

BICYCLE PARKING IN RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

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Introduction

Bicycle parking is an important end-of-trip facility for the use of the bicycle. Bicycling is increasingly an attractive alternative mode of transportation as cities continue to grow. Many cities are revising or enacting bicycle parking requirements to increase the supply of bicycle parking in order to further facilitate more bicycle activities. While cities are moving forward with their plans, there is very little research on bicycle parking.

“The conversation about bicycle parking requirement is also a conversation on how we evolve as a city.”

Research Question

How can cities increase the supply of bicycle parking in residential developments?

Methodology

To examine the research question, this study conducted 19 in-depth interviews with 12 developers and 9 planners.

Developers were asked about their perspectives on:

1. Challenges and opportunities of providing bicycle parking in their developments;
2. Relationship between bicycle infrastructure and real-estate development;
3. Value of bicycle parking incentives offered in their cities.

Planners were interviewed on:

1. Challenges and opportunities of implementing bicycle policies;
2. Perceived challenges and opportunities of developers providing bicycle parking in real-estate developments;
3. Effectiveness and compliance of bicycle incentives and policies in their cities.

Findings

Bicycle Parking

- a) It is viewed as an amenity and possible marketing tool instead of a necessary component of a residential development.
- b) Planning for bicycle parking comes later in the process, while planning for auto parking is an important factor early on in the development process.
- d) The decision to put bicycle parking depends heavily on the site and existing context.

Bicycle Parking Ordinances

- a) Planners like it, developers comply with it, but both agree that flexibility is a key factor to a good bicycle parking ordinance.
- b) The effectiveness of bicycle parking ordinances is hard to measure.

Bicycle Parking Incentives- A Closer Look: Reduction of Auto Parking In Exchange For Bicycle Parking

- a) Developers love the concept, but have many reservations.
- b) It needs to be “loud enough” to stand apart from competing incentives.

The Bottom Line (for Developers):

- a) Bicycle parking complements car parking; it doesn't replace it.
- b) Unlike transit infrastructure, bicycle infrastructure plays minimal role in determining the location of new residential development projects.
- c) There are more important factors to consider than access to bicycle paths; transit, walking, and even carsharing take greater precedence.

Recommendations

1. Bundle incentives for more bicycle parking with big ticket rewards such as density bonuses and reduction in Transportation Impact Fees.
2. Pilot programs that provide developers with free bicycle parking racks which may be acquired through grants.
3. Conduct outreach with developers on bicycle parking installation.
4. Create ordinances that allow for flexibility.
5. Start/ continue programs such as Safe Routes to School to educate the public about alternative modes of transportation.
6. Increase funding for bicycle path infrastructure to induce demand.

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