

2024 MOBILE BIKE REPAIR



Photos by Zoe Finney

MILWAUKEE

By Anthony Rafael Casagrande, Mobile Bike Repair Manager

Bike Fed's Milwaukee Mobile Bike Repair (MKE MBR) team worked hard in 2024 to grow, build, and strengthen partnerships. Our programs continue to reach hundreds of people across several communities and age groups each year.

Alongside our ongoing work with Milwaukee Recreation, Milwaukee Public Library, and Neighborhood House of Milwaukee, we formed a relationship with the City of Milwaukee's new Vision Zero Initiative. MKE MBR performed outreach and solicited input from residents across the city in order to

achieve our shared goal of eliminating severe injuries and deaths caused by traffic violence by 2037. In addition to gathering information from people who were receiving repair services, we listened to the feedback, opinions, and stories of other residents in community spaces like playfields, libraries, and community centers. On days when we had fewer repairs, our apprentice mechanics walked around neighborhoods and informed neighbors about our repair services and the Vision Zero Initiative.

Students from our programs at North Division High School formed the majority of our apprentice mechanic staff. Bike Fed has operated MKE MBR out of our Valid Bike Shop on campus for many summers now, but other programs have been dormant for some time due to lack of funding and oppor



tunity. In 2024, new resources and staff allowed Bike Fed to develop, implement, and maintain these programs and keep the Valid Bike Shop open to scholars interested in learning and helping with bike repair and group riding year-round.

One student mechanic applied for the apprenticeship after volunteering at our high school bike shop to meet graduation requirements for their GED Option #2. The student spent a total of 25 hours assisting with tasks like patching inner tubes, taking inventory, and disassembling donated bikes for parts. Another student applied after taking part in Bike Fed's after school program at North Division's Community Learning Center (CLC). At this program, Bike Fed partners with the Boys and Girls Club in order to provide students with opportunities twice weekly. Students learn about group riding and commuting, safety skills, bike-friendly routes to travel to adjacent neighborhoods, and basic bike maintenance like tire repair, brake and shifter adjustment, and chain replacement.

Through these programs, Bike Fed continues to build relationships at our North Division base of operations. We provide students opportunities to engage in their community, develop job and life skills that will benefit them both during and after their formal education, and forge connections with others across the city. Through these and other programs, Bike Fed has also helped promote multimodal transportation options for students, reduce injury and fatality rates among commuters along several corridors of Milwaukee's Pedestrian High Injury Network, and seek input and amplify the voices of those residents who live, work, and play along these corridors.

MKE MBR supported another bikepacking trip for high schoolers at Escuela Verde and also offered expanded educational programs for younger students. We served scholars from Morgandale School and the International Newcomer Center's summer program for recent refugees and immigrants at Longfellow School. Scholars learned both practical and theoretical components of bike repair, along with the specialized language and the general scientific and mathematical principles used to describe them. Milwaukee Public Library's Washington Park branch also hosted new hands-on clinics teaching patrons to diagnose common issues and handle their own flat tires. These programs equip attendees of all ages with useful skills to train others in their communities and promote safer cycling throughout the city.

As always, we would like to thank our supporters and partners, without whom the program would not be able to achieve its goals: Fleckenstein Foundation, WE Energies, Colliers Milwaukee, Milwaukee Public Library, Milwaukee Public Schools and Milwaukee Recreation, Neighborhood House of Milwaukee, Dreambikes, Vulture Space, Escuela Verde, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee, Bicycle Doctor Nordic Ski Shop, Village of Whitefish Bay, Village of Elm Grove, Lake Express Ferry, and all the other individuals and organizations who have hired us or generously donated their time, money, and resources.

One Saturday, a young man came to the Good Hope branch of the Milwaukee Public Library while MKE MBR was there to repair bikes. He had two bikes with him. He explained that he missed the program at the Capitol branch (closer to where he lived) and that he used the bus to transport the bikes up 76th Street. He was a regular bike and bus rider for transportation, but he knew relatively little about bike mechanics. At his request, I narrated the repairs the bikes needed as I performed them. We did not have as much time as we would have liked to go over the repairs in more detail or for him to get hands-on practice.

