

THE REFLECTOR

PROMOTING HEALTH FOR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET

A Newsletter from the OHSU Bike Commuters Group

July 2005

Bridge Pedal Ahead!

Attracting more than 15,000 cyclists to crisscross the Willamette River Bridges, Providence Bridge Pedal is an annual ride that has been called "the perfect Portland event." Riders go places normally off limits to



bikes (Freeway bridges!), reminding themselves and the rest of the city how sweet a world without cars can be - even if only for a day.

This year, celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Bridge Pedal on August 14, with a ride across all 10 of Portland's Willamette River Bridges! A series of fun bike events and community celebrations will kick off the festivities, with a birthday party at City Hall and bike-in movies

in various neighborhoods. To register or volunteer, visit the BTA's website: <http://www.bta4bikes.org/act/bridgepedal.html>

Bike Lane on Campus Drive

The long awaited bike lane on Campus Drive has been repainted and will continue up through the new section of the road when construction has ceased. Special thanks go to two people for making this happen. Angela Timmen, Parking Manager, (no picture available) met with the coordinator of the Bike Commuters Group, Hannah Cross, and Dan Bower who works on the Transportation Options program for the City of Portland, to discuss a five-pronged action plan to improve the bicyclist's experience at OHSU. The bike lane is number two on the list and an important accomplishment in maintaining a safe route for bicyclists through the campus. Bicycle experts and city planners have agreed that it is important to have bike lanes when heading up hill because bicyclists can't keep up with vehicle traffic as they do going downhill.

The other person who helped get the bike lane painted, is Ali Sadri, Assistant Director of Facilities Management (pictured). Hannah met Ali at the OHSU GreenTeam's Earth Day celebration and they talked about whether the bike lane could be extended along the entirety of Campus Drive after the construction is completed. Ali is looking forward to working with the Bike Commuters Group, the Bicycle Transportation Alliance, and the City to create another secure bike parking facility on campus. Stay tuned!



Ali Sadri

THE ANNUAL BIKE FAIR

Join us for healthy food, fantastic vendors, and a raffle to keep the Bike Commuters Group going so they can continue to work for you. Come by if you are a seasoned commuter or if you are curious about how to get started.

JULY 19, 2005
11:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.
BICC GALLERY.

If you are able to contribute a small amount of time to help the Bike Commuters Group to table the event or pick up supplies/prizes, and if you would like to become a regular volunteer you will be given a bike locker to use as a reward for your efforts. Contact us at bike@ohsu.edu.

THEFT HELP & PREVENTION

According to Public Safety records, four bike thefts have been reported since June 1, 2005. These numbers are important because they help the Bike Commuters Group (BCG) and others determine the need for an increase in secure bike parking facilities. Therefore, it is doubly important for the victims of theft to make a report to the BCG and to Public Safety. Please send reports to bike@ohsu.edu and pubsafe@ohsu.edu. Meanwhile, take the time to read the following article and register your bike below.

<http://bicycleuniverse.info/eqp/theft.html>
<http://www.nationalbikeregistry.com/>
<http://www.stolenbicycleregistry.com/>



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/.

PORTLAND'S KYOTO

from the *Oregonian*, reporter Richard L. Hill, June 9th, 2005

"Emissions of carbon dioxide in Portland and Multnomah County have dropped below levels not seen since 1990, the first time a major U.S. urban area has shown such a decrease.

City and county officials were elated Wednesday after a 30-page report indicated that carbon dioxide emissions last year nudged 0.1 percent below 1990 figures. On a per capita basis, the drop marks a 13.2 percent decline. Relative to trends elsewhere nationally, that's dramatic.

Mayor Tom Potter recently signed an agreement with more than 160 other U.S. mayors in striving to meet or beat the Kyoto Protocol targets in their own communities. The agreement, launched by Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, will be discussed this weekend in Chicago at the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Despite the downturn in emissions, Anderson said the city and county face a tough challenge in reaching the goal of a 10 percent cut in the next five years."

Replacing car trips with bike trips is a great way to reduce emissions - so congrats, bikers, and bike on!

