



# BIKEWAY NEWS



Summer/Fall 2007

Volume 5, Issue 3

## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Bike to Work Day

On Friday May 18, 2007, Houston Mayor Bill White and Director of the Department of Public Works and Engineering Mike Marcotte lead a group of cyclist on a bike ride from Memorial Park to the steps of City Hall. This was part of the City of Houston Bikeway Program's "7<sup>th</sup> Annual Bike to Work Day" campaign designed to motivate Houstonians to use their bicycles as an alternative to driving a car. The Mayor's downtown team was one of several other teams citywide taking part in the corporate bike challenge to raise awareness and increase Houston's image as a bike friendly city.

Members of the team included City of Houston employees, HPD Special Operations Bike Patrol officers, Continental Airlines, METRO, Blue Cross and Blue Shield and HFD Paramedics. Local news reporters Chau Nguyen from KHOU-TV, Tom Zizka from KRIV-TV and Ryan Korsgard from KPRC-TV gathered at the Memorial Park Loop parking lot at about 7 a.m. Mayor White,

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7<sup>th</sup> Annual Bike to Work Day

Left to Right. Fox 26 Tom Zizka, Mayor Bill White, KPRC-TV Ryan Korsgard, CH 11-KHOU-TV Chau Nguyen and Director of PWE Michael Marcotte.

who is an avid bike rider, cruised into the park at about 7:30 a.m. accompanied by City Council Member Carol Alvarado, thanked the group for their commitment to the campaign. The ride covered about 5 miles winding through the Memorial neighborhood before coasting to City Hall. METRO also showed off their new bike racks on buses. Refreshments were provided by Blue Cross/ Blue Shield,

Alonti, and McDonalds (Two Shell Plaza). **The downtown team won the overall Bike to Work challenge.**

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On Friday, June 1, 2007, the party and celebration continued for a successful National Bike Month effort in the City of Houston. In the final week of National Bike Month, over 430 cyclists registered to ride during the month of May. Those who signed up on the City of Houston Bikeway website were invited to attend a celebration party at Berryhills Restaurant in the Galleria. The event was sponsored by Bayou City Outdoors.



*ABC 13 Reporter Andy Cerota, during a live shot at the Bike Month Celebration.*

## Columbia Tap Greenway

On Tuesday, May 1, 2007, the City of Houston Bikeway Program joined with Texas Southern University to break ground on the new **Columbia Tap Rails to Trails greenway**. The greenway will provide a linear park with a multi-use trail along the abandoned Union Pacific railway corridor. The trail will reach from the bike route on Dixie Drive to the bike lanes on Polk Street, making connections to the trail on Brays Bayou, and the bike route on Alabama and McGowen. The trail also includes a bicycle and pedestrian bridge across the 288 freeway and across Brays Bayou.



*Tour De Hood bikers lead the way at the TSU Columbia Tap Groundbreaking.*



*The City of Houston Bikeway Staff enjoyed the moment of the Columbia Tap Greenway Groundbreaking. Left to Right. Rita Balchus, Ben Bansal and Maber Saied.*

The groundbreaking kicked off the Bike Month celebration in Houston. Bike Month is a national event celebrated in the month of May to increase cycling awareness. The event included a Tour de Hood and The Third Ward Community Bike Center bike ride to the event and the participation of the TSU marching band. Speakers included Jerome

Greenspan representing Council Member Carol Alvarado, Nzinga Rideaux representing Council Member Ada Edwards, TSU interim president J. Timothy Boddie, Jr., and Michael S. Marcotte, P. E., DEE, Director of the Department of Public Works and Engineering. Refreshments were provided by Studio Z Homes.



*Larry Zomper with Studio Z Homes provided refreshments.*

# Union Station

On Tuesday, July 17, 2007, Mayor Bill White, City Council Member Carol Alvarado and Mike Marcotte the Director of Public Works and Engineering attended a ground breaking for the last leg of the Columbia Rails to Trails bike route. The event took place near Minute Maid Park in front of the Union Station steam engine monument which is the perfect symbolic site of the latest groundbreaking for another City of Houston bike trail.

