Bicycle Registration

When done properly, bicycle registration can be an effective tool to recover stolen bicycles and deter theft. It can also assist in the identification of crash victims, especially in the case of children who often carry no identification. Where registration is widespread, the practice can assist law enforcement, bicycle coordinators, and other officials in the management of large numbers of bicycles. For example, being able to readily verify bicycle ownership can expedite the removal and return of bicycles that appear abandoned or are parked illegally.

The League of American Bicyclists supports effective bicycle registration programs that do not impose a significant financial or statutory disincentive to bicycling.

Any registration fees should be dedicated to the costs of establishing and maintaining the registration program or to other programs or facility improvements that directly benefit cyclists.

Mandatory bicycle registration should be imposed only where the benefits of and/or necessity for such ordinances are demonstrable and where the penalties for violation are minimal.