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Bicyclists, city plan more bike lanes

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Cincinnati's bicyclists hope to pack City Council chambers Tuesday night to support the city's bicycle plan, which envisions 445 miles of designated bike lanes, routes and paths.

Via blogs and Web sites, those who ride to work and for fun across the region are urging everyone they know to go - and ride their bikes, if possible - to council's Livable Communities Committee meeting to be heard. Some are riding together from Northside.

Working on the plan for 10 months, city officials hope to increase the number of people who ride by making it easier for them to get around on two wheels. They've gotten help from the pro-cycling group Queen City Bike, as well as from many riders. Michael Moore, the city's interim director of Transportation and Engineering, has said he hopes the plan and resulting changes will make average Cincinnatians feel as safe riding their bikes as they do driving their cars.

The cost estimate: \$1 million a year for each of the next 15 years.

"The important thing is that there's a direction we want to go, that the city's thinking about it," said Gary Wright, president of Queen City Bike. "We want people to know that anyone can ride. You don't have to have an \$8,000 bike and wear funny clothes."

In the proposed plan:

Changes to more than 280 miles of city streets, from just adding striping or painted bike lanes to "lane diets," meaning narrowing some lanes to come up with enough space for bike lanes;

Removing street parking in some places to make room for bikes, though city planners suggest more study of this, given the importance of available parking to neighborhood businesses;

Repairing sidewalks to be used by bikes in places where making the street usable is more difficult.

Additional Facts

To weigh in

City Council's Livable Communities Committee holds a public hearing Tuesday, 6 p.m. at City Hall, 801 Plum St., to hear opinions about the city's proposed bicycle plan. Find out more:

Read the plan: <http://tinyurl.com/25pz3uy>.

<http://queencitybike.blogspot.com/>