

City of Bloomington Planning Department

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May is Bike Month!

May is National Bike Month, and Bloomington is celebrating with many events throughout the month:

Learn to Ride, May 18-20, 4:30-5:30pm: This three-day class is for children who are new to riding a bike without training wheels.

Bike to Work Day, May 21: Bike to work for your health, for the environment, for your wallet, and for FUN. Register with Parks and Recreation to win prizes.

Cycle to Service Weekend, May 21-23: Bike to your place of worship. Register with Parks and Recreation to win prizes.

Traffic Skills 101: Learn to DRIVE your bike safely and effectively! Topics to be covered include strategies for how cyclists can be predictable, courteous, assertive, visible and alert. Contact the Planning Dept. for the date and time of the next class.

Bike Commuter 101: This three-hour course is for adult cyclists who wish to explore commuting to work or school by bike. Contact the Planning Dept. for the date of the next class.

For more information, visit:
www.bloomington.in.gov/bike



10th Street Mobility Study Complete

The 10th Street Mobility Study was recently completed. The Study was a joint effort of Indiana University, the City of Bloomington and the Bloomington/Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization (BMCMPPO) to evaluate east-west connectivity through the northern portion of the Indiana University campus (roughly, the 10th and 14th street corridors). This portion of 10th Street has long been identified as a local transportation challenge. Movement within campus, movement between points east and west of campus, and the operation of local transit routes are all made difficult due to limited connectivity within the study area.

In 2009, Gorove/Slade Associates, Inc. was hired to assist with the study and provide consulting services. Public workshops were held in April and September 2009 to receive input and give citizens an opportunity to understand the methodologies employed and the conclusions reached for this important corridor in the community. A public presentation was then held in March 2010 to unveil the preferred alternative of the 10th Street Mobility Study. This presentation provided the public an opportunity to hear about the work performed for the study and its final recommendations on how to improve transportation on the north side of campus. The findings of the 10th Street Mobility Study will serve as the foundation for implementing future transportation improvements throughout the corridor.

Various alternatives were considered as part of the study to ease traffic congestion and provide increased mobility and better transportation for all users. One alternative studied the possibility of making 10th and Law Lane one way pairs. Although this scenario offered some benefits of improved automobile circulation, it also proved to be difficult for transit circulation routes, and hindered bike and pedestrian circulation, thus negatively affecting the mobility of the study area as a whole. The study concluded that keeping 10th and Law Lane as two-way streets would be the best way to balance the needs of all modes of transportation. This alternative is the most consistent with City, MPO and IU policy. This alternative would entail constructing a connection of Law Lane to extend from 10th Street to 14th Street, and realigning 13th Street, Walnut Grove and 14th Street to provide

(Continued on page 2)

City Organizes Volunteer Bike Count

The Planning Department recently organized a volunteer bike counting event. Volunteers were recruited from several organizations throughout town, including the Bloomington Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Commission, the Bloomington Bicycle Club, and Bloomington Transportation Options for People. Students from an I.U. School of Public and Environmental Affairs class also participated.

The goal of the event was to provide the City with data that can be used to track bike ridership trends over time, as well as to better understand seasonal variation and representation of male and female cyclists on City streets. The counts will also be submitted to a national project that seeks to better understand bicycle ridership across the country.

Volunteers and City staff combined to count bicyclists at over 25 intersections during the month of April. Locations were chosen based on known high crash counts or high bike volumes. Each count lasted for a period of at least an hour, and was conducted during the morning or evening commute periods.

Based on the initial success of the event, it is anticipated that the bike count will be held at least annually, and possibly more often. If you are interested in participating next time, please contact Joe Fish at (812) 349-3423, or by e-mail at fishj@bloomington.in.gov.



10th Street Mobility Study (Continued from page 1)

better mobility. The study also provides recommendations on how the project should be phased. It also suggests interim measures that can be taken to address some concerns within the study while funding is procured for the costly phased improvements.

Now that the study is complete, the next step will be to identify funding sources for the improvements and to begin preliminary engineering work.

The complete study and related materials are available online at:

www.bloomington.in.gov/10th_Street_Mobility_Study

MPO Receives Awards

The Bloomington Monroe County Metropolitan Planning Organization (BMCMPPO) Policy Committee has won two awards for the Complete Streets Policy, the first of its kind in Indiana. The policy ensures that federally funded local road projects will accommodate all users of the corridor including pedestrians, bicyclists, users of mass transit, people with disabilities, freight providers, the elderly, motorists, adjacent land users and emergency responders.

