

NMSU Bicycle Safety Subcommittee CHARTER
of the
NMSU Safety Committee
Adopted at March 4, 2011 BSS committee meeting

Commuting by bicycle offers individual benefits to students, faculty and staff. Cycling improves health, saves money, and offers convenient parking.

For NMSU, increased bicycle transportation to and on campus is a simple, sustainable way to reduce campus congestion (and resolve parking problems), lessen our impact on the environment, and support the health and well being of Aggie students, faculty and staff.

Committee Participation

Participation on the NMSU Bicycle Safety Subcommittee is open to anyone interested. The subcommittee reports to the NMSU Safety Committee.

Goal

The purpose of the NMSU Bicycle Safety Subcommittee is to promote and support safer bicycle transportation to campus and on campus. The committee will explore and engage in activities designed to improve safety, convenience, and security, and to encourage an increase in the number of students, faculty and staff using a bicycle as transportation to campus and on campus. Objectives are compliant with the League of American Bicyclists criteria for becoming a Bicycle Friendly University and/or as a contribution toward sustainability efforts at NMSU.

Objective One: Research and recommend policy that improves the **safety** of bicycle commuting; increase, coordinate and support ongoing activities to increase the **safety** of all road users, including pedestrians). Subcommittee work may include activities such as:

- Establish baseline data from which improvements can be measured. Identify data collected and source. Compile a "report card" using the Bicycle Friendly University application as a guide.
- Recommend the adoption of Complete Streets policy for campus facilities. Evaluate the campus master plan for in-road bicycle facilities on appropriate campus roadways; recommend implementation as roadway improvements are funded and scheduled for completion.
- Research use of AASHTO and MUTCD standards by university engineers and planners.
- Research pedestrian/cyclist safety by assessing shared sidewalks/pathways within campus; recommend policy.
- Articulate all current policy and regulations pertaining to bicycle travel in one document for posting on an appropriate NMSU webpage.
- Offer traffic skills training to cyclists, at an affordable cost, three times each year.
- Provide safety education tips on NMSU webpage and sponsor a bicycle commuting promotion activity emphasizing safety at the beginning of the Fall and Spring semesters (in conjunction with other campus activity).
- Offer online route finding service to assist new commuters.

Objective Two: Research and recommend campus facilities improvements that are **convenient** to encourage, not discourage, bicycle commuting. Subcommittee work may include activities such as:

- Explore the feasibility of offering free access to showers in Activity Center for anyone who commutes by bicycle (i.e. AggieFit membership not needed).
- Advocate for policy that new campus buildings and building undergoing full renovation include shower facilities for faculty and staff (LEED certification standards).
- Provide sufficient, well-placed bicycle racks (preferably in sheltered accessible locations).
- Offer free/low cost use of NMSU Bike Shop (located in Activity Center) for emergency bicycle repairs.
- Explore the feasibility of offering Guaranteed Emergency Ride Home program.¹

¹ The Guaranteed Emergency Ride Home (GERH) program is a service that assures a ride home to anyone who commutes by bike (or walks to campus). Many individuals, who would otherwise bike to work, drive vehicles "just in case" their children or other dependent needs them during the workday. The GERH program assures the bicycle commuter a quick ride home in the event of a personal, family or household emergency.

- Explore the feasibility of offering bicycle commuters the option of three free single-day, single-use parking permits per semester for days when a vehicle is needed during the workday.
- Include bicycle routes on campus wayfinding signage.

Objective Three: Research and recommend **security** measures to increase the security of bicyclists and their bicycles. Subcommittee work may include activities such as:

- Promote NMSU's bicycle registration process; develop and propose a process for estimating the number of bicycle commuters.
- Assure bicycle storage/rack placement is both convenient to commuters and a deterrent to theft. Explore the feasibility of "how to lock your bike" signage at high-use racks. Research and recommend bicycle locker placement at transit stops and other locations for rental by commuters.
- Place bicycle storage and proper locking tips on appropriate NMSU webpage.

Objective Four: Encourage, support and actively promote bicycling to campus and on campus. Subcommittee work may include activities such as:

- Coordinate and support the interdepartmental application to the League of American Bicyclists to achieve Bicycle Friendly status.
- Dedicate resource web pages to bicycle commuting to include:
 - Links to New Mexico bicycle law
 - Link to NMSU bicycle regulations and registration
 - Links to local bicycle groups and clubs
 - Link to the Mesilla Valley Bicycle Suitability Map
 - Safety education materials and class registration
 - Commuter tips
 - Event and activity calendar
 - Bicycle theft reporting procedures.
- Map and publish map of bicycle parking areas and recommended routes through campus.
- Actively promote bicycle commuting by sponsoring:
 - Informational/educational materials for incoming students
 - Offer incentives for completing traffic skills class (helmet and bike lock)
 - Include bicycle commuting (as well as walking) in sustainability plans
 - Publicize improvements in safety and facilities through University Communications
 - Sponsor a special event for bicycle commuters in conjunction with National Bike to Work Day.
- Research and propose low-cost incentive package for students, faculty and staff who choose to commute by bicycle, such as:
 - three free single-day, single-use parking permits
 - free AggieFit membership (free access to showers as a minimum)
 - Guaranteed Emergency Ride Home program
 - Earned incentives (gift certificates for bicycles, bicycle gear, groceries by drawing of registered riders).
- Research and recommend a bicycle commuter friendly policy regarding impounded abandoned bicycles.