Trail Traffic on Chicago's Lakefront Trail

presented by MARISSA DOLIN, ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE on 06.07.2013

Project partners: Friends of the Parks, Chicago Area Runners Association (CARA)
Answering the Big Questions

• What’s the big deal about Chicago’s Lakefront Trail?
• How do USERS perceive the Lakefront Trail?
WHAT’S THE BIG DEAL?
Chicago’s Lakefront Trail

- 18.5 miles long
- 52 access points
Chicago’s Lakefront Trail

• 18.5 miles long
• 52 access points
• ALL modes of non-motorized travel
  – 70% foot traffic
    • (2.5-10 mph)
  – 30% bike traffic
    • (10-20+ mph)
Chicago’s Lakefront Trail

• 18.5 miles long
• 52 access points
• ALL modes of non-motorized travel
• 70,000+ visitors/day
• 30,000 ADT
70,000 visitors
Lakefront Protection Ordinance

• Devoted only to public purposes
• Continuous pedestrian movement along the shoreline
• Pedestrian access to the lake and lakefront parks from and through areas adjacent every ¼ mile
• To promote and provide for improved public transportation access to the lakefront

Source: Chicago Municipal Code 16-4
Friends of the Lakefront Trail

- Friends of the Lakefront Trail represents the interests of Lakefront Trail users and pushes for improving the recreation and transportation conditions on the trail.
  - Major infrastructure projects
  - Monitor major issues and projects
  - Provide current conditions updates #chiLFT
WHAT DO PEOPLE WANT?
User preference survey

• Spring/Summer 2012
• 1,500+ participants
  – 2 public meetings
  – Online survey
Survey topics

• Policy/Design
• Etiquette
• Congestion
• Conflict
• Crashes
Policy/Design

1. Provide more separate spaces different modes
2. Reduce congestion and conflicts on the trail
3. Educate trail users on safety and trail etiquette
4. Improve basic trail maintenance and condition of asphalt and soft surfaces
Etiquette

1. People clogging traffic by traveling two or more abreast
2. People blocking or standing in the trail
3. People not moving to the right to make way for faster traffic
Congestion along the trail

Congestion at access points

Chicagoland’s voice for better biking, walking and transit.
Conflict along the trail

Conflict at access points

Chicagoland’s voice for better biking, walking and transit.

www.activetrans.org
Crashes
Principals

• Access
• Safe, continuous route
• Maintenance
• Obey trail etiquette
Next Steps and Opportunities

• Ongoing operations and maintenance
• Navy Pier Flyover
• North Lakeshore Drive Reconstruction
Q+A

Marissa Dolin
Transportation Planner
Active Transportation Alliance
marissa@activetrans.org
312-427-3325 x292

Tim Jeffries
Director of Planning and Policy
Friends of the Parks
jeffriest@FOTP.ORG
312-857-2757 x20

Full report found at:
http://activetrans.org/sites/default/files/docs/People_on_the_Trail_FINAL_05292013.pdf