

New Champaign-Urbana-Savoy Bike Guide and Map Encourages Residents to "Bike the Blue"

Champaign County Bikes (CCB), in conjunction with the cities of Urbana and Champaign, the University of Illinois, the Village of Savoy, and the League of Illinois Bicyclists, is proud to announce the 2014 edition of the **Champaign-Urbana-Savoy Bike Guide and Map**.

CCB will have two events to promote the map. At 2pm on Friday Aug 2, a group of volunteers, using a fleet of bicycle cargo trailers, will pick up maps from our local printer, Premier Print Group, at their north Mattis Ave plant. Map distribution will begin at the Urbana's Market at the Square Saturday Aug 3 beginning at 7am. A press conference discussing the many new features of the map and further celebrating the bronze level bicycle friendly community status of both cities, the University, and several businesses will take place at 9am at the entrance of the Market. We've invited the mayors and chancellor as well as representatives from our other sponsors to say a few words as well.

The bike map and guide has been completely revamped. The map uses a unifying blue color to indicate suggested routes for cyclists. Solid blue lines indicate on-street bike lanes and dashed blue lines show streets with shared-lane markings ("sharrows"). Blue dots are used to highlight the many miles of quiet, residential, tree-lined streets with good connections for cyclists that make up the majority of the area bike network. Further connectivity is created by showing the multiuse paths (in green) that are also available to bicyclists, runners, pedestrians, and other non-motorized transport. The map shows locations of all area bike shops, public bike repair stations, medical centers, shopping districts, government buildings and so on.

The bike routes shown in the network are based on levels of adult cyclist comfort using, roads with lower traffic volume and speed, ample width, and few stop. Additionally, warning triangles are used to denote areas of caution where the roadway narrows to cross a bridge or there is no shoulder as noted between red arrows.

Where the bike map breaks new ground, however, is by also providing useful information about our community's busier streets that some cyclists may wish to use for faster travel or when their departure or destination is located on a commercial street with more traffic. Yellow is used to indicate streets with moderate traffic volume and orange shows higher traffic streets. Three-lane and multilane streets are also indicated on the map. Some experienced cyclists prefer moderate traffic, multilane streets for cycling, such as University Avenue and Church Street in west Champaign, and the map shows where these can be found.

But this is more than a map. The back of the map serves as a guide for cyclists, providing a wealth of information about bicycling safely on roadways with different levels of bicycle infrastructure. Emphasis is placed on responsible bicycling including rules of the road, communication, behavior, equipment, and use of the roadway. Key rules and tips have been translated into Spanish, Korean and Chinese. A route map and instructions for using bike racks on buses is provided by the C-U MTD. Links to various bike groups and resources are described and listed and a summarized list of vehicle laws pertaining to bicycling is included.

This map was produced collaboratively by Champaign County Bikes and the League of Illinois Bicyclists with input from the Cities of Urbana and Champaign, the Village of Savoy and the University of Illinois. It is intended to encourage bicycling as a healthy and enjoyable form of recreation and an energy-efficient, economical, and non-polluting form of transportation.

Champaign County Bikes thanks its other government and community sponsors: C-U MTD, Champaign Park District, Urbana Park District, Savoy Recreation Center, Safe Routes To School, Prairie Cycle Club, The Bike Project, and CU Public Health District. In addition, all area bike shops have contributed as advertisers and are shown on the map. **It is the best map for getting around our area on bike, foot, or even by car.**

For more information please contact Jeff Yockey (President of Champaign County Bikes) at 217-565-1785 or Charlie Smyth (CCB map project coordinator) at 217-367-2813. We can be reached by email at info@champaigncountybikes.org as well.