

MOUNTAIN-PLAINS CONSORTIUM

RESEARCH BRIEF | MPC 19-393 (project 473) | October 2019

Rural Bicycle Design Guide for Wyoming



the **ISSUE**

In 2015, a Wyoming Bicycle Facility Design survey found that 37% of Wyoming counties and municipalities increased their level of emphasis on bicycle facilities over the last five years. The survey also found that many municipality and county master plans typically included bicycle facilities. Common challenges encountered when developing bicycle facilities in rural areas include the lack of funding, lack of public support, lack of agency support, lack of applicable design guides for rural communities, and the lack of local design expertise. The Wyoming Bicycle Facility Design Survey revealed that the lack of funding is the most prevalent challenge related to bicycle design, and that all the above challenges are present.

the **RESEARCH**

This report summarizes the common challenges found in rural communities including the need to articulate the benefits of providing bicycle facilities, differing levels of safety, less data availability to use in the design process, and significant funding challenges for all roadway project. The project is founded on the results from a comprehensive survey of rural communities to identify the most pressing challenges and the practitioners needs for improved guidance in designing bicycle facilities. Based on these results, the standard, national-level bicycle design guides were summarized and adapted for the unique challenges and typical situations facing rural communities.



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North Dakota State University
South Dakota State University

University of Colorado Denver
University of Denver
University of Utah

Utah State University
University of Wyoming



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Project Title

Bicycle and Pedestrian Design
for Rural Communities

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the FINDINGS

The survey results indicate that many Wyoming agencies have an interest in increasing the level of emphasis their agency puts on the accommodation for bicycle facilities. Similarly, many agencies are also satisfied with the current level of emphasis that is put on bicycle facility accommodation. It was found that the main challenge Wyoming agencies face regarding the implementation of bicycle facilities is a lack of funding. A majority of surveys indicated that their agency has not changed their level of accommodation for bicycle facilities in the last five years.

Most municipalities and counties in Wyoming were found to not have any local bicycle design guidelines. For the areas that did have local bicycle design guidelines, these guidelines were most commonly found in the form of a master plan.

the IMPACT

This project provides additional professional capacity in the state for bicycle design best practices and increases awareness of the challenges and benefits of bicycle design among graduating civil engineering students from the University of Wyoming.

For more information on this project, download the entire report at <https://www.ugpti.org/resources/reports/details.php?id=971>

For more information or additional copies, visit the Web site at www.mountain-plains.org, call (701) 231-7767 or write to Mountain-Plains Consortium, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, North Dakota State University, Dept. 2880, PO Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58108-6050.



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