

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

57 Inman Street • Cambridge MA 02139 • 617.349.4604

To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager
From: Cara Seiderman, Environmental Program *CS*
Date: July 20, 1994
Re: Council Order #29, dated 6/20/94
Report on Bicycle Regulations & the Measures of Enforcement

In response to the above referenced order I report the following.

Enforcement Policies in Other Cities

City personnel and/or police officers from the following cities were contacted about enforcement of bicycle regulations: Evanston, Illinois; Eugene, Oregon; Berkeley, California; Palo Alto California; Madison, Wisconsin. We have made inquiries to Bloomington, Indiana and Cambridge, England, but have not yet received a response from staff in those locations. We have also spoken with the Bicycle Coalition of Massachusetts.

The following notes are offered to describe the enforcement experiences of the different cities:

Evanston, Illinois

- City Bicycle Ordinance gives bicyclists the same rights on the road as motorists, and also details safety regulations such as having lights and reflectors for night riding.
- All bicycles in the city are required to be registered with the Police Department.
- Adults (anyone sixteen (16) years of age or older) who commit violations are issued leaflets on bicycle safety and/or citations on regular traffic tickets. The citations carry with them a mandatory court appearance and "a fine in accordance with motor vehicle laws." Judges, however, have not responded well to having bicycle ordinance violators in the courtroom, so police are reluctant to issue citations.
- For juveniles (under sixteen (16) years of age) who commit violations, letters of reprimand are issued to the offender and the parent/guardian, as well as a possible fine.
- A popular program (even with judges) that was said to work very well was a program of civilian monitors, trained by the police, to enforce bicycle riding laws during the summer months. The monitors were given uniforms and bikes and deputized to issue citations to bicyclists who violated the laws. The program was run with the funds of a three year federal grant, and was not continued when the grant expired, though it was successful.
- In the absence of the summer monitor program, and with the reluctance of police officers to issue citations to bicyclists, strict enforcement is applied only in certain areas, such as in getting bicycles off sidewalks in the business districts in which they are prohibited.

I have attached a copy of the Bicycle Ordinance from Evanston.

Madison, Wisconsin

- Madison has fifteen years of experience with a Pedestrian/Bicycle Monitor Program. It operates much like the Evanston program did, with between six (6) and fifteen (15) monitors who are given six weeks of training before the summer enforcement period. It operates out of the Police Department, and the monitors issue warnings and citations to both pedestrians and bicyclists.

Palo Alto, California

- Palo Alto has a Bicycle Ordinance similar to that of Evanston, with the rules and rights of bicycle riding outlined.
- Bicycles have to be registered with the Police Department.
- Police enforce bicycle riding laws, issuing citations on the same form used for motor vehicle violations.
- Juveniles (under eighteen (18) years of age) issued citations are required to attend "Bicycle Traffic School", an eight hour course run by the Fire Department. Offenders who do not show up for the class meet a Juvenile Probation Officer for disciplining.
- The police, when issuing the citations, ask for a name and a phone number from the offender and immediately start an investigation to make sure the offender gave the right information. This process seems to work.
- The Fire Department also teaches bicycle safety in the schools; the course is given to students in 3rd, 5th, and 10th grades in Palo Alto schools.

Berkeley, California

- Berkeley Police enforce bicycle riding laws only sporadically, usually for infractions that occur when police are watching for motorists' violations, like running stop signs and cutting through dividers.

Eugene, Oregon

- Eugene Police also can issue citations for offenders of bicycle riding laws but generally do not do so with the same interest as for motor vehicle offenders.
- City personnel in the Bicycle/Pedestrian Program are encouraging the police to ticket at least the life-threatening infractions, such as wrong-way riding and riding without lights at night.

Recommendations for a Cambridge Bicycle Safety Policy

The Cambridge Bicycle Program, Cambridge Bicycle Committee and Police Department are currently engaged in developing a comprehensive safety education and enforcement plan. This will involve direct community outreach at public events such as the Annual Open House at the Police Department in August, as well as efforts through the media and other communication networks.

I will report with specific details on the recommendations for the plan within a few weeks.

CHAPTER 9

BICYCLES*BICYCLE ORDINANCE
EVANSTON, IL***SECTION:**

- 10-9- 1: Definitions
- 10-9- 2: Registration Required; Issuance
- 10-9- 3: Unregistered Bicycles
- 10-9- 4: Operation
- 10-9- 5: Equipment
- 10-9- 6: Parking
- 10-9- 7: Bicycle Routes
- 10-9- 8: Rental Agencies
- 10-9- 9: Responsibility of Parent
- 10-9-10: Penalties
- 10-9-11: Enforcement

10-9-1: **DEFINITIONS:** The following definitions shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this Chapter:

ADULT	Anyone sixteen (16) years of age or older.
BICYCLE	Every device propelled by human power upon which any person may ride having wheels any two (2) of which are more than sixteen inches (16") in diameter.
JUVENILE	Anyone under the age of sixteen (16) years of age.
ROADWAY	The entire width between the boundary lines of every way publicly maintained when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.

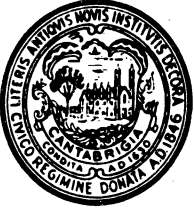
- C) signs prohibiting sidewalk riding are posted. When riding on sidewalks where permitted, such person shall yield the right of way to any pedestrian, shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing such pedestrian, and shall have the bicycle under control at all times.
- (D) The operator of a bicycle shall not suddenly stop, slow down or turn without giving a legal arm signal. A continuous arm signal need not be given if the hand is needed in the control or continuous operation of the bicycle.
- (E) No bicycle shall be operated if its mechanical condition shall impair the safe operation of the bicycle.
- (F) No person shall operate a bicycle at a speed or in a reckless manner such that the safety of others is endangered.
- (G) No bicycle shall be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed and equipped.
- (H) No person operating a bicycle shall carry any package, bundle or article which prevents the use of both hands upon the handlebars or obstructs the operator's vision.
- (I) No person while operating a bicycle shall cling or attach himself or the bicycle to any other moving vehicle or object.
- (J) No bicycles shall be operated on a public roadway so as to obstruct motor vehicle traffic.
- (K) No person shall ride a bicycle on a public roadway or sidewalk while using any device which would impede awareness of auditory or visual warning signals.
- (L) No person shall ride a bicycle on a public roadway or sidewalk in a reckless manner, such as riding on one wheel or performing any other stunts.

10-9-5: EQUIPMENT:

- (A) Every bicycle shall be equipped with a brake or brakes in good working order which will enable the operator to stop the bicycle within twenty five feet (25') from a speed of ten (10) miles per hour on dry, level, clean pavement.

- (C) Offenders may be subject to a fine in accordance with motor vehicle laws, provided that said fines are not less than ten dollars (10.00) and not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each violation.

10-9-11: **ENFORCEMENT:** The Chief of Police and/or his designee has the power and responsibility for the enforcement of bicycle regulations. (Ord. 68-0-92)



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

August 1, 1994

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 26, regarding a report on bicycle regulations and the measures of enforcement, received from Cara Seiderman of the Environmental Program Office.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachment

Consent Agenda # 12 S-362

Response to Awaiting Report Item Number
Twenty-Six regarding a report on bicycle
regulations and the measures of enforce-
ment.

*for original see
1994 City Managers
Requests # 220.*

In City Council,

August 1, 1994

*Placed on file
Referred to the
Bicycle Commission
8/4/94 copy sent to Casa
Sederman (d)*