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Map: Where the most bicycle crashes in Cambridge take place

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By **Matt Rocheleau**

GLOBE STAFF OCTOBER 05, 2016

[The death of a bicyclist in Cambridge Wednesday](#) was the second one this year in the city.

But only three other bicyclists have been killed in the past 15 years: one in 2015, one in 2011, and one in 2002, according to Cambridge police spokesman Jeremy Warnick.

Warnick said Porter Square, where Wednesday's death happened, hasn't been one of the more common areas for crashes involving cyclists. Some other areas have seen crashes more frequently, including the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Vassar Street, and Harvard and Central squares, Warnick said.

Police could not immediately provide statistics on non-fatal crashes involving cyclists for this year or last year, but from 2010 through 2014, an average of 184 crashes involving cyclists happened per year.



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The number of crashes has ranged from about 160 to 215 annually, with no clear trend.

However, the city, in a report issued in 2014, [found](#) the crash rate — the number of crashes per bicycle mile traveled — had declined in recent years.

[Data](#) show that the vast majority of cyclist crashes, about 97 percent of them, were incidents involving motor vehicles, most of them cars.

Only 1.7 percent of the crashes involved trucks; another 1 percent involved buses.

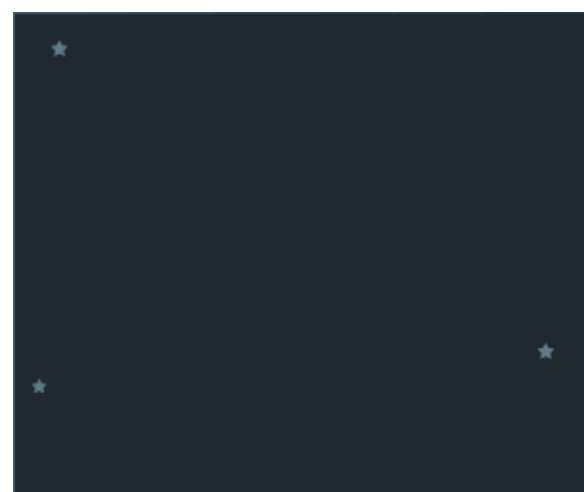
Data also shows crashes were significantly more common on weekdays versus weekends.

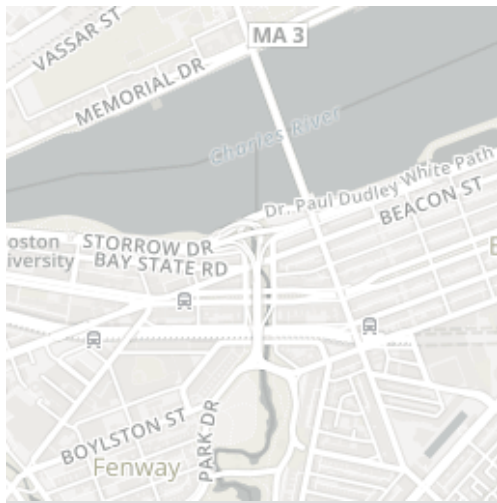
The most common time of day for accidents involving cyclists was from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., during the evening commute. The next most common stretch was from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., the morning commute.

The city's 2014 analysis also showed that in most cases, cyclists sustained just minor injuries or no injuries at all. Only 5 percent of injuries were considered “incapacitating,” meaning the injury was so severe the person was not mobile. Examples would include having a broken leg or head trauma.

Bike crashes in Cambridge, 2010-2014

Each dot represents one crash involving a cyclist reported to Cambridge police. The map shows a total of 880 such crashes between 2010 and 2014. Portions of Cambridge Street, Broadway, Beacon Street, and Massachusetts Avenue appear to be hot spots. About 40 other crashes that occurred during that stretch are not shown on the map because coordinates were not available for those incidents.






DATA: City of Cambridge, Cambridge Police Department

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