

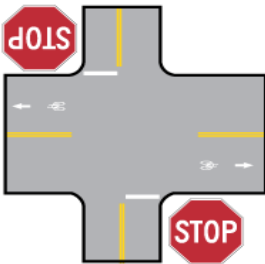
Cycling in Saskatoon

As the population of Saskatoon grows so does the amount of traffic. Rising gas prices add to the need to encourage different ways to travel that are efficient, cost effective, and environmentally friendly. The popularity of cycling in our city has grown for all of these reasons. It is our goal to provide safe and user friendly cycling networks for all.

What is a bike boulevard?

A bike boulevard is a street or series of streets that gives priority to cyclists while local access for maintaining motor vehicles. A bike boulevard improves safety for cyclists and reduces the need for cyclists to travel on high-traffic roadways.

Bike boulevards are typically designated on routes with low motor vehicle traffic volumes, and are designed to discourage short-cutting motor vehicle traffic. A bike boulevard is intended to improve cyclist comfort and safety by allowing free-flow travel for bikes by arranging stop and yield signs to provide as much continuous travel for cyclists as possible. Traffic calming will be provided where necessary through a variety of measures. Traffic control measures are also provided to help cyclists cross major roadways.



Stop signs to encourage free-flow travel for cyclists.



Curb extensions and median islands.



High visibility shared crosswalk.

The boulevard will have a distinctive look so that cyclists are aware of the bike boulevard and motorists are alerted that the street is a priority route for bicyclists. Signage and pavement markings such as street signs, wayfinding signs, warning signs, and sharrows will provide destination and distance information and will warn users about upcoming changes in the roadway or route as needed.



Street sign with wayfinding information.



Sharrow pavement marking.



Warning sign.

Why does Saskatoon need a bike boulevard?

Through Saskatoon Speaks, residents told us that the community values the ability to move around the city easily. They also said that the community values the natural environment and feel that a priority should be given to supporting other ways to move around, like transit use, cycling and walking. Providing active transportation networks to encourage walking, cycling and social interaction are also important to maintaining a high quality of life in our city.

City Council has directed administration to work towards developing an integrated transportation network that is friendly and useful to vehicles, buses, bikes and pedestrians. In December 2011, City Council approved the funding for Saskatoon’s first “Bike Boulevard”, which will add to the growing cycling network throughout our city.

Where will the bike boulevard be located?

The bike boulevard is part of a 6.9km continuous bikeway, connecting the Central Business District (downtown area), and will lead cyclists west to the Blairmore Suburban Centre.

The bikeway consists of two portions:

- A bike boulevard along 23rd Street from Idylwyld Drive to Vancouver Avenue, and
- A multi-use pathway along 22nd Street connecting Vancouver Avenue to Dalmeny Road

Popular destinations that may be easily accessed from the bikeway are the Shaw Center, Mayfair Pool, St. Paul’s Hospital, parks, schools, shopping malls, and a number of attractions in the downtown area.

Who will use the bike boulevard?

Cyclists of all ages and all skills levels will be able to use the bike boulevard. Motor vehicles are not restricted on the bike boulevard, but are discouraged because it’s a route where cyclists are given priority. This may appeal to inexperienced and younger cyclists who would not otherwise be willing to cycle with motor vehicle traffic.

When will the bike boulevard and bikeway be complete?

The entire bikeway (bike boulevard and multi-use pathway) will be constructed this year (2012).

How much will the bikeway cost to implement?

The entire bikeway will cost approximately \$250,000 and consists of constructing a multi-use pathway from Confederation Drive to Diefenbaker Drive, installing traffic calming devices where needed, such as curb extensions and median islands, and installing signage and pavement markings along the entire route.

A diagram of the bikeway is available on the city’s website at the address listed below.

For more information contact:

Justine Nyen, Traffic Engineer, City of Saskatoon

Ph: 975-2454, Email: justine.nyen@saskatoon.ca

Or visit www.saskatoon.ca and look under “C” for “Cycling” in the alphabetical listing