



Frequently Asked Questions – Hemingway District *Bike to the Biz*

What is Bike to the Biz?

It's an initiative supported by the Village of Oak Park to encourage residents of Oak Park and neighboring communities to 'support local' business by riding their bicycles to Hemingway District stores and restaurants in the Oak Park Avenue construction corridor. The promotion is designed to support local merchants during the remaining months of construction while promoting healthy, sustainable transportation.

Bike to the Biz begins July 1 and ends Oct. 31, 2026.

The promotion has several components:

- increased bike parking in immediately adjacent areas,
- monthly drawings for \$250 that can be spent at local stores and eateries, and
- informative signage throughout the construction zone to build local awareness.

Why is this promotion being offered?

Summer is an ideal time to encourage both health and wellness activities *and* healthy economic participation. The promotion reminds customers to help their local businesses to survive and thrive throughout the construction period.

While construction has reached the halfway point (Stage 3 of 5) as of July 1, there are still five more months of work – with Oak Park Avenue closed from Pleasant to Lake streets – before it reopens just before Thanksgiving.

Is it easy to bike to the Hemingway District?

Yes! The District already offers racks and dedicated locations to park for more than 150 bikes, including covered bike parking within the Avenue Garage. The Village is adding new bike 'corrals' like the one near Scoville Park to boost total bike spaces to 200 during the promotion.

One caveat: Bikers need to park their bikes and walk to businesses along Oak Park Avenue. With sidewalk-access-only to many businesses, bikes can't be ridden through the district or directly to stores.

How do consumers participate?

By biking to shop or dine at District businesses. The promotion also welcomes walkers, joggers and even folks who drive. (Free parking – up to 90 minutes every day and all day on Sundays is available at the Avenue Garage, 720 North Boulevard).

How many District businesses are participating?

The Hemingway District expects to enlist more than 25 stores and restaurants. A complete list will be available starting July 1 at renewtheavenue.com/hemingway-district-bike-to-the-biz. (Businesses that participate after July 1 will be added to the complete list.)

In addition to the Hemingway District businesses, three Oak Park bike shops will participate in Bike to the Biz: Wheel & Sprocket, Bike Fix and Barnard's Schwinn Cycling.

How does the promotion work?

Customers ride their bicycles to participating District businesses, make a minimum \$10 purchase, and save their receipts. Convenient envelopes for saving receipts are available at all participating businesses. Once they make \$10 purchases at four different participating retailers (this can include the three bike shops), they can drop off envelopes seven days a week at the UPS Store at 805 Lake St.

A single winner will be drawn and announced every month for four months, starting Aug. 1. The winner will receive \$250 in 'Biker Buck' certificates that they can spend at participating District businesses – as well as at three Oak Park bike shops – through Dec. 31, 2026.

Can customers enter if they don't bike?

Yes. We're encouraging people to head downtown and support the District any way they can and as often as they like.

Where can I find out more?

All information about the promotion is available online at renewtheavenue.com. Monthly winners will be posted there. You also can sign up to receive weekly updates about construction progress.