From our conversation, I learned that he would attend North Division in the fall and invited him to join our after-school program. There he could learn repair skills, have access to parts and tools, meet other students interested in bikes, and earn another bike himself. That fall, I was delighted to see him again. Once the after-school bike club was underway, he attended regularly and was one of the first few students to earn a bike that semester! After earning the bike, he returned regularly to perform tuneups on the bike he earned, customize his bike further, and help his friends with their repairs. He even attended the 2024 Santa Rampage to use the group riding skills he learned at the bike club to help conduct the Elf Frenzy Ride with our youth education team!

- Anthony Rafael Casagrande

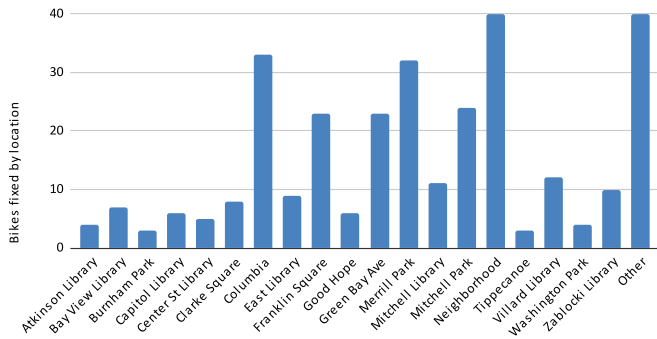
Program Manager
Jake Newborn

Program Coordinator
Anthony Rafael Casagrande

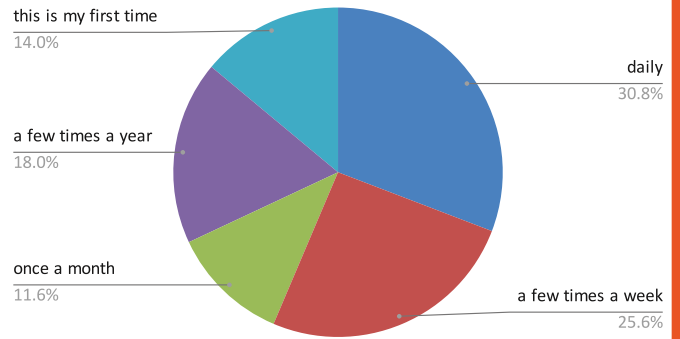
Mechanics
Amon Alford
Bethani Bell
Demetrius Leonard

