Making OSU a More Bike Friendly Campus

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PROJECT BACKGROUND

OSU Transportation and Traffic Management is interested in obtaining the Bicycle Friendly University (BFU) Gold-level accreditation for the OSU Campus.

This accreditation program is sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists (LAB), a non-profit based in Washington D.C.

The league has established certain benchmarks that universities must meet to obtain various levels of recognition

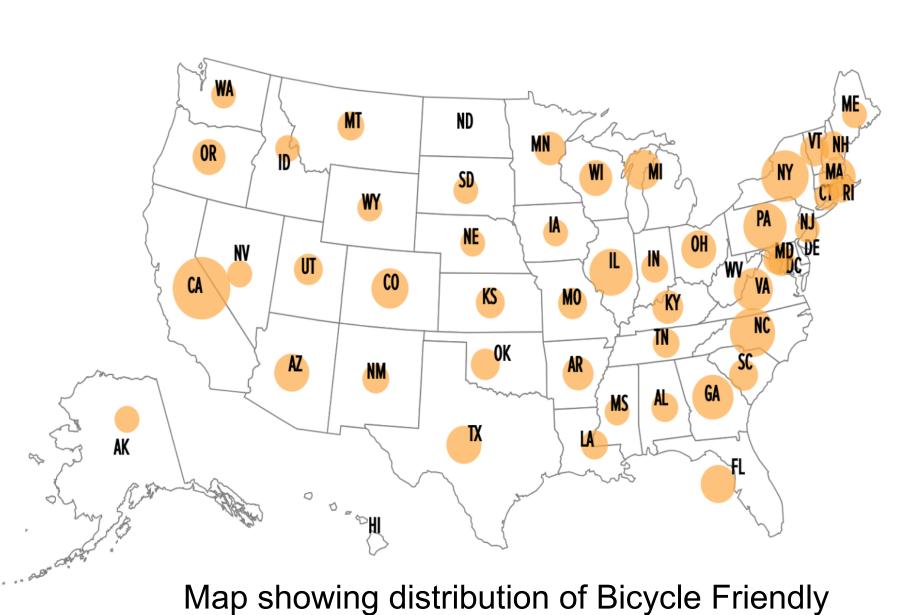
There are 4 levels awarded by L

Bronze

Silver

Gold Platinum





Universities taken from the LAB's website

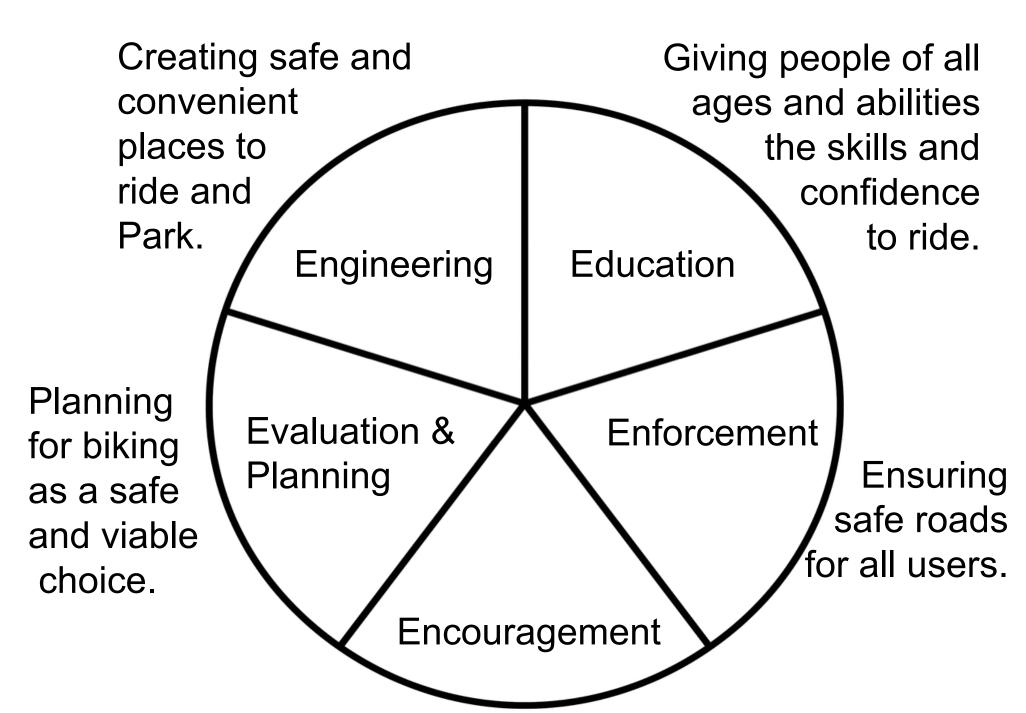
PROJECT AIM

Currently, OSU has a
Bronze level accreditation
which was received in
2015. Our project aimed to
define the actions needed
to achieve the Gold level
accreditation.



How Does the League Evaluate Universities?

The 5 E's:



Creating a strong bike culture that welcomes and celebrates biking.

PROJECT WORK

Benchmarking against other universities

- Based off a feedback report sent by the League after our application in 2015
- Prioritized benchmarking against Big 10 Universities

Spoke with OSU students, faculty, and relevant professionals about OSU specifically becoming a BFU.



Current OSU bike amenities, taken from Transportation and Traffic Management Website

BENCHMARKING

Education

Example: Bicycle education videos and future traffic and cycling skills classes

Engineering

Example: University of Minnesota → "small but mighty" bike hub

Bike Hub, website, full amenities (shower, online catalog, classes)

Encouragement

Example: The University of Minnesota's ZAP! Program tracks bikers rides around campus. If students ride at least twelve times in one month, they will be entered into a raffle to win a gift card.

Enforcement

Example: Increase the number of public safety officers and cite cyclists and motorists for bicycle-related violations

Evaluation and Planning

Example: Participate in the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project















INTERVIEWS

In addition to benchmarking, we conducted interviews. These included talking to OSU Bike Club, the Office of Energy and Environment, and frequent bikers on campus.

- When asked to rank OSU as a bicycle friendly campus, all responses ranged from 2-3
- Most frequently asked for more bike lanes and bike racks
- OSU can greatly improve their bicycle education, as all responses indicated that they have not participated in a bike education course of ride

"All of the things you mentioned are important and it's a bit of a chicken and egg situation because they all sort of work together. That said, I think that engagement is often a good place to start; get people involved, learn their concerns, and let their feedback guide decisions about how to prioritize." - Tobi Otulana City and Regional Planning Student Association

CONCLUSION

There is a good amount of work that can be done to make OSU a more bicycle-friendly campus. However, this presents a significant number of opportunities to achieve the gold level accreditation. It is recommended that Department of Transportation and Traffic Management maintain a partnership with this capstone course to conduct further research and discover more funding options.

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