

Coalition opens second bike depot in New Jersey

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(Photo: Owen Proctor/NorthJersey.com)

New Jersey Bike and Walk Coalition opened a bike depot last week at Bloomfield's Glenwood Avenue Parking Garage, steps away from the NJ Transit train station.

"It's wonderful having a place where people are comfortable leaving their bikes," said Andrew Reimann, who dropped by the announcement. He is the owner of the local Jalapeno Cycling.

The hub-like atmosphere of bicycles, cars and trains "works together, instead of putting the community at odds with each other," he said.

"It's a great deal for Bloomfield," Mayor Michael Venezia said. "I wish we were first, but we're second."

The organization's first bike depot opened two years ago at Montclair's Bay Street Station. Its 24 racks are near capacity, according to Coalition Chairman Brian Stolar, who came up with depot idea four years ago. A third depot is planned for Elizabeth's Midtown Garage in late summer.

FIRST: [Montclair opens bike depot at Bay Street Station \(http://archive.northjersey.com/community-news/montclair-s-great-big-bike-lock-1.1124486\)](http://archive.northjersey.com/community-news/montclair-s-great-big-bike-lock-1.1124486)

SECOND: [Bike depot opening in Bloomfield parking garage \(/story/news/essex/bloomfield/2016/12/20/bike-depot-opening-bloomfield-parking-garage/95657482/\)](/story/news/essex/bloomfield/2016/12/20/bike-depot-opening-bloomfield-parking-garage/95657482/)

The depots, manufactured in Michigan, provide safe, secure and weather-protected parking and storage. The Bloomfield one has 38 racks, both horizontal and vertical, and features a repair station for minor bike maintenance.

Members pay \$15 monthly or pay annually with a month free. There is also a universal membership of \$30 for use of multiple bike depots. Cyclists receive a key fob that gives them access to the enclosure. Registration is available at www.njbwc.org (<http://www.njbwc.org>).

The Bloomfield facility cost \$31,000, according to Coalition Executive Director Cindi Steiner. Instead of tax dollars, Partners for Health Foundation, based in Montclair, contributed \$25,000, with the coalition raising the remainder, she said.

The Bloomfield Parking Authority and the coalition are jointly operating the depot.

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Essex County Freeholder Brendan Gill and Bloomfield Councilman Nicholas Joanow speak during the opening of Bloomfield's Bike Depot. (Photo: Owen Proctor/NorthJersey.com)

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