Weather Effects on Divvy Usage (Wade Van Nortwick)

Bike share programs have started sprouting up around the United States. Cycling is generally associated as a recreational or exercise activity in the United States. Recently, investments in cycling infrastructure are attempting to change people’s perception and usage of cycling in urban areas to include commuting, quick local trips and solve the final mile problem with transit. This study is to better understand the effects of weather on the bicycle share system and cycling habits in the City of Chicago. The source will be from public trips data from the Chicago Divvy Bike share system from June 27, 2013 to December 31, 2013 and National Weather Service data as reported from the Midway Airport.

The primary benefits for this research is that it can be used as a policy guide for cycling infrastructure design and data collection. This would also shed light on user habits of bike share users which tend to be short distance, not regular cyclists. The results show that primary usage of Divvy bikes is during the day on weekends and weekday evenings during good weather.