



MEMORANDUM

To: Transportation Commission
From: Andreas Piller, Assistant Planner, Transportation Department
Date: February 05, 2015
Subject: Downtown Bicycle Parking

INTRODUCTION

On February 12, 2015, staff will review with the Transportation Commission the Downtown bicycle parking installation and maintenance component of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Improvements Program. This discussion is for informational purposes in advance of the installation of new bicycle racks planned for the first quarter of 2015. No action is requested of the Commission.

BACKGROUND

Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan includes numerous policies relating to the provision of facilities that accommodate non-motorized travel. Some examples of such policies include:

- *Transportation Element: TR-76: Promote and facilitate the effective use of non-motorized transportation.*
- *Urban Design Element: UD-40: Ensure that sidewalks, walkways, and trails are furnished, where needed and appropriate, with lighting, seating, landscaping, street trees, trash receptacles, public art, bike racks, railings, handicap access, newspaper boxes, etc., without interfering with pedestrian circulation.*

In accordance with such policies, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Improvements Program (CIP-PW-W/B-56) is used to design and construct small projects that implement the [Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan](#)—typically projects that are too small to otherwise compete for funding in the CIP. Improvements funded by this program include, among other things, sidewalks, trails, lane markings, wayfinding signs, and bicycle parking. In small yet significant ways, these enhance access to and circulation within neighborhoods and commercial and employment centers and support non-motorized mobility throughout the city.

Existing Bicycle Parking

As part of W/B-56, the Transportation Department installs and maintains bicycle racks in the public right-of-way in Downtown. There are currently 100 bicycle racks installed along and adjacent to sidewalks, of which 66 are maintained by the Transportation Department, 11 are maintained by other public agencies, and 19 are privately maintained. See Attachment A for a map depicting the location of these publicly and privately maintained bicycle racks in Downtown.¹

Based on the types of bicycle racks installed at these locations, the total streetside bike parking capacity in Downtown is estimated to be about 360 bicycles, of which 228 spaces are provided by

¹ Appendix A also depicts buildings that offer secure bicycle parking and indicates whether it is accessible to the general public or to tenants only.



the Transportation Department. There are currently three types of City-maintained bicycle racks installed along public right-of-way. The most common is the high rail (48 racks) followed by the bike circle (17 racks), and one of the three coffee cup racks installed in 2009 also remains in place today.

Guidelines for New Installations and Replacements

All racks installed and maintained by the City conform to the [Bicycle Parking Guidelines](#) (2002) established by the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP). These guidelines specify that bike racks should (i) support the bicycle frame in at least two places, (ii) prevent the wheel from tipping over, (iii) enable the frame and one or both wheels to be secured with a standard U-lock, (iv) be placed at least 30 inches from adjacent racks to permit easy access without reducing parking capacity, and (v) be well anchored to ensure that racks cannot be easily removed.

The Transportation Department's bike rack installation guidelines provide additional guidance about the appropriate location and placement of bike racks in Downtown Bellevue. Bicycle racks should be located near entrances to short-term destinations like civic services, retail businesses, cafes, and residential buildings. Racks should be placed to align with other sidewalk features (e.g. benches, trees, lamp posts) without interfering with other sidewalk uses and without creating a hazard by being too close to the curb. Additionally, bike racks should not be installed where driveways and parking lots exist between the location under consideration and the intended destination being served.

New bicycle rack locations are typically determined by Transportation Department staff based on the identification of popular uses that lack proximate short-term bicycle parking, sometimes indicated by the sight of bicycles commonly being locked to trees, sign posts, or other street furniture at a given location. As published in the October 2014 issue of Bellevue's [It's Your City](#) newsletter, racks are also installed free of charge at the request of businesses, residents, and bicyclists where not precluded by the installation guidelines.

DOWNTOWN BICYCLE PARKING PROGRAM 2014–2017

In 2014, the Transportation Department signed a contract with a new vendor, Urban Racks, for the manufacture, installation, and maintenance of Downtown bicycle racks through 2017 using a small portion of the overall W/B-56 funding. This contract will facilitate the fabrication and installation of approximately 36 custom Inverted U style racks at new locations and as replacements for damaged racks (see Attachment B²). This new style combines some of the best features of the high rail and bike circle racks already installed throughout Downtown, including a compact design, the accommodation of multiple locked bicycles simultaneously, appealing aesthetics, and—for the first time—the incorporation of local branding into the rack element.