The policy was awarded the *Outstanding MPO Planning Project* at the Annual Indiana MPO Conference because the policy “exemplifies the principles of good, sound transportation planning.” The policy was also awarded *Outstanding Project of 2010* by the American Planning Association Indiana Chapter.

Jim Roach Elected to APA

Jim Roach, AICP, Senior Zoning Planner, was recently elected as a board member to the American Planning Association (APA) Indiana Chapter as a Southern Regional Representative.

APA Indiana promotes public interest in city planning and the development of Indiana’s resources and assists its membership in improving their knowledge and understanding of planning through annual conferences and other training and educational opportunities throughout the year.

The board recently unveiled the new APA Indiana website (www.indianapanning.org) and is currently working to organize the tri-state regional APA conference which will be held in Indianapolis this fall.

Construction Buzz

- 1 508 N. College Avenue:** A site plan was approved for 9North, by WS Property Group, to redevelop the site with a 5-story mixed-use building with 6900 sq. ft. of lower level commercial space and 42 multifamily units.



Rendering of the 9North building planned for 508 N. College Ave.

- 2 222 W. Kirkwood Avenue:** The Plan Commission approved a site plan to allow the remodel of the former Smith Holden building. The proposed use is for ground-floor retail use and upper floor residential units.

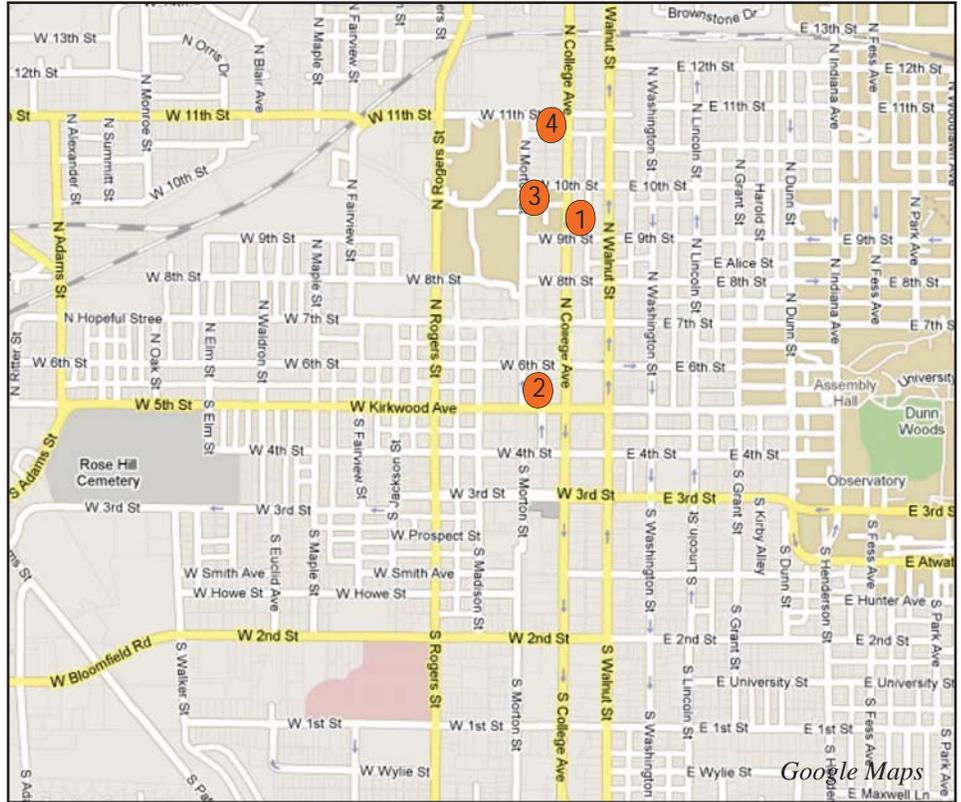
- 3 532 N. Morton, Morton Mansions:** The site plan was approved for a mixed-use four story 15-unit apartment building on N. Morton.



Rendering of the Morton Mansions building planned for 532 N. Morton St.

- 4 645-639 N. College Ave., Omega Properties:** Site plan approval for remodeling two historic residential structures and construction of a new three-story, six-unit apartment building.

