WEST WINDSOR: Bike-to-train commuters get an assist

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WEST WINDSOR — The West Windsor Parking Authority hopes that the installation of bicycle lockers and bike racks will encourage some to ride, not drive, to the Princeton Junction Train Station.

Representatives from local bicycle and transit organizations were at the station May 20 to celebrate completion of the first section of new bicycle parking at the train station. With new bicycle lockers and racks, parking for 44 additional bicycles will be added to the area.

"There is a lengthy waiting list for bicycle lockers," said Cheryl Kastrenakes, transportation planner at Greater Mercer Transportation Management Association, "and the bike racks are often overflowing, so we know this project will improve conditions for those who cycle to the train station."

The project was a collaboration among several nonprofit and government agencies. The concrete pads were paid for by West Windsor Bicycle and Pedestrian Alliance, the Transportation Management Association, BikeFest, and West Windsor Parking Authority. New Jersey Transit contributed the bicycle racks and lockers, while West Windsor Township’s Public Works Department handled the installation.

"At the ribbon cutting ceremony, a lot of people I’ve spoken to prefer the bike lockers because they are burglar proof," Alison Miller, a spokeswoman for the Parking Authority, said Tuesday. "I think that a lot of people really prefer the lockers and they’re not comfortable with just locking their bikes to a bike rack."

Ms. Miller also said that with a safer way to store your bicycles during the day, the more likely people will be to leave their cars at home.
"The more facilities we have for bikers, the more people will ride their bikes. The more people who ride their bikes, the fewer people will ride their cars. There will be less congestion and it’s healthier to ride your bike," said Ms. Miller.

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