2024 MBR SURVEY RESULTS

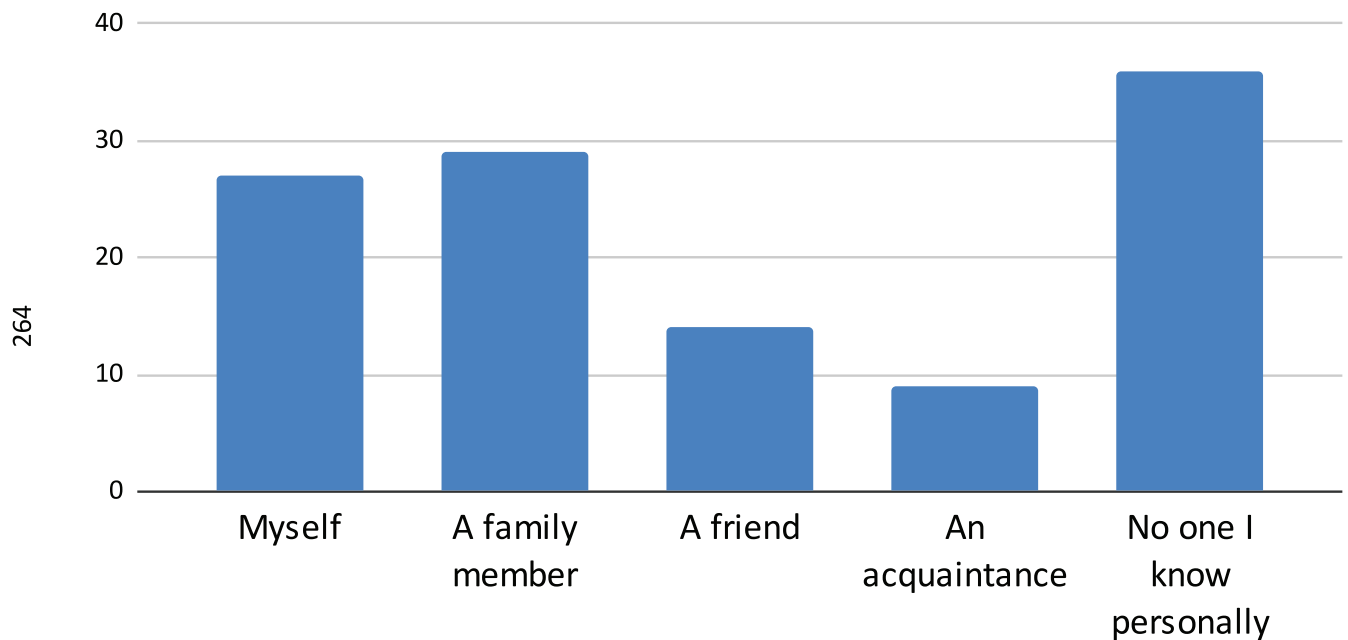
Bikes fixed by location



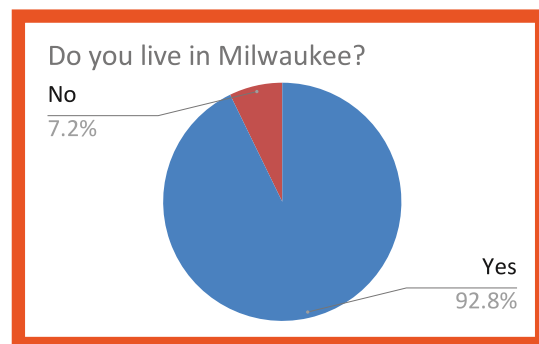
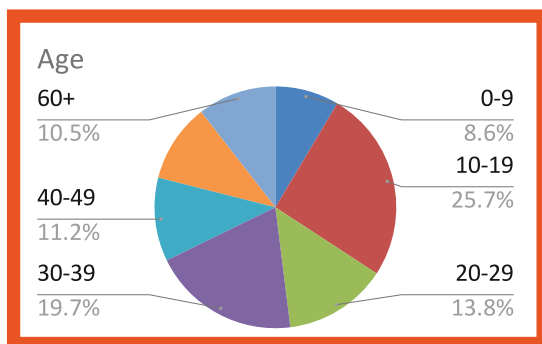
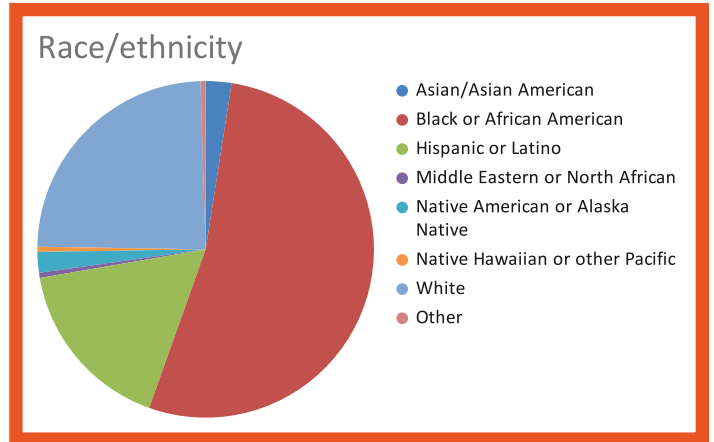
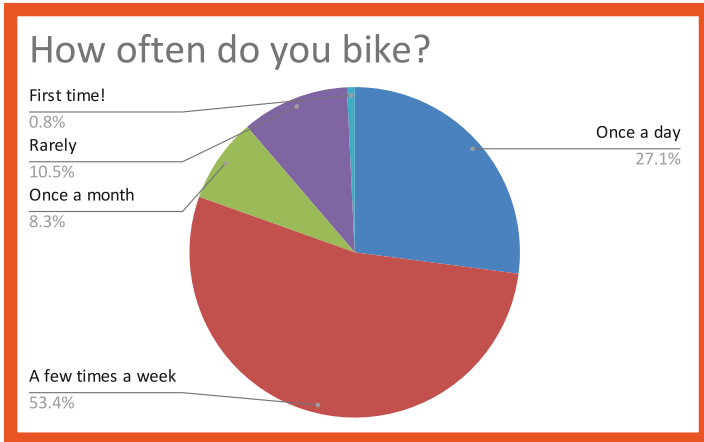
How often do you come here?



