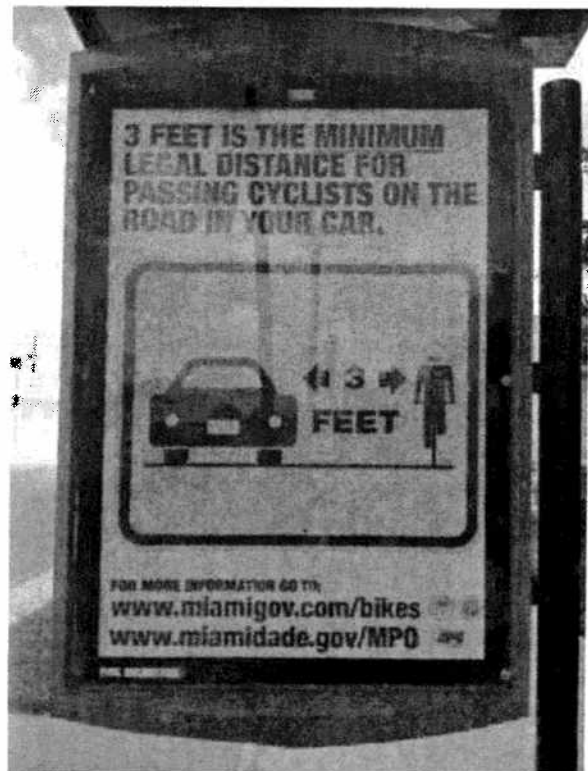
Objective 3.1.4. The city will work with the Monroe County School District and children recreation programs to educate children about safe bicycle practices.

Objective 3.1.5. The city will work with the nonprofit, federal and state agencies to give away at helmets, vests, reflectors, lights, bells and other safety accessories each year to children.

Objective 3.1.6. The city will educate parents and guardians of the importance of using safety equipment and scheduling regular bicycle service.

Objective 3.1.7. The city will require that bicycle rental companies offer helmets and other safety equipment free of charge to all children and adults on rental bicycles.

Objective 3.1.8. The city will provide bicycle safety public service announcements to all local media. Such announcements will be oriented to

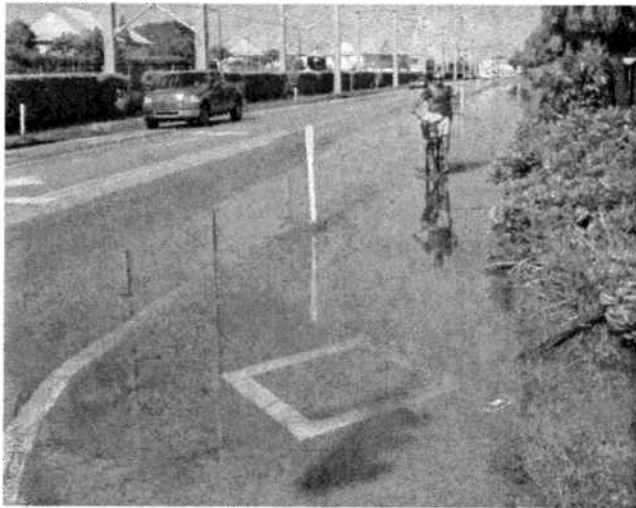


bicyclists and automobile drivers and will explain safe habits, rules of the road, importance of bicycle maintenance.

Policy 3.2. The city will regularly maintain the bicycle network that reduces conflicts between bicyclists, pedestrians, and automobiles..

Objective 3.2.1. The city will establish a program to keep all bicycle paths and routes free of obstructions, overhanging vegetation and repair holes and other surface irregularities.

Objective 3.2.2. The city will correct drainage areas where flooding on bicycle paths and routes forces bicycles into the full vehicular traffic flow.



Objective 3.2.3. The city will promote and develop safe routes to schools and other destinations frequently visited by children of all ages.

Objective 3.2.4. The city will adopt rules of the road governing the operation of bicycles on sidewalks.

