

**RE: 16th Street Mall Ordinance Change: Bicycles on Saturdays
Data and Stakeholder Review**

DATE: 3-20-15

Current Conditions

City ordinance currently allows bicycling on the 16th Street Mall (Mall) on Sundays. The ordinance change would allow for bikes on the mall on Saturdays, too.

Reason for the Ordinance Change

- Expand mobility options for residents and visitors travelling downtown on the weekends to live, work, and play
- Support efforts to activate and create a vibrant downtown and 16th Street Mall
- Forward the vision of providing multi-modal transportation options in Denver

Data Collection

- Data was collected on the 1) number of buses per hour, 2) times/circumstances other users are allowed on the mall 3) the number of pedestrians, and 4) number of crashes
- Operating conditions of mall users on Saturday are the same as Sunday. This includes mall shuttle frequency and permitted hours of horse-drawn carriages and pedicabs.
- There are approximately 100 more pedestrians per hour on the mall on Saturday as compared to Sunday.
- Between 2009-2013, there were 12 pedestrian crashes involving RTD shuttle buses on the 16th St Mall (mostly occurring mid-block). In the same time period, 5 crashes involving RTD shuttle buses and bikes on 16th St Mall (2 of these 5 crashes were pedicabs).

Stakeholder Comment

- Public Works completed stakeholder outreach to downtown residents organizations, downtown business interests, bicycle advocacy groups, and partner agencies, such as RTD and the Denver Police Department. Majority of respondents expressed approval for allowing bicycles on the 16th Street Mall on Saturdays.
- Accompanying recommendations were submitted for improved signage, an education program, and bicycle parking.
- RTD requested limiting bicycle use on Saturday and Sunday to 8am-6pm.
- Downtown residents expressed concerns regarding the interaction of bicycles with the elderly population and competing for space on the Mall.
- Other concerns generally focused on bicycle behavior.

Response to Comment

- New signage will include regulatory signs that are picture-based to be understood by multiple languages. Signs will be placed above the side-mounted signal at Mall intersections where the cross street has a bicycle lane. This will be within a bicyclist field of vision and reduce sign clutter in the Mall area. Total 10-12 signs.
- Denver Police Department will continue to perform enforcement operations 7-days a week.
- Outreach and communication about the ordinance change will include a press event and education campaign. Front line Mall staff—downtown ambassadors—will inform Mall users about when bicycles may/may not ride in the Mall transitway.
- Bicycle parking on the Mall is restricted because of limited space, high pedestrian use in the sidewalk zone and constructability concerns regarding the granite pavers. There is currently 109 bicycle racks within ½ a block of the Mall on adjacent cross-streets. Public Works is developing a program to provide additional bicycle parking.
- Limiting hours from 8-6 pm presents communication and enforcement challenges. Denver Police Department has not experienced issues with cycling while intoxicated in the evening hours.
- Related to concerns expressed by the aging community, bicycle travel is confined within the transit lanes and will be prohibited from the sidewalk/pedestrian zone areas of the Mall. Speed of bicycles is slower than the Mall shuttle.
- The City is currently working on a Bicycle Safety Action plan which will result in framework for a coordinated educational program with partner agencies and community groups.