Many partners and supporters were on hand to celebrate the start of the newest bike and hike trail conversion for Houston. Refreshments were provided by East Downtown Management District. The trail that runs from Polk Street to Texas Avenue will allow residents to ride their bikes from the Texas Medical Center to Downtown along a trail system that uses the old railroad corridor and the former Union Station.



State Senator Rodney Ellis, Mayor Bill White and Council Member Carol Alvarado, enjoy a light moment during the Groundbreaking.



Tour De Hood Riders and City Leaders pose for the Union Station Groundbreaking at Minute Maid Park.

## Summer Intern

Brittiane is a recent graduate from The Art Institute of Houston, majoring in the Graphic Design Bachelor's Program. Brittiane is interested in commercial design, print, illustrating and media drawing. Brittiane designs layouts, takes still photography and has created the design for an online bike education course being developed for all City of Houston employees. Brittiane is also working on redesigns and updates to the Bikeway Program Website. Brittiane has experience in quality design, leadership and dedication to her work.



Brittiane Johnson Student Intern for The City of Houston Bikeway Program and a recent graduate from The Art Institute of Houston.



Left to Right. Lilibeth Andre, Tina Araujo (East Downtown Mgt. District), Connie Roebuck and Ernest Chou (Metro) and Rita Balchus.

## METRO – Bikes on Buses!!!

Great news!!! Local buses now have bike racks. In addition, bikes can be stored in the designated luggage bays of METRO's Park and Ride buses. Bikes are allowed on METRORail during nonpeak hours. Go to [www.ridemetro.org](http://www.ridemetro.org) for more information.



# White Bike

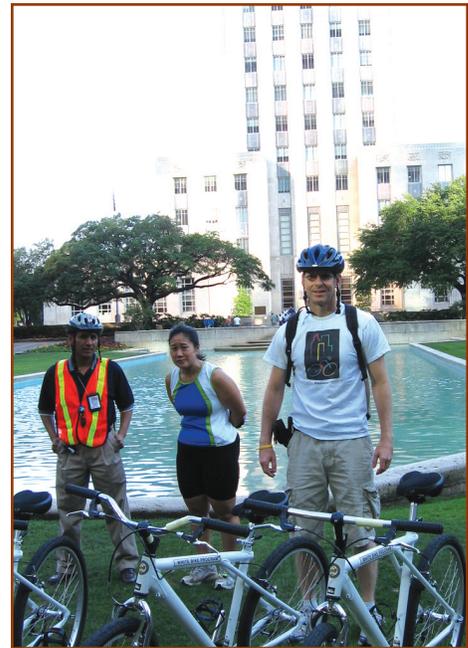
On Friday, May 18, 2007, The Bikeway Program launched the White Bike Program. The White Bike Program took surplus HPD bikes, stripped and painted, and with the help of REI, were rebuilt with new parts (seats, handlebars, brakes, wheels, tires, gears, etc.) to come up with standard white bikes to provide employees with the use of bicycles at work. These bicycles can be used as pool vehicles to conduct many work-related activities, while reducing the use of motor-vehicles and exercising to stay fit, and increasing visibility of bike use.

REI and AAA Texas sponsored the production of the "Watch For Cyclists!" bumper sticker under that campaign and retails it to raise funds for this and other education and awareness projects. This is a pilot program of which you will hear a lot more about in upcoming newsletters.



An employee fleet program for City of Houston employees.

*The White Bike logo was designed by Crystal Smiley, a recent graduate from The Art Institute of Houston.*



*White Bike Participants prepare to saddle up for better health and reduced emission.*

## Upcoming Bikeway Projects

***The West Houston Trail project has let for construction!***

The following trail projects are scheduled to begin construction in 2008:

- Herman Brown Park
- Houston Heritage Corridor, West Seg.
- Houston Heritage Corridor, East Seg. I
- West White Oak Bayou Trail Extension
- MKT Rails to Trails
- Little White Oak Trail



*Left to Right. Michael Marcotte, Council Member Carol Alvarado, Jennifer Hill (REI), Mayor Bill White, Crystal Smiley, Manual Roderiguez, Romeo Mendez, Jim Tanner, Gilbert Atkinson and Wolf Guentbert.*

### City of Houston Bikeway Program

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