

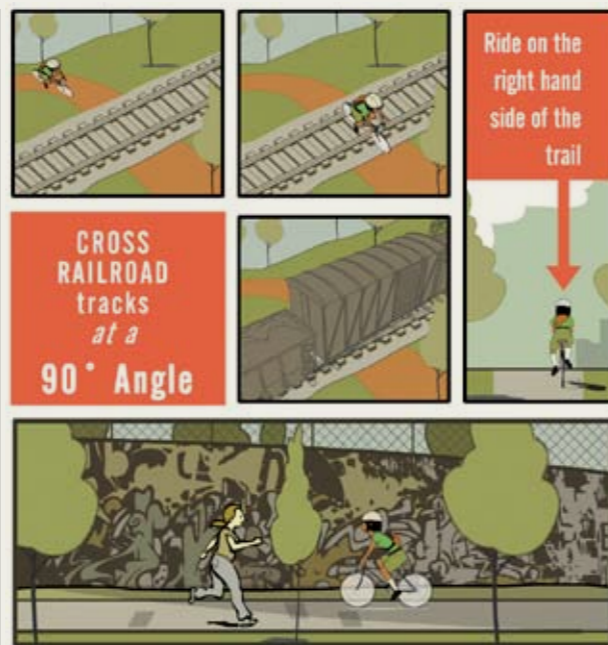
MAP STAR

By Glen Johnson



A Bicycle Commute

Commuting by bike is fun and safe when you know the rules of the road and follow safety precautions. Inspect your bike by checking your tires and brakes before you hit the roads. If you are unsure of your bike's condition, take it to a bike shop.



When safety advocate group Bike Pittsburgh (Bike PGH), creative consultancy DeepLocal and I started working on the Pittsburgh bike map, we gathered up examples from all over the country. We figured our best approach would be to see what worked best, and then to improve on it.

The Chicago map was one of our favourites. We liked the architectural-illustration-like drawings demonstrating bike safety. On any project I work on, I try to challenge myself to do something different with the design. I always think that narratives are much more powerful in conveying information, so I decided to turn the disjointed diagrams into something more like a story.

The most logical format to do this was a comic-book structure. One of my favourite comic artists, who also happens to be from Chicago, is Chris Ware. His approach

to drawing seemed to fit best with how we wanted the bike map to communicate.

Creating the narrative was a collaborative effort. Everyone involved was an avid biker and a proud citizen of Pittsburgh, so it was a great bunch of people to work with, because it was a project that we all had fun with and wanted to do our best.

I hope that people like what we have done, and that someone like myself, in another city somewhere in the world, can draw inspiration from it as well.

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