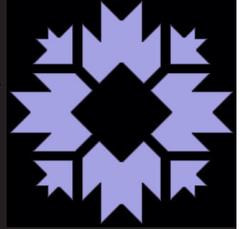




The Planning Post

The Newsletter of the City of Bloomington Planning Department



City of Bloomington Planning Department

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Upcoming Meeting Dates

Plan Commission:

6/13, 7/11, 8/8, 9/12

Board of Zoning Appeals:

6/30, 7/28, 8/25, 9/22

Historic Preservation Commission:

6/9, 7/14, 8/11, 9/8

Bike & Ped Safety Commission:

6/20, 7/18, 8/15, 9/19

Environmental Commission:

6/16, 7/21, 8/18, 9/15

MPO Policy Committee:

6/10, 8/12, 9/9

MPO Citizens Advisory Committee:

6/22, 8/24, 9/28

MPO Technical Advisory Committee:

6/22, 8/24, 9/28



Platinum Bike Summit

The Platinum Bike Summit was held on Thursday, April 28, 2011 at the Bloomington Monroe County Convention Center. The event had dual purposes, to celebrate bicycling and to prioritize actions to make Bloomington more bicycle friendly.

The summit began with a reception where attendees socialized with other cyclists and received information about local bike-friendly organizations while enjoying snacks and beverages. The reception was sponsored by Bicycle Garage Inc., Bikesmiths, Bloomington Bicycle Club, Bloomingfoods, Bloomington Pedal Power, Bloomington Transportation Options for People (B-TOP), the City of Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS), and Downtown Bloomington, Inc.

The workshop following the reception focused on strategies for making Bloomington a Platinum level Bicycle Friendly Community by 2016. The 66 attendees were split into groups, each with one of the "Five Es": Evaluation and Planning, Education, Enforcement, Engineering, or Encouragement. The League of American Bicyclists uses the Five E framework to evaluate communities as part of its Bicycle Friendly Community Program.

Each group developed a list of top ideas to make Bloomington more bicycle friendly within the E area. Then, attendees received five dots, which they could use to vote on the ideas. The dots could be allocated however each person wanted, whether five dots on one idea or one dot on five different ideas. Top vote-getters included installing bike boxes at intersections, subsidizing bike trailers, creating bike boulevards (especially east-west), and providing targeted bike education for both motorists and cyclists.

(Continued on page 3)

Visits From National Bike Experts

This spring, Bloomington was visited by two national bicycle experts, Mia Birk from Alta Planning + Design and Bill Nesper from the League of American Bicyclists.

On March 1, Mia Birk, bicycle planner and author of *Joyride: Pedaling Toward a Healthier Planet*, visited Bloomington for a presentation and book signing. She also met with local leaders to discuss the future of bicycling in Bloomington. The presentation was sponsored by the City of Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS) and Bloomington Transportation Options for People (B-TOP).



Birk is President at Alta Planning + Design and Adjunct Professor at Portland State University, where she co-founded the Initiative for Bicycle and Pedestrian Innovation in the College of Urban Studies. Previously, she worked as the City of Portland Bicycle Program Manager, where she led a period of rapid growth of Portland's bikeway network.

Birk's presentation focused on her experiences working to make Portland more bicycle friendly and on strategies that other cities can also use to improve their bicycle-friendliness.

On April 14, the League of American Bicyclists recognized local accomplishments that advance bicycling at an award ceremony on the B-Line Trail. Bill Nesper, the Director of the League's Bicycle Friendly America Program, led the ceremony and recognized several organizations for their designations from the League, including: Bronze "Bicycle Friendly University" designation to Indiana University, Silver "Bicycle Friendly Community" designation to the City of Bloomington, Bronze "Bicycle Friendly Business" designation to Bloomingfoods, Silver "Bicycle Friendly Business" designation to City Hall, and "Club of the Year" designation to the Bloomington Bicycle Club.



That evening, Nesper spoke in Council Chambers about the League's Bicycle Friendly America program and why it's important. He also provided encouragement to community bicycle advocates.

MPO Complete Streets Policy Among Top 15 in the Nation

Bloomington/Monroe County MPO's (BMCMPPO) Complete Streets Policy has been named one of the top 15 Complete Streets policies in the United States by the National Complete Streets Coalition. In April, the National Complete Streets Coalition released a comprehensive [report](#) regarding Complete Streets policies in which over 200 policies were examined.



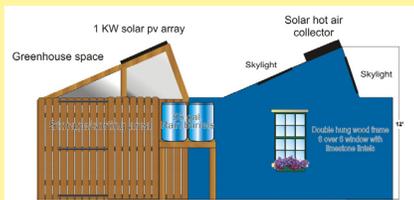
The Complete Streets Coalition evaluated policies using ten elements they determined should be part of an 'ideal' Complete Streets policy. According to the Complete Streets Coalition, "the ten elements refine the vision, provide clear direction and intent, are accountable to a community's needs, and grant the flexibility in design and approach necessary to secure an effective Complete Streets process and outcome."

In the report, BMCMPPO's policy is specifically called out as a good example of a policy with a strong vision and appropriate exceptions.

Construction Buzz

1 401 N. Morton Street City of Bloomington Recycling Center

The City of Bloomington, locally owned business Pedal Power, and the Monroe County Solid Waste Management District are establishing a Downtown Recycling Center for drop-off recyclables. The City is making 19 parking spaces in its lot behind City Hall available for the one-year pilot project. The drop-off site will be operated by Pedal Power. The goal of the project is to make it convenient for pedestrians, cyclists, and residents to drop off recyclables. The service will be free to the public.



