

The Houston Bikeway Program developed a bikeway network map and produced over 70,000 copies. Distribution of this free publication is done through the **Houston Public Libraries**, the **Downtown Visitors Center**, and participating bike shops.

Houston was designated **2006 Bike Town USA** by **Bicycling Magazine** and 50 Houstonians received a free bike to change their life one bike at a time.

On **Bike to Work Day**, we unveiled an employee bicycle fleet to demonstrate the health, air and cost benefits of riding a bike to and at work instead of a fleet vehicle. As part of the **White Bike Program** we teamed up with the **League of American Bicyclists** to create an online BikeEd Road course to teach bike safety and handling. The goal is to create a model that can be duplicated by other employers.

The **League of American Bicyclists** presented the City of Houston with the distinction of an Honorable Mention in the Bicycle Friendly Community designation.

- **KEEP HOUSTON ROLLING:** This summer, we will deliver the Houston Bikeway Program message to promote cycling in Houston in partnership with the local media. The focus will be bike safety and education promoting the existing resources available through **League of American Bicyclists** certified instructor courses and **BikeTexas**.

The Houston Bikeway Program updates will be reflected online and will be shared with local media and national trade publications. i.e. the **Rails to Trails Conservancy** is considering a feature on the Columbia Tap and the MKT/SP at our request.

We will once again work with the **Municipal Channel** to consider the bikeway tour segment to feature various routes and points of interest in a "travel tour" format. This segment would promote bikeway use and overall cycling by removing the fear of the unknown. By introducing various routes, prospective cyclists will become familiar with various facilities and feel more comfortable trying them out.



City of Houston

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Houston Bikeway Program
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- Bicycle Parking for 1,500 More Bikes.
- Over 300 miles of bikeways on the ground - interconnected bike lanes, bike routes, shared lanes and trails.
- More Trails under Construction - Bayou Trails and Rails-to-Trails - More to Start This Year.
- Bikeway News Online on a Comprehensive Bikeway Web site.
- 3rd Tour de Houston - 7,500 Total Riders.
- Bike Town USA - 50 New FREE Bikes for Participants.
- White Bike Program - Employee Bike Fleet to Ride to and at Work to Get Fit, Reduce Air Pollution and Traffic Congestion.
- National Bike Month - 30 days of Cycling Activities to Increase Safety and Awareness.
- *Watch For Cyclists!* Motorist Education Campaign Recognized by NHTSA, AMA and by Bike Groups in Mexico.
- Bicycle Friendly Community - Honorable Mention by the League of American Bicyclists.
- 70,000 Bikeway Network Maps Distributed through 37 Houston Public Libraries, Downtown Visitors Center and Bike Shops.
- Bikes on Buses and Rail - Metro phases in the installation of bike racks on it's fleet.



Houston **Bikeway** Program



1992 - 2007

15 Years of Progress

A report on Houston's Comprehensive Bikeway Plan

Progress Report

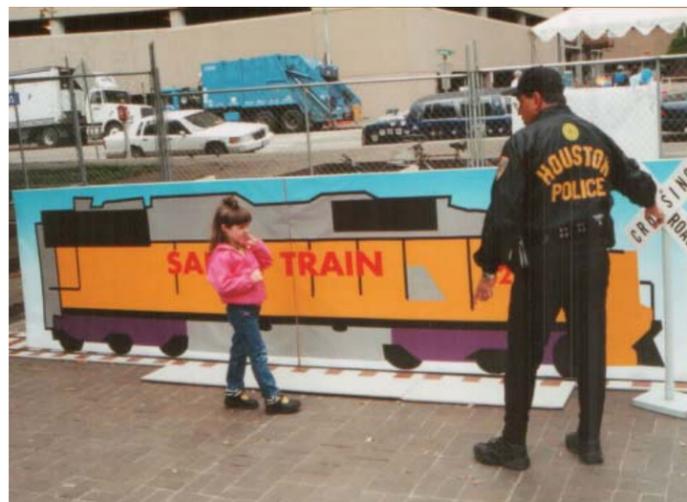
Houston has come a long way since the City Council first approved the development of its Comprehensive Bikeway Plan in September 1992. More than 300 miles of the Bikeway are in use and many more miles are under construction, under the stewardship and of the Public Works and Engineering Department.

We are proud of the progress and a number of other developments that have made Houston a much more bicycle friendly city. We're particularly proud that the pace of that progress has increased in recent years. This past year the third annual Tour de Houston saw a record number of riders. Houston was asked to participate in **Bicycling Magazine's Bike Town USA** program. We also received a designation on the **League of American Bicyclists'** prestigious list of Bicycle Friendly Communities.

Houston is on a roll and many of the City's cycling milestones are listed below.

