2020 Program Report

Program Manager: Jake Newborn
Lead Mechanic: Anthony Rafael Casagrande
Assistant Mechanics: Jean Carlo Aleman Tenorio, John White

Bikes Repaired for Community: 290+
Bikes Repaired for Distribution: 120+
Paid Hours for Assistant Mechanics: ~350
Summary Reflections

2020 was a challenging year in many regards, yet Mobile Bike Repair was able to provide a much needed service throughout the city of Milwaukee. With many more people choosing to ride bicycles as a safer way to exercise and travel due to the ongoing global pandemic, and with supply stressed due to increased demands for parts and bikes, we were uniquely situated to operate effectively due to our mission and structure.

As much of our material is reused from donations, we were less affected than many repair options by the lack of available parts. Even with a scaled-down operation compared to prior years, as detailed below, and with difficulties in procuring supplies, we repaired over 290 bikes at our community sites, and in partnership with Dreambikes, we fixed over 120 additional bikes to distribute at no cost to those in need.

Our sites were also uniformly busy, excepting some mostly weather-affected days, and staff worked diligently from the end of June into September. These sites were mostly outside of our usual range of operations, due to changes necessitated by additional safety requirements, and travel times often longer due to our single base of operations, but our flexibility and dedication ensured that we were able to have perhaps our most efficient summer.

However, Mobile Bike Repair also faced significant adversity and change. We had to shift our strategy to ensure the health and safety of both program staff and the community. This included ordering and use of PPE for staff and community members, regular COVID testing for all staff, moving to a drop-off/pick-up model for repairs, and partnering with several community schools, businesses, and organizations in order to provide access to sanitary and socially distanced space in which to operate. We are grateful to COA, Bounce Milwaukee, Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers, and Neighborhood House of Milwaukee for assisting our program in such a manner, and we are glad to report no positive COVID cases among staff.

Furthermore, it prevented us from being able to safely recruit and train new youth mechanics. As a result, we hired two previous program alumni, Jeans and John, who were able to further refine their skills and performed admirably in an unpredictable climate. We were also unable to run multiple repair teams simultaneously this year due to both the staffing difficulty and lack of access to our usual space. Our usual space at Valid Bike Shop inside North Division High School being closed, and with the Bike Fed in the process of moving into new offices, we elected to rent a short-term space, thanks to Cream City Hostel, to convert into a scaled-down shop.

Overall, Mobile Bike Repair for the summer was a massive success, and we are thankful for the continuing support that makes this program possible.
Sites

- Neighborhood House of Milwaukee
- COA Riverwest-Kadish Park
- COA Goldin-Moody Park
- Dreambikes (repairs for distribution only)
- Bounce Milwaukee
- Lincoln Avenue School
- Mitchell Domes (with Latinos por la Salud biking club)
- Zablocki School
Data

Bikes fixed by site:

(Note: Kadish Park site includes 3 repair days, Mitchell 1, each Neighborhood House 4, rest 5)
Reported Race:

- Black/African American: 31%
- White: 26%
- Hispanic/Latin American: 33%
- Asian/Asian American: 1%
- Multiracial: 4%
- MENA: 1%
- N/A: 4%

[Image of two people under a tent, one wearing a red mask]
Reported Age:

- <20: 29%
- 20-29: 15%
- 30-39: 23%
- 40-49: 18%
- 50+: 15%
Perceived Level of Safety Riding in Neighborhood:

- Very Safe: 24%
- Safe: 59%
- Unsafe: 17%
- Very Unsafe: 0%
Reported Frequency of Visiting Site:

- Rarely: 33%
- Sometimes: 29%
- Often: 25%
- Everyday!: 13%
Reported Frequency of Riding Bicycles:

- **EVERYDAY!** 43%
- 1-2 times a week 13%
- 3-4 times a week 31%
- 5-6 times a week 13%
Reported Having Eaten on Day of Repair:

Yes 88%
No 12%
Memories

“On our last day at Moody, an older gentleman brought us two bikes to fix. He had been riding around the park daily and had stopped to chat on a few occasions throughout the week, sharing memories of the park and his love of bicycles. The two bicycles had seen better days, and one needed a new rear wheel, but they were only a few hours of work away from being rideable. He was able to find a wheel, and at the end of the day, both bikes were fixed and working well. As I was packing up to leave and chatting with the older gentleman again while he picked up the bikes, two young boys came up and asked if repairs were still going on. Unfortunately, I told them, we could no longer fix up their bikes today, as most of the tools were packed up and it was well past when we were scheduled to leave. I offered them information on our future repair dates, but they were unlikely to be able to travel to another site. Crestfallen, they prepared to head home, when the old man gave them the two bikes that were just fixed up and took their broken bikes with him.”

“At Bounce Milwaukee, our time often overlapped with collection and distribution of food and household supplies by Ayuda Mutua MKE, a mutual aid organization serving the southside of Milwaukee. Several times a day, families would roll up in their vehicles after visiting Ayuda, discover they were able to have their bikes fixed for free, and their faces would just light up! No more than an hour later, they would often be back with their bikes. Word traveled fast. The last several days of that week were among the busiest of the summer, and the following site at Zablocki School represented our highest volume week in terms of number of bikes fixed.”