Objective 3.2.5. The city will maintain clear visibility at all road intersections by such means as but not limited to trimming vegetation and controlling the placement of signs and utility poles.

Objective 3.2.6. The city will control sharp vegetation along sidewalks and bicycle paths and routes. Such plants include but are not limited to Spanish bayonet, prickly pear cactus, and bougainvillea.

**Goal 4.** Key West, the southernmost city in the continental United States, shall achieve a national and international reputation as being a community that accommodates bicycles.

Policy 4.1. The city will apply for recognition as a bicycle friendly community by the League of American Bicyclists.

Objective 4.1.1. Education: The city will establish programs to train adults and children by working with volunteer groups, local schools, bicycle rental companies, bicycle vendors, after school programs and similar organizations.

Objective 4.1.2. Engineering: The comprehensive plan shall include provisions to promote bicycling in Key West.

Objective 4.1.3. Enforcement: The regular training of Key West Police officers will include the rights and responsibilities of bicyclists.

Objective 4.1.4. Encouragement: The City of Key West will promote participation in events that encourage safe bicycling.

Objective 4.1.5. Evaluation: The City of Key West will establish methods to evaluate the effectiveness of the bicycle program.



**Goal 5.** The city shall regularly review and advance the Bicycle Master Plan by annually updating a Bicycle Action Plan.

Policy 5.1. The city will maintain a process for planning bicycle programs and improvements.

Objective 5.1.1. The city will provide a bicycle coordinator responsible for coordinating the implementation of this Bicycle Master Plan and the annual Bicycle Action Plan, updating the bicycle Action Plan, updating the budget and collecting data relating to bicycle use within the community. The bicycle coordinator will regularly solicit input from citizens and businesses within the community.

- The Bicycle Master Plan (this document) will be evaluated and updated as needed and generally every five years.
- The Bicycle Action Plan shall include a list of projects to be conducted in a fiscal year and a tentative list of major projects for the following five (5) years. The Bicycle Action Plan shall be updated annually in coordination with the city budget.
- The State of Bicycling in Key West report shall be prepared annually and will list progress on the Master Plan and will include current and historical information such as but not limited to bicycle ownership, bicycle use, bicycle accidents, condition of the bicycle system, developing problem



areas and accomplishments. This document shall be presented to the City Commission prior to the annual Bicycle Action Plan and draft city budget.

Policy 5.2. The city will establish a regular funding source for bicycle programs. These include the city's general fund, gas tax revenues and outside funds from federal, state and nonprofit organizations.

Objective 5.2.1. The city will seek grants and other outside funds to assist in funding the Bicycle Action Plan and reduce the dependence on Key West taxpayers. Potential outside funds include but are not limited to:

- Marketing funds from the Tourist Development Council for brochures, bicycle promotion, videos, web updates and other materials oriented to visitors to the community.
- Funds from the tourist impact funds collected by the TDC for system improvements such as but not limited to bicycle racks in locations used by visitors.
- Grants from the Federal and Florida Departments of Transportations and any other agency for, but not limited to, improvements to the bicycle system, public service announcements, safety materials and equipment to be distributed to the public, and collection of data regarding bicycle use.
- Grants from federal, state and non-profit organizations to fund projects identified in the Bicycle Action Plan as annually updated.

Policy 5.3. In order to make appropriate, informed decisions, the City of Key West will maintain statistics about bicycle use within the City and coordinate such data with information about other modes of transportation.

Objective 5.3.1. All city departments will assist in maintaining statistics regarding accomplishment of the bicycle action plan. Such information shall include but not be limited to the Police Department maintaining information on the location, cause and seriousness of bicycle accidents they respond to, the transit system providing information of bicycles carried on busses, and Public works on improvements to the bicycle system.

Objective 5.3.2. With the assistance of volunteers, the city will conduct a bicycle use census at least once every two years at a time to correspond with traffic counts conducted by the Florida Department of Transportation.

# The Bicycle Planning Process

