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Project in Brief

Project:	King County Metro Transit does Research, Chooses Cycle-Safe[®]
Location:	King County, Washington (including Seattle)
Installation:	40 Cycle-Safe bicycle lockers at park-and-rides and transit centers
First Cycle-Safe Purchase:	1984
Funding:	ISTEA Grant
User reaction:	"Why aren't there more of them?"

Before King County Metro Transit chose bicycle lockers for their park-and-ride locations and transit centers, they wanted to know how other transit agencies liked theirs. The responses were important, says Bob Flor of Metro, because the agency had been burned before with bicycle lockers from a Cycle-Safe competitor. "They were a disaster," he says. "They lasted about three months."

So Metro surveyed a number of agencies around the country about the type of equipment they were using. Those agencies with Cycle-Safe bicycle locker installations included CALTRANS in California, WMATA in Washington DC, BC Transit's SKYTRAIN in Vancouver, British Columbia, and Tri-Met in Portland, Oregon.

Flor says, "When we asked them about Cycle-Safe, there was a thread of positive response. That was a big deal to us to know they were completely satisfied. We were really satisfied about what we heard from other people about Cycle-Safe."

Funded by an Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) grant, Metro purchased 40 Cycle-Safe bicycle lockers and installed them at a number of stations in the transit system. "We were looking at a lot of ways of connecting transit with biking," Flor says. "With the ISTEA money we invested in equipment like bike racks on buses and vanpool vehicles,

but we also thought we ought to look at how we can increase bike parking at park-and-rides and transit centers. We wanted to add options to reduce car travel."



Cycle-Safe lockers require little maintenance and offer maximum security



Flor says the agency was also interested in creating standards in transit facilities. "We wanted to establish the right mix of equipment," he says. "The driving force behind our grant was to test the various types of equipment, look at their quality, and determine how they would be managed. That way we could establish guidelines when we construct a facility."

As part of those standards, Metro wanted a sturdy, substantial bicycle locker. "People are hard on them," Flor says, "and we needed a locker that could take punishment for long periods of time and still offer security. I didn't want to end up investing in cheap equipment that I had to keep replacing."

The Cycle-Safe bicycle lockers met all their criteria. "They are doing really well," Flor says. "We haven't had any problems with them. The Cycle-Safe lockers are a good solid piece of equipment."

Flor points out that it's critical to limit the long-term expenditure of public dollars. "We didn't want to have to keep spending a lot of money on parts and maintenance. The Cycle-Safe lockers may be more expensive initially, but the long-term value is what we are looking for."

The transit customers are happy with the Cycle-Safe bicycle lockers as well. "We surveyed them," Flor says, "and everybody's satisfied. They wanted to know why there aren't more of them."

Metro requires a \$25 refundable key deposit, but now there is no charge to lease the lockers. To administer the bicycle locker program, Metro contracted with the Northwest Bike Federation. The nonprofit group advocates for bicycle lockers, and as part of the deal with Metro, markets transit programs. "They take care of the locker keys and paperwork," Flor says. "It's working very well."

In other surveys of cyclists on metro transit it was found that 85% had never used transit before. So, this accommodation of bicyclists opened a whole new class of ridership never reached before.



Project Team:

- Robert Flor, Marketing Development Planner, King County Metro Transit
- Bike Alliance of Washington, formerly Northwest Bike Federation (NOWBIKE)
- Cycle-Safe, Inc

RESOURCE INFORMATION	WEB SITE ADDRESSES
<i>King County Metro Transit Information</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● www.metrokc.gov ● www.cascade.org ● www.bicyclealliance.org
<i>Other Transit systems using Cycle-Safe Lockers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Metrolink www.metrolinktrains.com ● SEPTA www.septa.org ● WMATA www.wmata.com ● C-Tran www.c-tran.com/bike.html ● New Jersey Transit www.njtransit.com ● King County Metro http://transit.metrokc.gov ● Tri-met www.tri-met.org/bikes.html ● Strathclyde http://www.spt.co.uk

Visit these Bicycle Advocacy Sites on the World Wide Web

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| Assoc. of Pedestrian & Bike Professionals www.apbp.org | National Bicycling and Walking Clearinghouse . . . www.bicyclinginfo.org |
| Bikes Belong Coalition www.bikesbelong.org | Millennium Trails www.dot.gov/mtp |
| League of American Bicyclists www.bikeleague.org | National Trans. Enhancements Clearinghouse . . . www.enhancements.org |
| Bicycling Life www.bicyclinglife.com | |
| Bike Map www.bikemap.com | |

For more bicycle planning links visit <http://www.cyclesafe.com/Links>



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