

130932

Dear Gainesville Citizen,

We are the Students for the New Urbanism at UF and it has come to our attention that members of the Gainesville City Commission are considering requiring licensing and fees for bicyclists. We do not support such action; bicycles are a crucial component of Gainesville's transportation system and culture.

Important facts to take into account on this issue:

- Bicycling pays for itself by taking cars off the road
- The average American family spends \$5,000 per car per year, 85% which leaves the local economy
- Gainesville is ranked as one of the nation's 50 most bicycle-friendly cities by Bicycle Magazine
- Bicycling keeps people active and healthy and reduces road congestion
- Money spent on bicycle lanes generates twice the amount of jobs as money spent on car lanes
- If every American biked an hour a day instead of driving an hour, we would cut our national gasoline consumptions by 38% and our greenhouse gas emissions by 12%
- Ten bicycles can park in the space of a single car
- Bicycle lanes handle 5-10 times the traffic of a car lane twice its width

Requiring bicyclists to obtain a license and pay fees would be an inconvenience to many students and working people in Gainesville who use their bicycle as a mode of transportation. This program could place an unnecessary financial burden on people who do use a bicycle as their main mode of transportation, because they cannot afford to use the bus or own a car. This requirement will discourage citizens to use bicycling as a mode of transportation or physical activity, which is the opposite of what should be happening. The City of Gainesville should be encouraging its citizens to bicycle more to reduce traffic congestion, decrease greenhouse gas emissions and improve the community's health.

Sincerely,

Students for the New Urbanism at UF

15 JUN 19 AM 6:34

OFFICE OF THE  
CITY COMMISSIONER