

Safety Check

From the Safety Chick

How Bikeable Is Your Community?

Based on the number of miles club members ride in our community, it would seem that we do have a “bikeable” community. Could it improve? The U. S. Department of Transportation has an easy test to determine what needs to improve and suggestions on how to get the improvements started. On their website www.nhtsa.dot.gov you will find the “Bikeability Checklist.” Take a ride, answer a few questions, determine the rating and read the suggestions to improve the community’s score.

Questions include:

- Did you have a place to bicycle safely?
- How was the surface that you rode on?
- How were the intersections you rode through?
- Did drivers behave well?
- What did you do to make your ride safer?

Improvement ideas include:

- Work with the local community and public works departments
- Talk to trail managers or agencies
- Set an example to auto drivers by riding responsibly
- Join a local bicycle advocacy group
(League of Illinois Bicyclists, Chicagoland Bike Federation)

Here are some other websites that are interested in improving “bikeability.”

Organization	Website
League of American Bicyclists	www.bikeleague.org
Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Organization	www.bicyclinginfo.org
Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (Charlottesville, VA)	www.tjpc.org/transportation/bikeWalk.asp