

Bike-Ped NEWS

The Newspaper of the Hillsborough County
Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee



Issue 28

A Transportation Partner

Summer 2003

BIKE LANES FOR THE COST OF PAINT

Sometimes installing a bike lane is as simple as painting a new stripe. In such cases, the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) believes that painting that stripe should be the rule rather than the exception.

Roads that are being re-paved must be repainted with lane markings as a matter of course, and some of those roads may be able to accommodate bike lanes. Where the pavement is wider than necessary to accommodate motor vehicles, or where the motorized-vehicle lanes can safely be narrowed, bike lanes can be added at minimal cost when the road is painted after resurfacing.

Conceptual drawings of roads re-striped to include bike lanes were presented to local transportation agencies this spring. The MPO staff is now drafting policy language that local agencies can use.



Painted bike lanes would increase safety for bicyclists.

to make including bike lanes in resurfacing projects a regular practice. Once approved by the MPO, the policy language may be presented to local governments to become part of their comprehensive plans. For further information, please contact **Gena Torres**, (813) 272-5940 ext. 357, or torresg@plancom.org.

GENA'S "BELIEVE IT OR NOT"

Are they sidewalks or "oops zones" for automobiles? A major southern city, to remain nameless, considers sidewalks to be "auto

recovery zones" – a buffer for errant drivers veering off the roadways! Lining sidewalks with shade trees was refused by the state's transportation agency. The reason given: if a car hits a tree, it will surely hurt the car. But if a car roars up on a sidewalk, there's a chance it won't hit any pedestrians. Believe it or not!

If you have suggestions for our next "Believe It Or Not" article, please contact **Gena Torres**, (813) 272-5940 ext. 357, or torresg@plancom.org.

GAS PRICES GOT YOU DOWN?

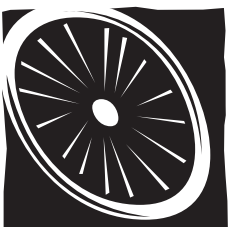
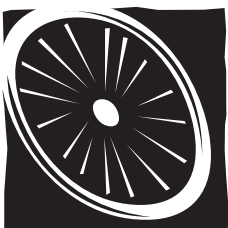
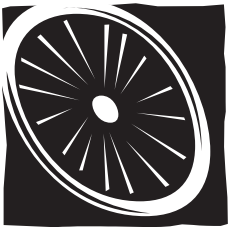
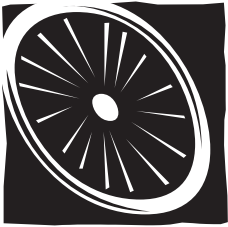
If rising gas prices didn't motivate you to hop on your bike, perhaps Bike to Work Week did! The Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee sponsored Bike to Work Week on May 12-16, 2003, with Thursday, May 15th, being the highlight of the week. The annual celebration featured bike safety checks and other events, and drew attention to an alternative way to commute.

Besides being great exercise, biking allows you to spend less time stuck and fuming (not to mention breathing fumes) in traffic jams, and is much cheaper than driving. According to the Bicycle Federation of America, transportation is the second largest expense for most American households, consuming nearly 20% of the average family budget. With gas prices recently nearing \$2 per gallon, you may want to bike to work more often than once a year!



WELCOME!

The Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee welcomes new member, Park Ranger Ray Potter.



BRIGHT IDEAS IN SOUTH HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

Kudos to the developers of Fish Hawk Ranch who have provided bike trails throughout their communities, and the developers of Waterchase who have included bike trails in their master plan. Trails make it safe for kids and adults to make short-distance trips – such as to parks, schools, and neighbors’ houses – without having to use a car.



FishHawk Ranch is one of several new communities that include bike trails in their master plan.

The new program requires a grass roots effort by the community affected by the speeding. When significant concern is raised through petitions or phone drives, the county will study the area to identify safety issues and recommend solutions. The recommendations will be presented to the community and then to the Board of County Commissioners. After board approval, the project becomes eli-

NEW TRAFFIC CALMING PROGRAM

Speeding and high number of cars are two of the most common neighborhood traffic complaints reported to local law enforcement and traffic engineering officials. Chronic speeding on a street typically makes walkers and cyclists uncomfortable and therefore less likely to walk or bike.



Neighborhood traffic calming devices are being installed to slow traffic on residential streets in this neighborhood in South Hillsborough County.

Hillsborough County has been installing traffic calming devices, such as speed tables, on residential streets for a number of years. Now the county’s new Neighborhood Traffic Calming (NTC) Program allows the county to consider collector roads for traffic calming too. Because collector roads are designed to handle more traffic than residential streets, devices other than speed tables may be appropriate.

gible for funding. For more information, contact **Michael B. McCarthy**, Hillsborough County Public Works, at (813) 307-1860.

COMMUTER CORNER

A New Year’s Resolution...

Phil Metlin is still fulfilling his New Year’s resolution to ride his bike to work while most of us can’t even remember what our



resolutions were. Phil, a news director for Channel 13, commutes three miles from his home on Davis Island to the downtown Tampa television station by bicycle. Phil stated, “There aren’t any bike lanes ... it is a little dangerous,” when asked, what factor do you think prevents others from riding? He also believes, “Tampa has a long way to go before one could call it a bike-friendly town.”