2015 Planned Bike Rack Installations

² Note that the new Inverted U racks, although pictured in blue in Attachment B, will actually be finished in a black powder coat.



Transportation Department staff completed a survey of the Downtown sidewalk environment in November 2014 and developed a preliminary list of roughly thirty potential locations for new bicycle racks to be installed. An order was placed with Urban Racks in December 2014 for twenty custom Inverted U style racks, which are anticipated to be delivered and installed between February and March of 2015. The preliminary list of potential new rack locations is presently being refined, and staff will provide the Commission with a map of proposed locations at its February 12 meeting.

Guidelines Update

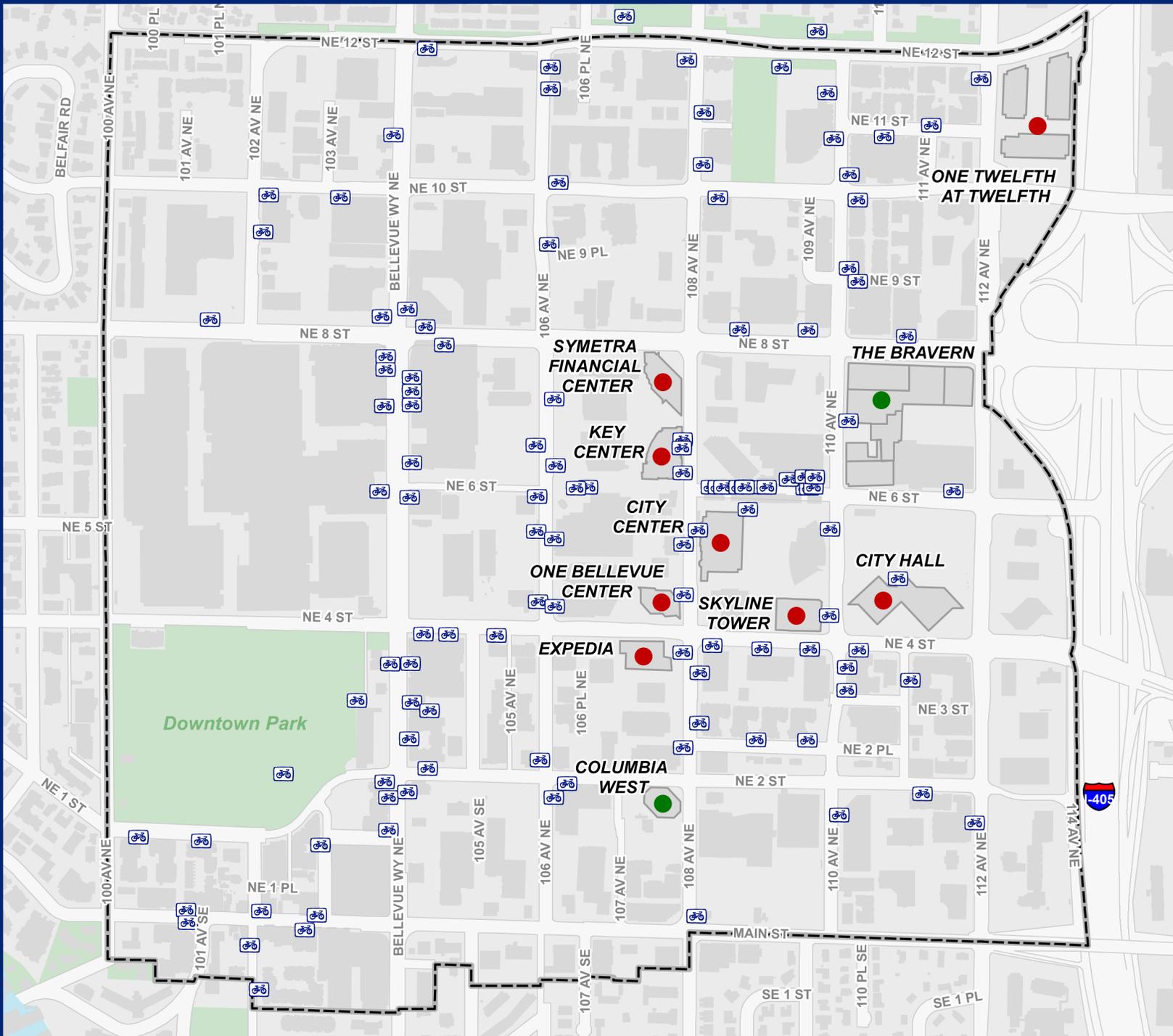
Finally, Bellevue's Downtown bicycle parking installation guidelines will be updated in 2015 to reflect the specifications of the new custom Inverted U style racks, and references to old styles of bike racks that are no longer in use or no longer being installed will be removed or amended, respectively. To the extent that the manufacturer's recommended placement guidelines vary from those in Bellevue's guidelines, staff will coordinate with Urban Racks to determine the appropriate course of action for the Downtown Bellevue context.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Downtown Bellevue Bicycle Parking and Amenities

