



THE REFLECTOR

PROMOTING HEALTH FOR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET

A Newsletter from the OHSU Bike Commuter Group

March 2005

Bike Parking Survey

The results are in from the Bike Parking Survey conducted in February.

What we plan to do:

The Bicycle Transportation Alliance has shown solidarity with the OHSU Bike Commuters Group by initiating an assessment of bike parking at Marquam Hill. They found that although OHSU is probably up to code in providing secure bike parking (educational institutions have lower requirements than other businesses), the current bike parking needs improvement. We hope to work closely with Parking and Transportation to find inexpensive ways of improving bike parking (such as moving unused racks to high volume areas) and working harder to ensure that BETC (business energy tax credits) are used to improve bike parking and to further promote bicycle commuting at OHSU. Already, OHSU is using BETC for the discounted Tri-Met passes. Parking and Transportation may also be using BETC for the bike commuting incentive program (they haven't shared this information). However, all of this indicates that the potential for improvement is there as long as there is clear communication between all involved. The Bike Commuters Group would like to reinvigorate regular meetings with Parking and Transportation so that bicyclists' needs will be expressed, obstacles discussed, and progress made.

How you can help:

- 1) Communicate with the Bike Commuters Group at bike@ohsu.edu.
- 2) Let us know if you are willing to come to some of our monthly meetings to talk with representatives from Parking and Transportation.
- 3) Tell others to ride their bikes and get involved.

Contact the OHSU Bike Commuters Group at bike@ohsu.edu or visit our website at www.ohsu.edu/bike/.

A NEW COMMUTE CHALLENGE - ARE YOU READY?

Bike commute organizers at OHSU and Providence are gearing up for a Portland Hospital Bike Commute Challenge. We will be inviting bicycle commuters from other Portland hospitals to participate in a demonstration of dedication to public health and community development. The challenge will occur during the month of May so get ready and spread the word. More details to come...

Are you able to easily find bike parking?

ALWAYS - 60%

SOMETIMES - 36%

NEVER - 4%

Are you an employee or a student?

EMPLOYEE - 89%

STUDENT - 11%

Which of the following best describes the area where you park your bike?

UNCOVERED RACK - 17%

COVERED RACK - 25%

BIKE BANK - 1%

BIKE LOCKER - 8%

SECURED BIKE AREA - 9%

OFFICE - 23%

OTHER (VA and others) - 17%

Do you feel that your bike is secure while you are working?

YES - 52%

NO - 13%

NOT SURE - 29%

Only 1% of all federal funding devoted to transportation is used to make complete streets; that is, streets that include adequate accommodation of bicyclists and pedestrians.

-www.americabikes.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Annual Bike Fair is now in the planning stages. The success of the fair depends on you. In recent years, several volunteers have taken on small tasks to make it happen. If you are able to contribute a small amount of time to help the OHSU Bike Commuters Group pull off a fantastic fair, email us at bike@ohsu.edu.

Noteworthy Tidbits

For gadget lovers and busy bikers: the bicycle cell phone charger. Now you can charge your cell phone without using electricity from non-renewable sources.

<http://www.engadget.com/entry/1234000980035151/>

Are you trying to find the best bicycle seat? Help is on the way. Joshua Cohen, PT, MS, author of "Finding the Perfect Bicycle Seat," discusses everything from bike seat history to human anatomy.

http://www.roadbikerider.com/pbs_page.htm

Daitari Barik has designed a bicycle made of wood!

http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181_1244228,0047.htm

Jenny Skorcz, Shop Girl at Bicycling.com has advice for silencing the squeaks and rattles from your bike.

http://www.bicycling.com/article/0,3253,11262,00.html?category_id=364

On March 5, the BTA held the annual Alice B. Toeclips awards ceremony and the winners have been announced on their website.

<http://www.bta4bikes.org/alice2005/Winners.html>

Car-Free Day planning is open. You can sign up for the listserv below.

<http://lists.riseup.net/www/info/portlandcarfreeday>

A FUNNY STORY FROM PUBLIC SAFETY

By Gary Rasmussen

As a Campus Public Safety officer and certified (IPMBA International Police Mountain Bike Association) bike patrol officer, I have had occasion to see some interesting things here on the hill. Some of them are quite humorous. Case in point:

It was a quiet Sunday morning as I patrolled the campus. As I approached the Casey Eye parking structure something out of the ordinary caught my eye. The large, long, yellow clearance pipe that is normally suspended by two chains at the entrance was broken with one end laying on the ground.

As I entered the structure I noticed to my immediate right a twisted pile of metal. I moved closer to see if I could discern what it was. When I reached the wreckage I couldn't believe my eyes. What was once a nice Thule bike rack was now laying all bent up... with the bike still attached to it!

I stood there looking at this wreckage thinking, "Wow, that would really suck. You forget your bike is on the rack and drive into the low clearance parking structure tearing the bike and the rack off."

I am not sure exactly how long I stood there mourning someone's loss but I was soon interrupted by a woman passing by. She saw me and changed her course of direction, walking toward me, presumably to see what I was staring at on the ground. Her view of the wreckage was obscured at that time.

As she reached the crash site she looked upon the wreckage for the first time. She said, "Oh my God! That's my bike!"

"Your bike," I exclaimed.

"Yes, its mine."

"Let me see if I understand you correctly; you drove into this parking structure so fast that you tore down the clearance bar, ripped your bike and bike rack off the roof of your car, and you didn't even know it?"

"Yeah, thats right. Wow, I am feeling soooo blond right now." (Note: she was a brunette.)



BIKE TO WORK!



The Bike Commuter Group (BCG) promotes bicycling as a healthy mode of transportation that benefits individuals and the environment. For more information about the BCG or to find ways to get involved, contact us at bike@ohsu.edu or visit our website at www.ohsu.edu/bike/.