- **A BIKE PARKING PROGRAM** has been established to acquire and distribute new parking facilities for 1,500 bicycles. This included federal and local funding as well as donations of covered parking facilities through a partnership with StarLite Media. Partnerships with local management districts spurred the addition of bicycle parking facilities in several business districts across the city.
- **BIKEWAY CONSTRUCTION** has put into place more than 300 miles of bikeways. The City's Capital Improvement Program allocations include funding for more than 40 additional miles over the fiscal year 2009. Construction is already under way on the **Halls Bayou Trail**, as well as the **Columbia Tap** and the **Union Station Rails to Trails** bikeways.
- **BIKEWAY COORDINATION AND PLANNING:** A Bikeway Coordinator is in place. Maintenance and operations are funded by the Public Works and Engineering Department for the on-street segments of the bikeways and by the Parks and Recreation Department for the off-street paths. In addition, we coordinate with the Houston Police Department to provide bike patrol presence on the paths and trails.

Also, a stakeholder group representing Public Works and Engineering, Parks and Recreation Department, Planning and



Development Department, and Houston Police Department works to incorporate bikeways into the organizational planning, funding, infrastructure, maintenance and operations process. This process will consider bikeways as part of the city's mobility solutions integrated into the urban development of our city.

We continue to sustain high design standards to support low maintenance infrastructure that provides safe facilities with access for everyone.

- **INTERAGENCY COORDINATION:** The working group continues its cooperation with the **Houston Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee** on the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. We also work with the Houston Police Department, local **League of American Bicyclists** certified instructors, Parks and Recreation Department, **BikeTexas**, and volunteers to promote public education and awareness of bicycling. In addition, we maintain our current interagency agreement with the Harris County Flood Control District for joint development of bikeways along flood control easements.

The **Texas Department of Transportation** has created a bicycle coordinator position to support and expand assistance in development, planning, design and construction of bikeway facilities in the Houston District with ongoing coordination with the City of Houston.

The **Houston-Galveston Area Council** has established a Pedestrian and Bicycle subcommittee to the Technical Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the

Transportation Policy Council. This subcommittee is staffed by a designated pedestrian and bicycle coordinator. The subcommittee represents a multi-jurisdiction organization to facilitate coordinated development and avoid alignment conflicts. The City of Houston participates in this subcommittee.

- **BIKES AND PUBLIC TRANSIT:** This year we have achieved a new level of inclusion with the Metropolitan Transit Authority. Bike racks are available on buses and rail. METRO has included bike parking facilities and Park and Ride lots and transit centers. New rail transit projects will include bicycle accommodations.
- **BIKE SAFETY:** This year we kicked off a motorist education campaign to hit the air waves before the Tour de Houston, the MS-150 Houston to Austin fundraiser ride, and the annual Bike Month events. The **Watch For Cyclists!** Campaign was selected by the **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** as a model for motorist education to be included in their Bicyclists Share The Road Toolkit. The Campaign was also a finalist in the **American Marketing Association's 2007 Houston Crystal Awards.** The campaign created a partnership with **AAA-Texas** and **REI** to reach motorists with 10 top tips to watch for cyclists on the road. Council Member Carol Alvarado was the campaign spokesperson. The campaign included Tip Cards, a Web link, a video, 10 public service announcements, bike reflectors, radio time, and a bumper sticker to generate revenue for additional education efforts.

We held the first teacher **BikeTexas SuperCyclist** bike safety education workshop sponsored by the Texas Bicycle Coalition in coordination with the **Houston Independent School District.** This workshop teaches Physical Education teachers to teach bike safety.

We developed and apply design guidelines using the **American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials** Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and the Americans with Disabilities Act criteria.

We also conducted train-the-trainer courses on bike safety for recreation coordinators in the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. This training and material would be incorporated by the coordinators into Summer and After School Programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department. The program, in partnership with the Houston Police Department, reached 65 city recreation coordinators.

The **Houston Police Department Bike Patrol Administration** formed corporate partnerships with **AAA-Texas** and **BP** to create the Safety Village as a bike and pedestrian safety education tool that included bike rodeos

and rail safety for elementary schoolchildren. The program developed a Teens Teaching Teens Program to train middle and high school students to teach bike safety to their peers through a volunteer program supporting the Safety Village.

We have conducted numerous community awareness campaigns to increase bike safety through the Houston Police Department, outside advertisers and local corporate partners. This included the "Think Bike Safety" campaign with **Sweet Tomatoes.** The Houston Bikeway Program Web site also includes a roster of **League of American Bicyclists** certified instructors in the area.

- **CYCLING EDUCATION:** We now have a comprehensive Web www.houstonbikeways.org as a public clearinghouse of bikeway information in the city. The Web site receives a high number of hits throughout the year. We also developed a Bikeway overview video in partnership with **Houston Community College.** The video increased program awareness. Several other videos and public service announcements have been produced and broadcast with the **Municipal Channel** to promote cycling and the Bikeway Program.

The **Houston Bikeway Program** publishes quarterly electronic newsletters to a mailing list of 22,500. The Bikeway News publication is also offered through the program Web site and redistributed among partner organizations.

- **BICYCLE FRIENDLY:** The City of Houston has celebrated seven consecutive **National Bike to Work Day** events and has expanded the event to a month-long celebration to increase cycling awareness. The **Tour de Houston** has celebrated a third anniversary with a total this year of 7,500 riders participating in an urban ride fit for all riders. The Tour features 20, 40 and 70 mile loops. Houston points of interest are a highlight of the ride. The event includes a party for participants at the conclusion of the ride.