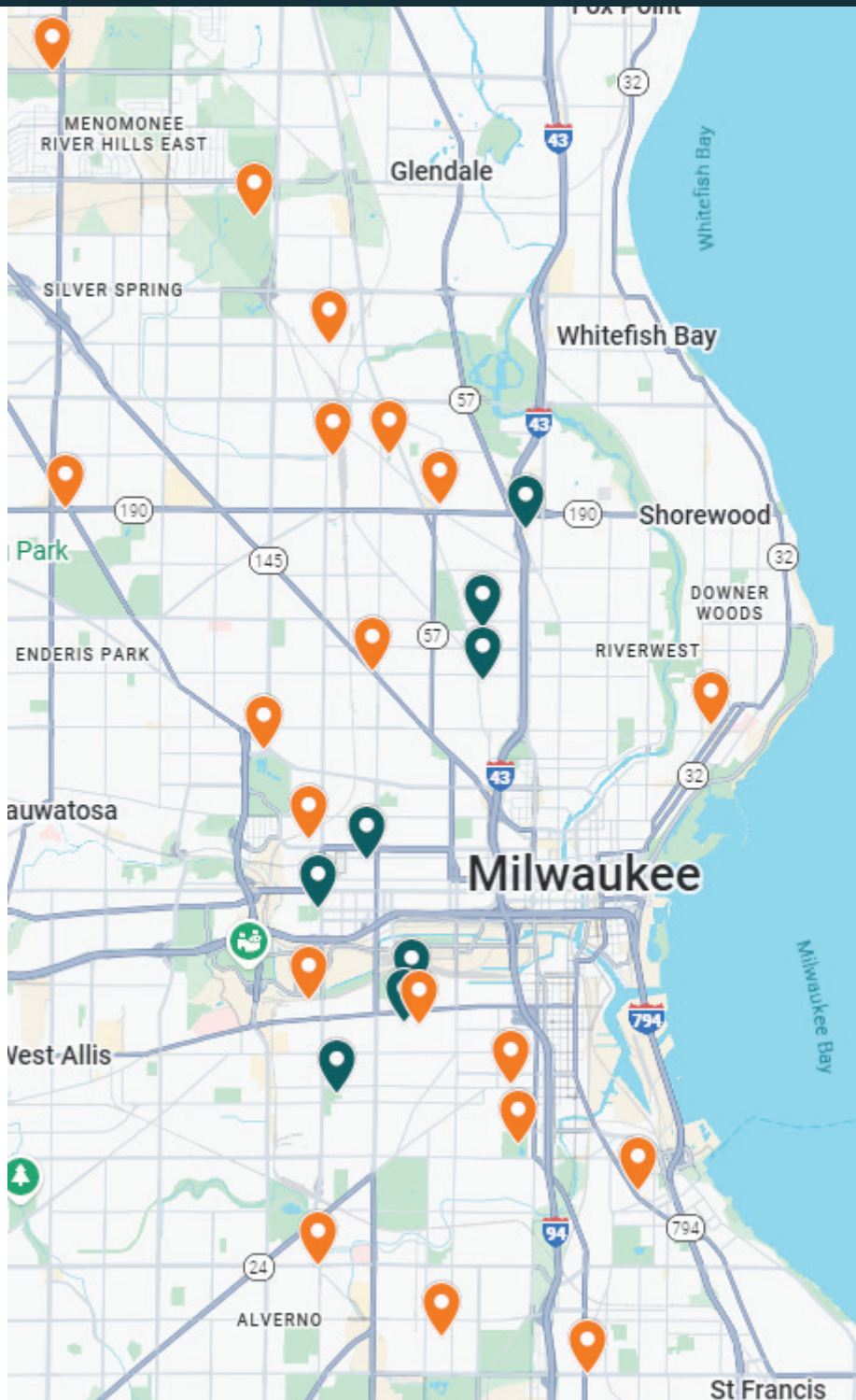
Has anyone you know been seriously impacted by traffic crashes in the City of Milwaukee?



2024 MBR SURVEY RESULTS



2024 SITE MAP



ORANGE- One Day Sites
DARK BLUE - Multi Day Sites