

MEDIA RELEASE

'LIGHT THE NIGHT' BIKE LIGHT DISTRIBUTION CAMPAIGN

By **Jan Kijowski** on **9/6/2013**

For Immediate Release

Members of the Campus Areas Transportation Study (CATS) Education Subcommittee are sponsoring a 'Light the Night' Bike Light Distribution Campaign. Teams of volunteers including law enforcement will install 1,200 bicycle lights, and educate bicyclists about laws that require bikes to have lights at night and provide information on safe riding during both daylight and nighttime hours. Bicycle lights will be installed on **Thursday, September 12, 2013 from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm** at two highly-visible locations on the University of Illinois campus:

- Wright and Green near the Alma Mater statue;
- Lincoln and Illinois near Illinois Street Residence Hall

Bicyclists operating bikes without lights will be encouraged to have a light installed at these locations. Bicycles will be equipped with a set of front and rear lights by teams of volunteers at each location. Lights will *only* be installed on bicycles without lights; lights will not be given to individuals.

The purpose of the campaign is to improve the visibility of bicyclists at night while educating riders about the safety benefits of a bicycle light and the requirement for a front and rear bike light as specified in Illinois law for operation of bicycles at night. The Illinois rules state that every bicycle when in use at nighttime must be equipped with a lamp on the front able to emit a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet, and with a red reflector on the rear visible from 100-600 feet. A lamp emitting a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear may be used in addition to the red reflector.

With daylight hours shrinking, and Daylight Savings Time fast approaching, the CATS Education Subcommittee thinks this is an ideal time to remind bicyclists of the need for front and rear bike lights in low light conditions. Drivers should also be reminded to be alert for bicycle traffic at all times of day and night, and to remember that bicycles travel on the same roads, must obey the same rules, and have the same rights as automobiles.

The CATS Education Subcommittee is composed of representatives of the C-U MTD, City of Urbana, City of Champaign, and the University of Illinois. Other organizations making this giveaway possible include The Bike Project of Urbana-Champaign, Champaign County Bikes, C-U Safe Routes to School Project, and Planet Bike.

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