Biking for All: Eliminating Barriers to Bicycling
Field Session FS015
Friday, November 15, 12:00PM - 4:00PM

How can designers make bicycling a universally viable form of transportation? This session looks at how landscape architects break down the barriers to bicycling through infrastructure, design, and policy. It addresses how a bike-share system can be a key component of an equitable transportation infrastructure.

Presenters:
Amy Linné, Assoc. ASLA, Hargreaves Associates
Shannon Simms, Assoc. ASLA, Alta Planning + Design
Jessica Robertson, Metropolitan Area Planning Council
Najah Shakir, City of Boston

Tour Assistants:
David Borden
Ruth Siegel

Itinerary:
12:00 PM  Field session lecture, Boston Convention and Exhibition Center
1:00 PM  Move outside to the Hubway bike share station in front of the Convention Center for an overview of the station features (kiosk, solar panels) and the bikes (three gears, upright position). Distribute Urban Adventours rental bikes, helmets and locks.
1:30 PM  Depart for City Hall on bikes, viewing sites along the way, such as:
- Atlantic Avenue bike lanes / bike boxes
- Rose Kennedy Greenway
2:00 PM  Arrive at Boston City Hall and lock bikes. Presentations at City Hall Plaza:
- Najah Shakir, City of Boston’s Bicycling Program, will talk about the community programs designed to create a safe and equitable environment for bicycling in Boston
- Jessica Robertson, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), will talk about the MAPC’s role in bringing bike share to Boston and other work MAPC is doing around equitable access to bike facilities.
2:45 PM  Access bikes
3:00 PM  Tour of additional bike share stations and bike facilities
- Esplanade Hubway station - example of direct access to Charles River path system
- Commonwealth Avenue - left-side bike lane/bike boxes
- Boston Public Library Hubway station - busiest bike share station
- South Station Hubway station- example of a large, commuter-oriented bike share station

Learning Objectives:
- Examine the barriers that prevent people from bicycling for transportation
- Learn about successful encouragement programs and street designs that target these barriers
- Gain an understanding of bike share systems and the process of developing a system at both urban and site scales
- Discover the various initiatives Boston is taking to become a world-class bicycling city
Speaker Bios:

Amy Linné, Associate ASLA. Amy is currently a designer at Hargreaves Associates; prior to this position, she was a designer at Alta Planning + Design where she worked on site and system planning for Boston’s Hubway Bike Share, as well as a bike share system in Pittsburgh and bicycle/pedestrian master plans. Prior to becoming a landscape architect, she worked at an education-focused non-profit in Dorchester, one of Boston’s most diverse neighborhoods. She has an MLA from the Harvard Graduate School of Design and is an active member of the Boston Society of Landscape Architects Emerging Professionals Committee and the Cambridge Bicycle Committee.

Shannon Simms, Associate ASLA. Shannon is a Designer at Alta Planning + Design. She has been an avid cyclist in Boston for over 10 years, and has been working in the bicycle and pedestrian field for the past seven years. Her experience at Alta includes planning for Boston’s Hubway and New York City’s Citibike bike share systems, as well as feasibility studies in communities throughout the Northeast. She has an MLA from the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

Jessica Robertson is Transportation Coordinator at the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. In addition to her work on transportation finance and bicycle/pedestrian issues, Jessica manages the regional implementation of the Hubway bike share program, a partnership between the cities of Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, the Town of Brookline and Alta Bicycle Share.

Najah Shakir is Program Manager with the City of Boston’s Bicycling Program. She coordinates programs for youth and adults, distributing bikes, helmets and subsidized Hubway memberships to low-income residents, as well as educating cyclists and potential cyclists on safe riding.

Hubway Station Diagram:
Sources:

City of Boston, Boston Bike Network Plan, Fall 2013.