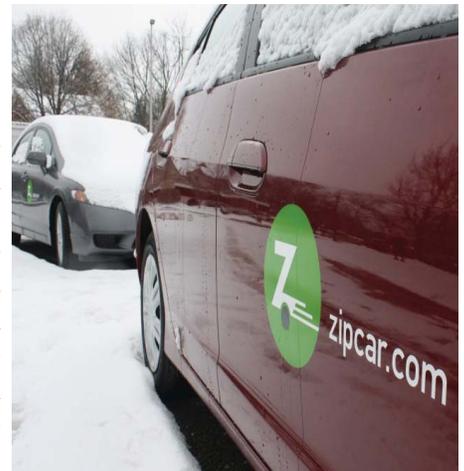
Construction Buzz Location Map



Car Sharing in Bloomington

A car sharing program was recently unveiled in Bloomington, with the help of Indiana University and Zipcar. City Long Range and Transportation Planning staff worked with Indiana University last year to plan and implement a car sharing program for Bloomington citizens, University students, staff and faculty. Car sharing is growing in cities and towns across the country as a way to increase mobility while reducing the need for individual car ownership. Since Zipcar introduced four cars to Bloomington in February, the program has become increasingly popular. Planning staff has worked with other City departments to look proactively at opportunities to expand the car sharing model to downtown locations, once Zipcar is prepared to add more cars to its fleet (possibly as early as this fall).

The Planning Department views car sharing as an integral way to provide equitable and sustainable transportation alternatives to the community. In addition, car sharing has proven to increase transit ridership and pedestrian and bike commuting. The program is available for use by University students, faculty and staff, as well as the Bloomington community. This is the only car sharing program that currently exists in the state of Indiana.



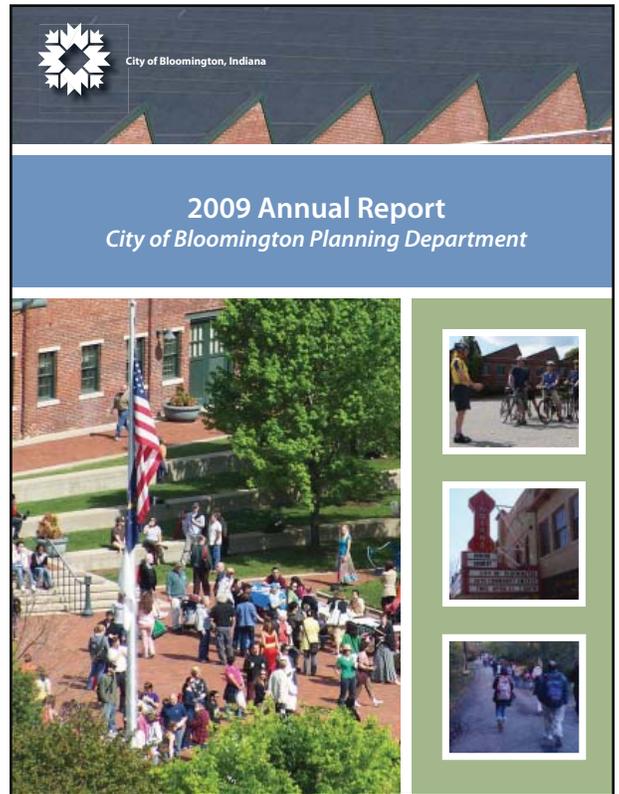
Zipcars were unveiled in Bloomington on a snowy day in February.

2009 Annual Report Now Available

The Planning Department recently released the 2009 Annual Report, which documents the accomplishments of the Department during 2009 and sets a course for continued progress in 2010. Between ongoing development administration duties and a variety of special studies and projects, the Department remained exceptionally busy throughout 2009. Notable accomplishments for the year included:

- The Department completed an update to the Unified Development Ordinance that included more than 90 individual text amendments.
- The Department issued 637 Certificates of Zoning Compliance, including 65 for new single family home construction, 14 for new commercial construction, and 220 permits for signage.
- The Department processed 29 Plan Commission cases, 11 Plat Committee cases, 23 Board of Zoning Appeals cases and 18 Hearing Officer cases.
- The Department sent 409 notices of zoning violations to property owners and resolved 371 of these violations before year's end, including the collection of over \$11,000 in fines.

The entire document is available online at:
www.bloomington.in.gov/planning



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