

Bike-Ped NEWS

The Newspaper of the Hillsborough County
Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee



Issue 33

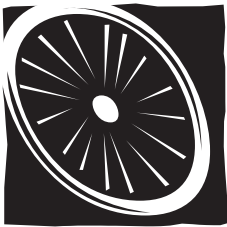
A Transportation Partner

Spring 2005

GET ON YOUR FEET FOR THE BPAC STRATEGY SESSION!



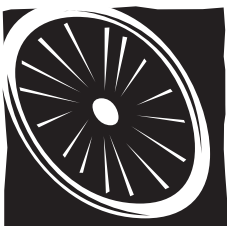
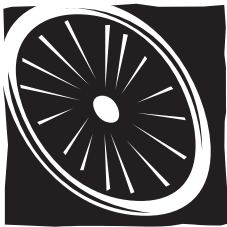
Combine beautiful weather (we hope!), a bicycle ride or hike, great food, and enthusiastic participants, and you can't help but have a successful brainstorming session! On Saturday, April 16th, BPAC members and other cycling and walking advocates will meet at the Upper Tampa Bay Trail for the annual BPAC Strategy Session. ***We'd love for you to attend!***



What's going on? Get the blood flowing from 8:00 a.m. until 9:45 a.m. with a bike ride along the Upper Tampa Bay Trail and area on-road bike lanes or walk or skate along the paved Upper Tampa Bay Trail. Get the ideas flowing at 10:00 a.m. with a stimulating keynote speaker, followed by a review of the top-ranked project ideas and a brainstorming session for some new ideas. A discussion of steps to making these projects a reality will be followed by a delicious lunch to be provided by the Chefs of the BPAC.



At the next regular meeting in May, the BPAC will review, prioritize, and formalize a game plan to complete as many of the projects as possible during the coming year. If you are unable to attend and would like to contribute ideas or for more information, please contact **Gena Torres** at (813) 273-3774 x357 or by e-mailing torresg@plancom.org.



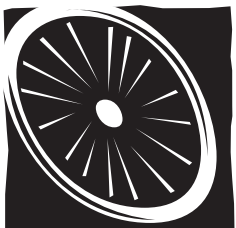
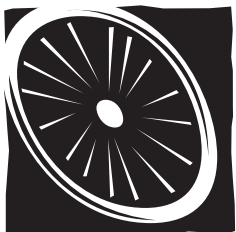
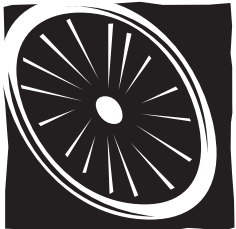
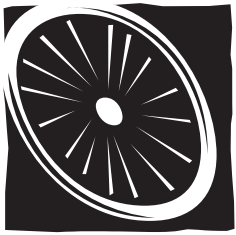
Last year, BPAC members and guests identified several projects for future focus. Here's a sampling:

- 🚲 Support regional trail efforts
- 🚲 Encourage traffic calming
- 🚲 Reprint Bicycling Suitability Map
- 🚲 Pursue more funding opportunities
- 🚲 Pursue School Board involvement in BPAC
- 🚲 Encourage developers to provide showers, lockers, racks, etc.
- 🚲 Enhance crosswalks

WALK THIS WAY!

Your MPO, the City of Tampa and HARTline are hosting eight WALKABLE COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS. *Attendance is free, and you are invited!* Residents are expressing a desire to live in places where children can safely bike or walk to school, where they don't have to use a car for a short trip to the store, and where they can take an after-dinner stroll along pleasant streets. Join us for a hands-on, or in this case feet-first, workshop experience!

This is a unique opportunity for citizens to work toe-to-toe with planning professionals and community leaders on finding workable walkability solutions that can be easily transferred to any neighborhood in Hillsborough County. Walkable communities lead to more social interaction, greater physical fitness, reduced crime, and support a neighborhood's economic activity. Walkable communities are more livable communities that lead to whole, happy, healthy lives for our children and the transportation disadvantaged as well as the entire community.



Experienced trainers from the National Center for Bicycling & Walking will conduct a series of Walkable Community Workshops throughout Hillsborough County. To view the complete list of dates, times, and locations, please reference the map on page 5 of *The Mobility Focus*. The basic agenda will be the same at each workshop, a four-hour event for community leaders, professionals and citizens. Each will provide information on how to make our communities the pedestrian-friendly places we all want to experience and include a short walking audit near the meeting location. Wear walking shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather on the day you attend. Refreshments will be provided! For more information, please contact **Gena Torres** at (813) 273-3774 x357, torresg@plancom.org, or visit www.hillsboroughmpo.org.



Imagine the possibilities . . .



COMMUTER CORNER

With weather that would keep Floridians huddled together indoors, Nicholas Griffith braved the weather and commuted by bicycle in Canada for ten years. Dressed in several layers of protective clothing, Nicholas even rode in temperatures close to negative forty degrees Fahrenheit without the wind-chill! Well, he won't have to pile on the layers anymore.

Trying to cool off might be the challenge now, after Nicholas moved to New Tampa last summer. Wearing his new lighter wardrobe, Nicholas cycles approximately ten miles to his job at the Moffitt Center near the USF campus. Much of his route is along the Bruce B Downs off-road trail. So, he's careful to watch for cars at each intersection along the way.

Nicholas feels that a major factor preventing others from becoming bicycle commuters is lack of motivation. It seems easier for most people to hop in their cars. He added that the motorists' lack of concern towards cyclists and the limited number of trails and bike lanes doesn't help. He suggests that more employers provide secure areas for locking bicycles and facilities for showering and changing clothes.

