

From: Schimpff, Jeff A - DNR [mailto:Jeff.Schimpff@Wisconsin.gov]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2008 3:32 PM  
To: Traffic  
Cc: Webber, Robbie  
Subject: Project for 2009-2010 Construction Work Program

Hello,

I would like to suggest construction of a public covered bicycle parking area at the State of Wisconsin GEF 2/3 grounds, in partnership with the State of Wisconsin. Existing covered parking protects only about 48 bikes, whereas on many summer days total bike usage exceeds 110 bikes locked to existing covered and uncovered racks. Many existing racks are rusted and/or bent, and some are broken off from their bases. None of the racks are anchored to the ground, which has resulted in some bike damage during an episode of pavement cleaning a few years ago, when a cleaning crew was moving some racks with bikes locked onto them, resulting in frame scratches and other damage.

While such a facility would initially be used largely on weekdays by DNR, DPI and other downtown employees, events and trends in the present and the foreseeable future indicate a covered parking area would be in demand for a much broader range of uses.

As transportation fuel costs increase, new covered parking could also be used as overflow parking for many downtown businesses and events, in the absence of covered parking on the Square. Some of these events where participants and spectators alike would desire covered parking, especially when rain or storms are forecast, include Saturday Farmers' Market; Art Fair on the Square; Madison Marathon; Madison Ironman; the Holiday Parade; Cinco de Mayo; and others.

Periodic counts of existing bike use reveal that average daily bike commuting to the GEF 2/3 complex has increased from approximately 84 bikes per day, to about 114 bikes per day, with a peak count of 128 bikes in the summer of 2007.

DNR bike commuters are surveying employees as part of Bike to Work Week, and preliminary results indicate that a large majority of bike commuters see a need for additional covered parking, and for some type of improvement in the nature of racks provided.

From my experience and that of others I have talked to who have been to Europe, the type of covered bike parking often found there at train stations and other locations would be well received. The City of Chicago is reportedly making improvements to covered parking, and perhaps their experience could help Madison adopt the best solutions to meet this need.

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