



Spring 2009

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The Bikeway Program Is On A Roll

After many years of planning, design and construction, the City of Houston Public Works Department is completing bike trail projects all across town. On December 2, 2008, 150 people joined Mayor White and city officials for the groundbreaking of the MKT Rails to Trails. The construction team has made significant progress on this trail and it should be open to the public around December 2009.

The Columbia Tap Rails to Trails was opened to the public on March 7, 2009. Not only did people gather to celebrate this new bikeway connection between the Third Ward, Downtown and Hermann Park, but over 250 volunteers helped The Park People plant 350 trees along the trail.

The City of Houston has completed another bikeway project that we are opening to the public on Saturday, May 16, 2009. This West Houston Trail is located within the Energy Corridor District. This hike and bike trail links bike lanes along Enclave Parkway and into Harris County's Terry Hershey Park, which has over 50 miles of bike trails that are used by local residents for commuting and recreational bike trips.



Mayor White Speaks about the importance of bikeways in Houston communities



City, county, state, and federal officials cut the ribbon to open the Columbia Tap Trail

***Please join us on Saturday,
May 16, 2009, 10:00 A.M. - 11:00
A.M. to open this new bike trail,
because the City of Houston Is
On A Roll!!!***

***For more details go to:
www.houstonbikeways.org***

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Houston Bike to Work 2009

Join Mayor White and the Houston Bikeway Program as we celebrate National Bike to Work day on Friday, May 15, 2009. This promotes cycling as a way to get to work and a healthy lifestyle on a local and national level. The City of Houston Bikeway Program is planning a bike ride with Mayor White on Friday, May 15 at 7:30 am. Those interested in joining the ride should gather at the South Picnic Loop in Memorial Park (between volleyball and softball fields) at 7:00 am. The bike ride will start promptly at 7:30 am and will end at the steps of City Hall. Refreshments and a short press conference will follow. Afterward, everyone will continue on to their next destination.

Bike Barn and REI (sponsor of the Houston White Bike Program) will be at Memorial Park and City Hall to assist you with any of your biking needs. Bike teams that joined us last year include Team METRO, REI and the City of Houston White Bike Program, Houston Fire and Police Departments, Bayou City Outdoors and the University of Houston Bike Team. Organized bike rides to various work sites, rallies, fairs and other opportunities to promote cycling in Houston are planned throughout the month.



The Metro Bike Team joins Mayor White for the 2008 Bike to Work Day

Guaranty Bank Tour de Houston

5,100 bicyclists joined Mayor Bill White and Senator Rodney Ellis on the Fifth Annual Guaranty Bank Tour de Houston. The ride start and finish was held at Discovery Green, bicyclists rode through various parts of the city, including the Heights, Midtown, Montrose and Oak Forest. Sun & Ski Sports provided bike support for riders. The weather was perfect for bicycling, and there was plenty of food, refreshments and live music to greet riders completing the 20, 40 and 70 mile routes. Funds from this event are used by the Houston Parks and Recreation Department to maintain our green spaces and summer programs.



Senator Rodney Ellis is ready to ride!



Free Web-based Bicyclist Education for All!

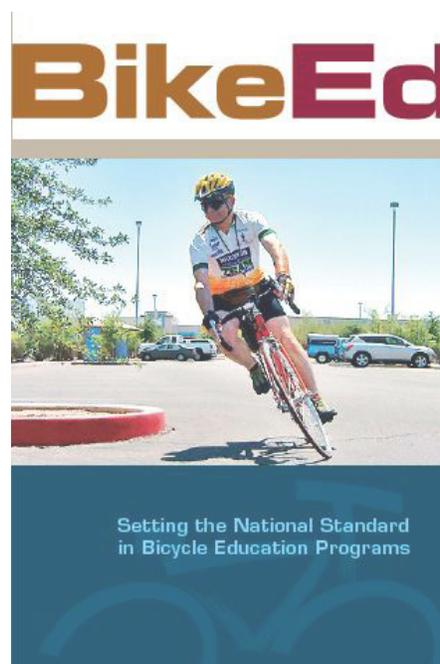
Educating Houstonians in the fundamentals of bicyclist safety is one of the three primary goals of the City of Houston's Bikeway Program. It's one of the five categories considered by the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) when awarding its Bicycle Friendly Community designation. Approximately 90 communities throughout the United States have been awarded the "Bicycle Friendly Community" status. As we construct our new bikeways, improve our on-street facilities and update the Comprehensive Master Plan, the City of Houston received an honorable mention in 2007.

The City of Houston is working with the LAB to develop and deploy a web-based bicyclist education program utilizing the Traffic Skills 101 course curriculum. This will feature the "classroom" portion of the course. Upon completion of this on-line course, registered participants will be linked with Houston-area League Certified Instructors (LCI) to complete the "on the bike" portion of the course, which includes bike handling exercises, such as avoiding objects, emergency turning, traveling along roadways



League Certified instructor Dave Jones of the Tour de Hood Organization

and through intersections. This website should be available to the public late Summer 2009.



1st Annual Houston Tour de Hood

Please join us for the first annual Tour de Hood on Sunday, May 24, 2009. The Tour de Hood, Inc is a nonprofit organization that promotes healthy lifestyles through physical fitness. This volunteer driven group was created by Dr. Veon McReynolds and supported by League Cycling Instructor Dave Jones. The mission of Tour de Hood, Inc. is to promote health awareness through bicycle riding education and other physical activities. The objectives of the organization are: (1) to increase awareness of the connection of healthy living with bicycling, (2) to inspire people of all ages and abilities to ride for recreation, and (3) to develop healthy values and life skills essential for productive citizenship. Tour De Hood offers

the following activities: Bike-A-Thons, the Mend A Bike Program, and Awareness to Health classes.

The ride will be a 26 mile adventure through six of Houston's historic wards. The Tour will feature designated rest stops in each Ward, focusing upon its history and attractions (restaurants, parks, museums and more). This is a great way for tourists and City of Houston residents to experience the urban outdoors while learning more about these neighborhoods and what they have to offer. Funds generated from this ride will be used for operating costs associated with the 'Bike-A-Thons', 'Awareness to Health' classes and the 'Mend-A-Bike' program, which needs tools and bike parts for participants

involved in the instructional series. For more information, please visit <http://www.tourdehood.org/>.

Update of the Houston Bikeway Master Plan

City of Houston staff are currently updating the Comprehensive Bikeway Plan to reflect all of the new bikeways and trails currently under construction and within final phases of design. To date we have received hundreds of responses, suggestions and comments, through our website and public meetings held all across the City. We've also heard from neighborhood organizations and non-profits, such as Bike Houston, Houston Parks Board, and the Quality of Life Coalition. We're

also working with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department to identify missing links in our bikeway system, improve our existing facilities, including roadway conditions, maintenance, signage and pavement markings.

While we continue to receive input, Bikeway staff are currently mapping suggestions for our bikeway network, that will be reviewed by a team of Engineers and Planners to determine feasibility and priorities. In addition to new bikeways, the updated master plan will include design recommendations for on-street bike facilities and off street trails, as well as procedures and policies for project development and future updates of the master plan that will be conducted on a routine basis.



You never know who or what you will see while you're riding Houston Bikeways!

City of Houston Bikeway Program

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