

# Testing a Basic Bike Network in the Center City

Collecting data, improving mobility and making bicycling safer as an interim deliverable of One Center City

## WHY A BASIC BIKE NETWORK?

Our downtown streets are crowded and offer limited bike connections. A connected *network* of safe bicycle lanes is essential to efficiently move people.

A "pilot" network that is attractive to both new and experienced bicycle riders can be constructed with inexpensive paint and posts. This proposed pilot Basic Bike Network will help Center City planners to test corridors and congestion relief in the final Center City plan.

## WHY NOW?

### One Center City (OCC)

Though the OCC process will eventually produce a comprehensive multi-modal plan for downtown, people need safe places to bike as soon as possible. A pilot basic bike network would make a sensible early deliverable for OCC to make bicycling safer and inform the final plans based on data from the pilot network

### Data collection

A pilot network would allow the city to "test" bike facilities, collect data, and make evidence-based decisions about the final OCC plan.

### Reliable mobility options are needed

Bicycling is a reliable way to travel to, from and within downtown -- even when transit is delayed. Implementing a basic bike network will provide more people with a failsafe mobility option.



## CASE STUDIES

Calgary offers the best example of quickly implementing a basic bike network, setting realistic target metrics and collecting pre- and post data during an [18-month pilot](#). After the pilot, Calgary voted to make the network permanent.

Major takeaways include:

- Bike mode share doubled in three months
- Improved safety along the most dangerous routes
- Increased diversity of ridership, including women and children
- Declines in illegal bicycle behavior
- Little to no delays for SOV traffic

[Edmonton](#) is now following its approach, with [other cities following closely behind](#). Other cities have demonstrated that a pilot network is a successful model: Seattle's plan coupled with the comprehensive multimodal OCC process would truly make it a transportation leader amongst our peer cities.