



ST. PAUL WOMEN ON BIKES

St. Paul Women on Bikes is a coalition of women and families making it safer and easier to ride a bike in St. Paul.

Nationally, only 24 percent of bicycle trips are made by women. St. Paul Women on Bikes is working to decrease the gender gap and make it safer and easier for women, families, and other folks to ride a bicycle in the city. Because this gender gap extends to the bike advocacy community, we are intentionally women and family-led, and our SpokesWomen help us lead the charge to make St. Paul a safe, easy place to ride a bike.

What is a SpokesWoman?

The SpokesWoman role is an opportunity to be a leader in advocating for a St. Paul that is a safer, easier place to bike. SpokesWomen represent each of the seven City Council Wards in St. Paul and help Women on Bikes (WOB) learn about and take action on local issues. We recognize we all have busy lives so we intentionally build the program to be flexible. Think of the role as a sort of “Choose your own Adventure.”

As citywide and ward-specific bike-related issues arise, SpokesWomen (with support from the WOB organizer and fellow SpokesWomen) reach out to women, families, neighbors, and local businesses in their council ward to learn what they think. Using a positive, relationship-based approach, they encourage their networks to get involved in bikeway projects and policy. In addition, they build relationships with City Councilmembers to communicate about the benefits of bicycling and the importance of creating a safe network in St. Paul.

Do I need to have experience? What if I'm not “hardcore” about bicycling?

Don't think of yourself as a “cyclist” or “bike advocate?” We want you!

Women on Bikes is focused on engaging women who are “interested but concerned” – people who would like to bike or bike more but who are, for some reason, held back. We recognize that people use bikes for all kinds of reasons – from running errands to riding for fun to commuting to work. Our role is not to judge or tell you to bike more often. Instead, our goal is to support women and families to have the option for safer, easier bicycling in St. Paul.

No advocacy or organizing experience is required. Regular training opportunities and support are provided.

Expectations for SpokesWomen:

The SpokesWoman role is fluid and flexible. The level of responsibility and time commitment will vary based on individual interest and ability.

As a bicycle advocacy leader, you'll have opportunities to work with other SpokesWomen and WOB staff to:

- Build relationships with elected officials with a focus on St. Paul City Councilmembers and Ramsey County Commissioners, as well as City and County Staff, to talk about the bicycling needs of women and families;
- Reach out to organizations and businesses in your ward to discuss the St. Paul Bikeways Plan, upcoming infrastructure projects for better bikeways, and bicycling policy;
- Attend and testify at public meetings, open houses, and City Council Hearings about bicycle-related policy and infrastructure improvements;
- Encourage neighbors, friends, and other allies to show support for safer, easier bicycling;
- Communicate, and help others communicate, (e.g. in person, via phone, in writing) with elected officials;
- Lead and promote the collective vision of Women on Bikes with a positive and proactive approach.

What SpokesWomen can expect from Women on Bikes

- We don't expect you to do all of this without support! Women on Bikes staff and leadership will:
- Provide you with regular training and professional development opportunities to ensure you feel comfortable in your role;
- Give you information and materials that support your advocacy efforts;
- Offer childcare, food, and translation so more people can participate;
- Keep you informed about city-wide and ward-specific issues that arise;
- Help coordinate meetings with elected officials, city staff, and other key stakeholders;
- Support new, creative ideas you'd like Women on Bikes to pursue.

How do I become a SpokesWoman?

We ask potential SpokesWomen to fill out an application and meet with the Women on Bike Program Manager to learn more about the role.

The level of responsibility and time commitment for SpokesWomen varies based on individual interest.

We provide financial compensation to SpokesWomen who don't have the means to volunteer. To inquire, contact Stephanie at 651-224-8555 x 26 or stephanie@smart-trips.org.