

BRING YOUR DREAMS.



Brookings Bicycle Advisory Committee

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DATE: December 4th, 2015
MEMO: December 8th City Council Report
FROM: Brookings Bicycle Advisory Committee

Role/Purpose:

The role of the Brookings Bicycle Advisory Committee (BBAC) is to advise the City Council, City Manager, and City Boards on bicycling-related issues; help advance the state of bicycle infrastructure; encourage bicycling for transportation and recreation; public education and awareness; improve safety and compliance with traffic laws; assist the City with bicycle plans; review and suggest legislative and policy changes; recommend priorities for use of the public funds on bicycle projects; and help ensure Brookings retains and enhances its status as a bike friendly community.

The BBAC is to review and make recommendations on capital improvement projects developed by the City departments and outside agencies to ensure that adequate consideration is given to bicycles.

Considerations:

- Would the committee recommend one-way streets with bicycle lanes on 5th & 7th streets?
- What can be done to make 6th Street more Bicycle Friendly?

Recommendation #1:

The BBAC recommends the City Council not consider changing 5th & 7th Street, to one-way streets with accompanying bicycle lanes.

Purpose of Recommendation #1:

The BBAC identified 6th Street as a barrier between the community and the South Dakota State University campus. The implementation of one way streets on 5th and 7th Street would not solve any current issues to:

- Keep 6th Street in its current form and its difficult crossing access points,
- Create a situation where bicycles would have to cross 6th Street in order to travel the appropriate bike lane depending on east/west direction. This could create an unnecessary crossing of 6th Street.

Recommendation #2:

The BBAC recommends that the City Council consider adopting the following standard, with immediate focus for 6th Street and future considerations for 22nd Avenue and Main Avenue South:

Major Arterial - All major arterial streets in the city of Brookings should include protected bike lanes at a minimum of 4' wide.

Protected Bike Lane - A bicycle lane that is physically separated from motor vehicle traffic by a permanent barrier.

Purpose of Recommendation #2:

The BBAC feels strongly that it should create a culture which encourages bicyclists' use of 6th street and other major arterials. Creating bicycle lanes on 6th Street greatly enhances the greater Brookings Bicycle Network. Additionally, adding protected lanes to major arterials would greatly increase the percentage of arterial streets with bike lanes and the total bicycle

network mileage to total road network mileage. Both categories need strong improvements and consideration as we strive for a Silver Bicycle Friendly Community Designation from the League of American Bicyclists.

Furthermore, creating protected bicycle lanes on 6th Street would promote ridership. This is the most critical metric as we strive for a Silver Bicycle Friendly Community Designation from the League of American Bicyclists. The figure at left shows how bike traffic changed after one year with a protected lane. The results are staggering. This infographic was developed from data contained in a report from the National Institute for Transportation and Communities - [Lessons from the Green Lanes: Evaluating Protected Bike Lanes in the U.S.](#)

Conclusion:

We recommend the City Council adopt these recommendations. We believe that 6th Street, if it included protected bicycle lanes, would not need to be placed on a road diet and could remain as a five-lane road.

