Making Bicycling a Part of Campus Life

Phil Miller, UW Transportation Services
“The Slender Thread” – 1965
Sidney Poitier and Sydney Pollack at Drumheller Fountain
Bicycling at UW

Bicycling Can Be a Great Way to Get More Out of UW Campus Life

> It’s affordable, clean and sustainable transportation;
> It’s excellent recreation and stress relief;
> More choices exist for new riders than ever before;
> It is part of a regional system that makes car ownership OPTIONAL; and
> The hurdles to enjoying cycling are easy to clear with a little information
So Many Bikes, So Little Time

More than just ten speeds – technology has opened new avenues for bicycling

1. E-bikes
2. Traditional Bikes
3. Bike Share
4. Cargo and Family Bikes
5. Adaptive Cycles
E-Bikes

> Three types:
  – Type I
  – Type II
  – Type III

> Types I and II can be ridden on trails

> E-motors have revolutionized cargo and family bikes

> Prices are coming down as more companies enter the market
Traditional Bikes

- Easier to shift
- Disc Brakes
- Hybrids
- Mountain Bikes
- Gravel Bikes and Cyclocross
- Road Bikes
- Touring Bikes
BikeShare

> Why own a bike?
> Most BikeShares in Seattle are now e-bikes
> Can be “unlocked” with a telephone app
> First 30 minutes at base rate, then increases
> Powerful enough to easily handle the hilliest terrain in Seattle
Family, Cargo, and Adaptive Bikes

> E-motors make specialty bikes more practical
> UW Mail has used several for a couple years to great effect
> Other styles can carry young kids in a front carrier (bikfiet), or older kids on a rack mounted seat
> Adaptive bikes are also now available for people with mobility challenges
Family and Cargo Bikes
What do I need to know to buy a bike?

Mostly, know yourself and why you want to ride...

> Bike shops exist to match your needs to the right bike and at the right price
> Shop staff can fit bikes on site (very important) and provide follow-up service
> They also can match accessories to your vision of bicycling
> Some shops represent one line, others multiple brands
Buying a bike (cont)

Find a place with whom YOU are comfortable

> Shop sales staff will show you a LOT of bikes – it's their job.
> Good shops will allow test rides, although COVID has changed practices
> Some shops focus on particular clientele, such as families, ebikes, touring, racing, or occasionally used bikes. Shop around for a place YOU like – margins are very small in the industry, and similar bikes will have similar prices
> Beware Craigslist. If a deal looks too good to be true, it probably is.
Security

> Common Advice – don’t scrimp on a lock!
> UW Bike Parking Resources
  – Bike Houses
  – Lockers
  – Racks
  – Bike Rooms
> Lock both wheels and the frame to something that won’t move but that won’t block access.
> Find secure locations for long term parking
Bike Parking at UW
Bicycles as Part of a Regional System

> Transit
  – Carrying bikes on buses and light rail
  – Station level facilities and programs

> Regional Trails

> Amtrak

> Washington State Ferries

> CarShare Opportunities
Bikes on Buses
Where to ride?

Different facilities for different needs and experiences

> Trails
  – Regional
  – Paved vs Gravel
  – Mountain Bike

> On Street
  – Types of bike facilities
  – Sharrows
  – Bike Lanes
    > Protected vs Buffered

> Sidewalks?
Regional Trails
Rules of the Road and Good Practices

> As a bicyclist, you have all the rights and responsibilities as the operator of any other vehicle, however...
> Riding with traffic
> Trails and Speed Limits
> Helmets
> New Washington Stop Sign law
So get out and ride!

> Adventures abound...
  > Burke Gilman and Sammamish River Trail to Woodinville
  > Lake Washington Loop
  > Bicycle Sundays
  > East King County Trails
  > Washington State Ferries to Bainbridge or the San Juans

> Organized Rides

> Competition
  – Husky Cycling Team
  – Jerry Baker Memorial Velodrome at Marymoor Park
Resources

- UW Transportation Services – Parking
- ASUW Bike Shop
- Seattle Department of Transportation
- King County Metro
- King County Parks
- Sound Transit
- Cascade Bicycle Club
- Washington State Department of Transportation
Questions?