The Downtown Recycling Center will be open Monday-Saturday from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm.

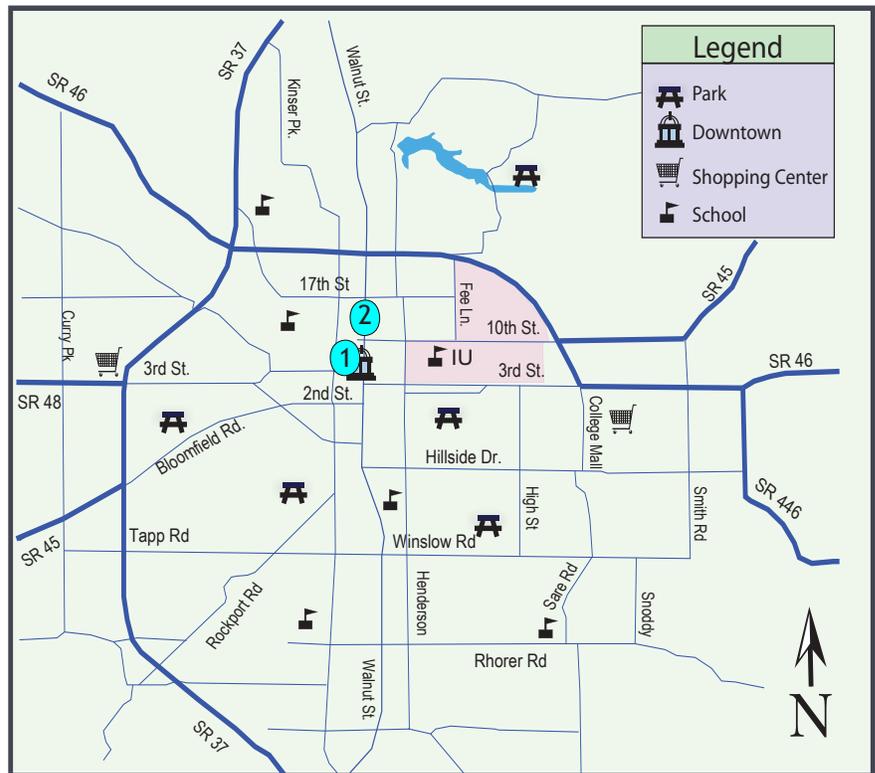
2 807 N. Walnut Street Walnut Holdings

The Plan Commission provided site plan approval of a three-story mixed-use building. A portion of the ground floor will house office space. The building will also contain 3 residential units.



Sample color elevation of 807 N. Walnut

Construction Buzz Location Map



Platinum Bike Summit (continued)

Attendees also filled out surveys about their bicycling habits and ranked the Five Es in order of which E they believed was most in need of improvement in Bloomington. Engineering was ranked most in need of improvement, followed by Education, Evaluation & Planning, Enforcement, and Encouragement.

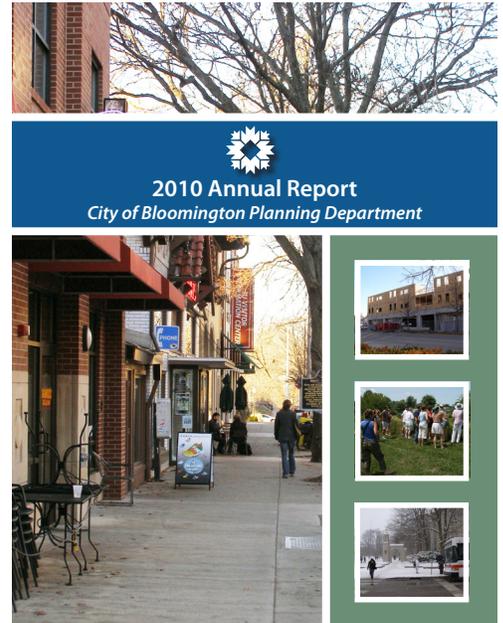
Bloomington has participated in the Bicycle Friendly Community Program since 2003 when it was designated a Bronze community. In 2010, Bloomington was elevated to a Silver designation. City Council has also developed a goal that Bloomington achieve Platinum designation by 2016. To help achieve this goal, the City Council established the [Platinum Biking Task Force](#). Currently, only 3 communities nationally are designated Platinum: Boulder, CO; Davis, CA; and Portland, OR.

All of the information gathered at the Summit will be examined and analyzed by the Platinum Biking Task Force and incorporated into its final report to City Council and the community. The report will be completed in fall of this year. The Task Force meets the second and fourth Thursday of every month at City Hall, and all meetings are open to the public.

2010 Annual Report Now Available

The Planning Department's [2010 Annual Report](#) is now available online. The Annual Report details the Department's programs and activities in 2010. Goals for 2011 are also included in the report. Notable accomplishments in 2010 included:

- The Department completed an update to the Unified Development Ordinance to conform with new floodplain standards issued by FEMA.
- The Department issued 668 Certificates of Zoning Compliance, including 56 for new single family home construction, 16 for new commercial construction, and 224 permits for signage.
- The Department processed 23 Plan Commission cases, 7 Plat Committee cases, 22 Board of Zoning Appeals cases, and 21 Hearing Officer cases.
- Department staff spoke at or led at least fifteen community education events, professional conferences, Indiana University classes, and other venues.
- The Department completed the City Public Facilities Report, a comprehensive analysis of key City services and infrastructure that will guide future planning and zoning decisions.



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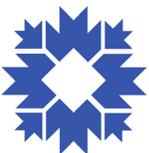
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