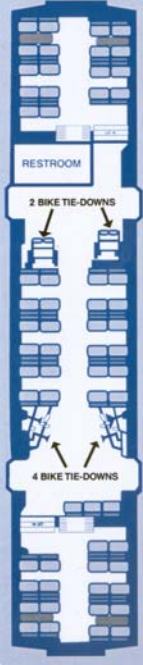


Introducing the ACE BIKE CARS

BEFORE



When results from the 2001 ACE passenger survey were tallied, one trend was obvious: more riders were biking from station to jobsite. And while some bicycle storage on the trains was available, it was inconvenient -- spread across many cars and often filled to capacity. Bike/passenger conflict became a daily occurrence, and the need for a better solution dominated survey and website feedback.

Eager to meet this growing demand, ACE officials enlisted the creative expertise of the Herzog maintenance crews. Through experimentation and a lot of input from the passengers, they developed the innovative design shown in the plan at right. Three Bombardier trailer cars were retrofitted with 14-space bicycle racks, creating dedicated bike cars on each train. Since old bike tie-downs on other cars were no longer necessary, they were converted into additional seats. With all bikes consolidated on one car, bike riders don't have to hunt for a space anymore -- bike/passenger conflicts are a thing of the past. And both sets of riders are happy with the solution: bike capacity has been expanded without sacrificing any seats.

AFTER



Introducing the ACE BIKE CARS



We always struggled with Bikes vs. Passengers, but now that I am back riding the train, I was pleasantly surprised by the new bike racks. They work well and are the needed solution for many of us who love to ride.

- Sean D.



The bike car makes bringing a bike much easier and minimizes confrontations with non-bikers.

- Ron N.



Thanks for taking action regarding the bicycle situation. I think a dedicated car is a great idea and I was especially pleased that you will reclaim seats on the other cars to compensate for the bike car.

- Bill S.

I love the new bike car. It's well engineered and well thought out.

- J.M.

I tried the bike car last week. I was happy to see that the new racks worked with my recumbent. I like the idea of having one bike car. It's easier knowing that there's one place to load a bike. Overall, I think the bike car is a good idea and the implementation is well done.

- Michael G.