

# Bike to Vanderbilt

Hello **Bike Commuters!**

It is July and things are hot!

Not much is going on around campus as far as biking is concerned. Have you heard of anything?

## Call to Arms!

I was recently on the League of American Bicyclists very nice new [website](#) and I found myself on the Tennessee page.

There they list:

**#17: State Rank** (I can't believe we are the 17<sup>th</sup> best state for biking in the country, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the south after VA.)

**3: Bicycle Friendly Communities** (Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga, all bronze level)

**1: Bicycle Friendly University** Huh? It took a few clicks to find out what it is: Lincoln Memorial University! Vanderbilt should have this designation as well. I started looking at (and filling out) the application and I think we need a Bike/Ped Coordinator to... coordinate the effort. **Do you think we are a bike friendly campus?** I think so, but we could do so much more!

## Bike Parking

A recent scene between MRB IV and the VA:



That is a candidate for some high quality bike parking! When I say high quality, I mean: Easy in, easy out, don't scratch your bike, don't scratch others' bikes, secure, protected from rain...

## Reading/Watching

I saw this cool indiegogo crowd funding project of a [solar powered bike light](#) called the Rydon Pixeo – set it and forget it!

## Editorial: Why Vanderbilt needs a Bike-Ped Coordinator

Vanderbilt has a big opportunity in the area of bicycle and pedestrian activities. A large number of people bike and walk to campus. And even more live within 3-4 miles of campus, within a walkable or bikeable distance. The experience could be a lot better.

## For Walking:

In December of 2010 Professor Malcolm Getz [was hit by a car](#) across from the Mellow Mushroom. There was no one to coordinate an effort to make walking better. Several people at Vanderbilt took it upon themselves to make certain crosswalks safer with blinking lights and clear signs, but it took a long time and there is nobody to follow up, track progress, or identify newer problems that come up, such as other dangerous intersections that could be improved.

## For Biking:

The issues I commonly hear brought up that would benefit from a bike coordinator are:

- Education – There are many people who would consider biking to campus if they knew more about how to bike to campus.
- Events – A bike coordinator could arrange events like bike to work breakfasts and events during bike to work day and bike month that would raise awareness and interest.
- Infrastructure – A Bike coordinator could work with Buildings and Grounds, University

**2013 July**

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Planning and Traffic and Parking to make bike commuting easier.

- Financial: Vanderbilt heavily subsidizes car commuters. The average car parking permit is less than the average cost for building and maintaining car parking spaces. An example: the most expensive car parking permit is \$75 per month. The most recent garage (across from Blair School of Music) cost \$42 million for 1,300 spaces, or \$30,000 per space. A bike coordinator could save the University money by helping switch more people from a subsidized commute (driving) to an unsubsidized commute (biking). This is no chump change. The medical center alone pays out \$10 million more than they take in each year.
- Health – A bike coordinator could work with the great folks at Health Plus like Brad Awalt to promote the health benefits of biking, saving the University health care costs and improving the health of people who switch to bike commuting.
- Status – To keep up with progressive universities like Stanford, we should follow their lead in building, supporting and maintaining bike infrastructure. Stanford has over 12,000 bike parking spaces on campus!
  - **What do you think about having a Bike Coordinator on campus?**
  - **Who would support it?**
  - **Who could convince Chancellor Zeppos to appoint such a person?**

## Nashville Mayor's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

I am on this committee and would love to take any issues that you would like addressed to the Metro level. You can [email](#) me or post it at the [Google Group](#).

If you want to reply to anything in this newsletter:

- Please post a comment on our [google group](#) or [Email me](#)

## What else is on your mind?

Send me the names of any people that you know who are interested in bike issue at Vanderbilt.

And let me know what **you** are thinking about regarding biking to Vanderbilt.

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