

# Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Council Public Meeting

June 17, 2009

## CTA BIKE AND RIDE PROGRAM

Daniel Thomas  
Bike and Ride Manager, CTA

### **BIKE AND RIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

- The CTA Bike & Ride Program supports Mayor Richard M. Daley's goal to make Chicago the most bicycle-friendly city in the United States.
- CTA started the Bike & Ride Program as a pilot in 1999 with Bikes on Trains, by allowing bicycles on board CTA trains during non-rush hours.
- Bike & Ride Program pay the regular fare to board buses and trains. There is no extra fee to transport bicycles. Two bicycles are permitted per rail car and per bus.

### **BIKE AND RIDE POLICIES**

- Bicycles are permitted on CTA trains every weekday except during rush hours (7 - 9 a.m. and 4 - 6 p.m.) On weekends and holidays, except July 3, bikes are permitted on trains all day.
- Bicycles are permitted on CTA bus racks at all times.
- CTA headquarters has bicycle racks and showers for bicycle commuters.

### **CTA BIKE AND RIDE INFRASTRUCTURE**

- All 2,000+ CTA buses are equipped with bike racks. CTA equips all new buses with bike racks.
- 59 of 142 (**42%**) CTA rail stations have bicycle parking **inside** stations. Rail station bike parking capacity is 439 bicycles (9/08). Bike racks are located in paid and unpaid areas depending on the layout of the station.
- 113 of 142 (**80%**) CTA rail stations have **outdoor** bike racks. Outdoor bicycle parking capacity at CTA stations is over 1,300 bicycles (9/08).
- At rail stations, interior bicycle parking has increased by 310% since 2002 and exterior bicycle parking capacity has increased by 60% since 2002.
- High capacity bicycle parking facilities were recently constructed at Jefferson Park, Sox/35<sup>th</sup>, Midway, and Damen (Blue Line).

### **BIKE AND RIDE PROMOTION**

- CTA produces a Bike and Ride brochure for distribution and download.
- The system map illustrates CTA stations with bicycle parking.
- CTA participates in the Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Council.
- CTA participated in drafting the *Bike 2015 Plan*.

# Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Council Public Meeting

June 17, 2009

## CTA BIKE AND RIDE PROGRAM

### Activity Questions

1. How can we improve the CTA Bike and Ride website?

What information should be there without diluting the message?

CTA recently revamped its website. The same content was brought over which describes how to secure bicycles on buses and when they are permitted on trains. The new CTA webmaster is very easy to work with and is open to adding content.

I am currently in the process of reevaluating what additional information will be useful for potential riders. This might include maps showing how to take transit to regional trails and improved maps indicating where there is bicycle parking.

2. What CTA practices, policies, or lack of facilities inhibit biking to transit?

What CTA practices, policies, or lack of facilities inhibit "bike and riding"?

The Bike and Ride Program can ensure that the existing policies to allow bikes on trains and buses exist. In addition, it can continue to be an officially staffed position that manages the policies, promotion, and infrastructure.

The program continues to survey and evaluate the supply and demand of bicycle parking at CTA stations. We work with CDOT to supply bicycle parking at stations within the City of Chicago. We are also evaluating our abandoned bicycle policies to be more proactive to remove abandoned bicycles and ensure there are reasonable bike parking supplies.

3. How can CTA improve security at stations for bike parking?

In the short run, CTA can encourage the use of better locks which are more theft-resistant. A project this summer will be to add content to the Bike and Ride Program website, which includes photos of good and bad locking practices. This may be old news for seasoned riders, but not all bike and ride users are the same.

If/when cameras are installed in stations, the Bike and Ride Program can work with rail line managers to have internal bike racks under supervision.