For more info: http://www.sustainableportland.org/default.asp?sec=stp&pg=glo_home

ANOTHER BIKING LEGISLATIVE VICTORY

Following on the heels of the successful passage of the BTA's Bicyclists' Rights bill, the BTA's Safe Routes to Schools bill passed the Senate on June 22nd with a 22-8 vote. Next it heads to the Governor's desk for signature! Find out more at:

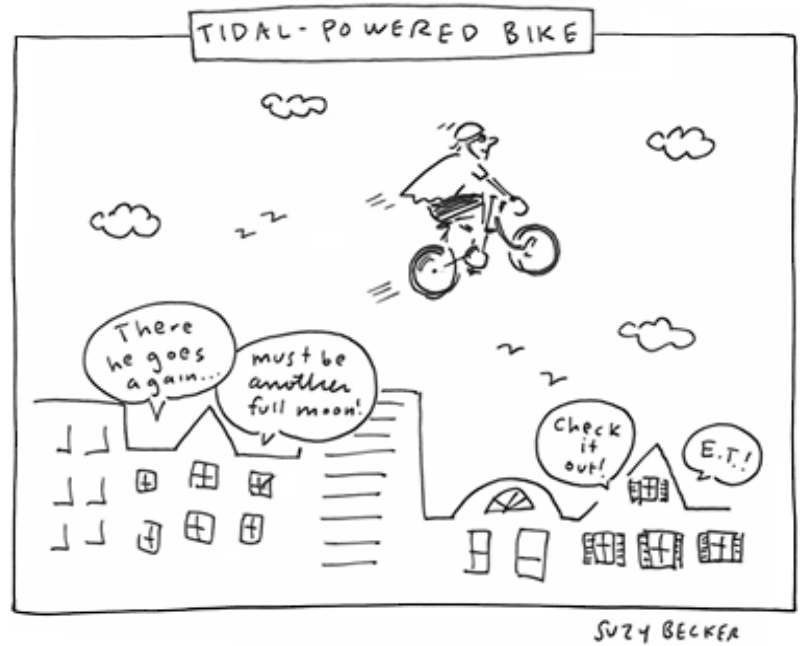
<http://www.bta4bikes.org/info/legis.html>

NEW PDX TRANSPORTATION BLOG

Transportation activists in Portland have pooled efforts to launch a new blog, "Portland Transport, a conversation about mobility in the Portland metro region." The idea is to let the thought leaders on transportation issues talk with each other and with the public. One unique thing about this blog is that they're not focusing on just bikes, just walking, just transit, etc. but rather making a place where they can talk about all the different transportation modes and how they interact. As far as I know, there's currently no other forum in Portland for this kind of discussion.

To get in on the discussion, visit:

<http://portlandtransport.com/>



WANT TO LEARN ABOUT BIKES?

THE SOCIOLOGY OF THE BICYCLE
Portland State University
July 18-August 11 M-Th 2:15-4:35

This class will explore social, cultural, literary, and historical aspects of this simple and ingenious invention. We will address economics and class, gender, racism, and alternative ways of relating to space, cities, and one's place in the world. Films, stories, and guests will be featured.

Taught by Alon K Raab, PSU instructor of Judaic Studies, a life long cyclist who owns no car, and the author of "Under the Sign of the Bicycle."

SELLWOOD BRIDGE PROPOSAL UNDER REVIEW

OPB and the Portland Tribune reported recently that plans for the replacement of the Sellwood Bridge are being reviewed by Multnomah County. The project was proposed by Bechtel, the construction company that built the airport Max light-rail line. Bechtel representatives confirmed that the proposal would add new lanes to the bridge, repair its structure and improve access for drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Read the articles:

http://www.publicbroadcasting.net/opb/news.newsmain?action=article&ARTICLE_ID=778698

<http://www.portlandtribune.com/archview.cgi?id=29875>

<http://www.portlandtribune.com/archview.cgi?id=29875>

FIND A RIDE

Looking for a group ride? Try these sites:

<http://www.bikegallery.com>

<http://www.blueberryrides.com>

<http://www.obra.org>

<http://www.ohpv.org>

<http://www.orbike.com/>

<http://www.portlandtransportation.org>

<http://www.pumpclub.org/index.php>

<http://www.pwtc.com>

<http://www.rivercitybicycles.com> - click on "Happenin's"

<http://www.shifttobikes.org>

<http://www.slugvelo.com>

<http://www.vancouverbicycleclub.com>

<http://washcobtc.org> - Washington County rides and events