Attachment B: Urban Racks Inverted U with Bellevue Bike Logo

Downtown Bellevue Bicycle Parking and Amenities



Legend

- Garage bike parking—publically accessible
- Garage bike parking—tenants only
- Public outdoor bike racks
- City Parks
- Downtown Boundary

0 250 500 1,000
Feet



Source: City of Bellevue

Click on building name for more information.

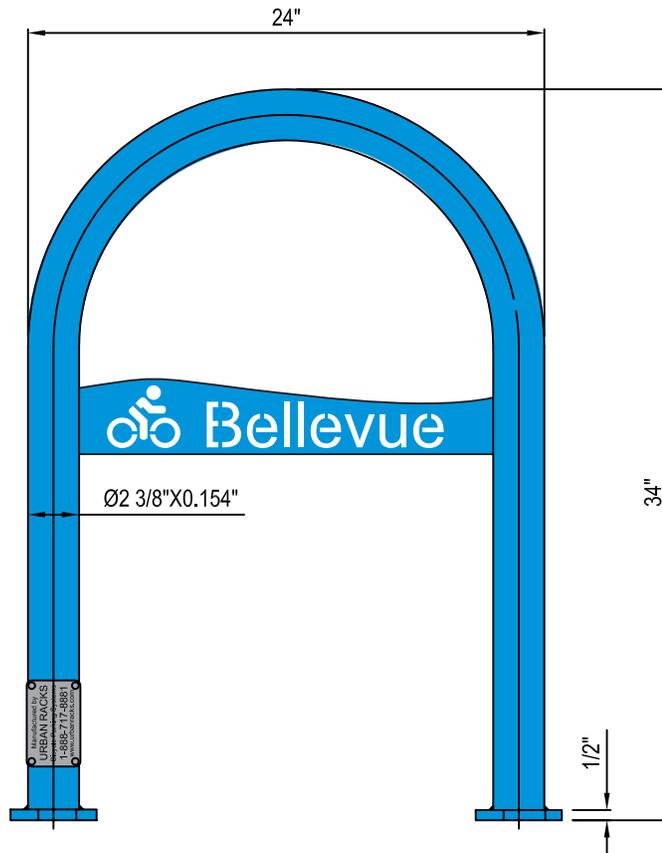
If your building is not represented and you would like it to be, or if there are changes you wish to make to the information identified here, please call 425-453-0644.

Map updated December 2013



URBAN RACKS

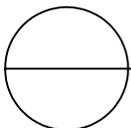
INNOVATIVE | BICYCLE PARKING



FRONT VIEW

NOTES:

1. INSTALLATION TO BE COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH MANUFACTURER'S SPECIFICATIONS.
2. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE CONSIDERED TRUE AND REFLECT MANUFACTURER'S SPECIFICATIONS.
3. DO NOT SCALE DRAWING.
4. THESE DRAWINGS ARE NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES AND ARE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY. ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN WAS CURRENT AT THE TIME OF DEVELOPMENT BUT MUST BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE PRODUCT MANUFACTURER TO BE CONSIDERED ACCURATE.



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INVERTED U WITH WATER JETTED LOGO, SURFACE MOUNT, POWDER COATED