

Bike Ped NEWS



The Newspaper of the Hillsborough County
Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee

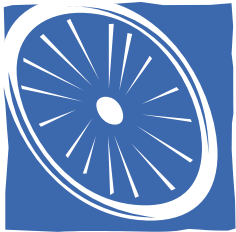
Issue 34

A Transportation Partner

Summer 2005



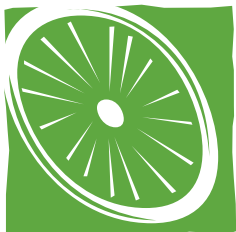
Walkable Community Workshops Walk Away with Rave Reviews



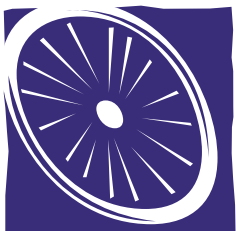
Sponsored by your MPO, the City of Tampa and HARTline, eight half day Walkable Community Workshops (WCW) were held in neighborhoods throughout Hillsborough County during the week of April 4th. A huge success, more than 200 community leaders, social service agencies, citizens and professional planners attended the workshops. The media, including the St. Pete Times, Tampa Tribune and WMNF 88.5, participated in and covered several of the workshops. Expert trainers from the National Center for Bicycling & Walking presented examples of successful design solutions followed by a walking tour of the neighborhood where each workshop took place.

ment area on Day 3, followed by the Grant Park neighborhood in the afternoon. Mayor Affronti and the Temple Terrace Library hosted Day 4's morning workshop. Later that day, Planning Commissioner Wilson was joined by Mayor Sparkman in Plant City. Championed by Planning Commissioner Madden, Ruskin was the location of the final workshop on Day 5.

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The workshops kicked off strong on Day 1 at the University Area Community Center, the site of the tragic hit-and-run accident that killed two young brothers just over a year ago. On Day 2, Councilman Dingfelder joined attendees as the Bayshore/ Gandy area was examined, followed later in the day by Town & Country. Linda Saul-Sena welcomed attendees to Tampa Union Station and the Channelside develop-



Strong recommendations were made that will vastly improve each location and can be easily applied throughout Hillsborough County. Thrifty for this creative approach to transportation solutions, common were ideas to improve safety and create a safer pedestrian-friendly environment, such as:

- * Planted medians, mini-circles & raised crosswalks
- * More residential, street-level, decorative lighting
- * Widen sidewalks & fill in sidewalk gaps
- * Plant shade trees to provide a more inviting pedestrian environment
- * Striped roadway bike lanes

This innovative public involvement approach offered a unique opportunity for intergovernmental agencies and citizens to work toe-to-toe in creating viable solutions. So much can be achieved when communities and government work together. Look for implementation of ideas that were born in these workshops in future plans throughout Hillsborough County. For more information, please contact **Gena Torres** at 813/273-3774 x357 or torresg@plancom.org.



Special thanks to WCW on-site sponsors who graciously provided us with munchies & goodies: Coca-Cola/Dasani, Starbucks, Carter Burgess, Gannett Fleming, Grimail Crawford, Inc., HDR, PBSJ, Tindale-Oliver & Associates, Inc., URS Corp & WilsonMiller

Commuter Corner

Doubters beware... Lesa Wright is right when she says that trails are not purely for recreation or exercise. As a matter of fact, those in the "biz" of bicycle and pedestrian planning have known for many years that as many as 30% of off-road trail users are there for a non-recreational trip purpose. Shopping, visiting friends, going to school, or as in Lesa's case, going to work is not an uncommon trail use.

The Upper Tampa Bay Trail is a direct link from Lesa's home in Fawn Ridge to her job on Sheldon Road 6 miles to the south. Here's what Lesa has to say about her commute:

"What makes my ride more enjoyable is the scenery on the trail – it is way more interesting than driving in my car. I have a great bike bag that allows me to carry my work clothes, my lunch, and other items as needed. It's more practical than enjoyable, but it does allow me to carry a lot of 'creature comforts.' Recently, the county added the pedestrian-friendly countdown signals at the intersection of Sheldon & Waters, and I feel a lot more secure knowing how much time I have to cross – it's really a great thing! The other thing that improved the safety for me was moving the bus benches off the sidewalk. Before that, you had to maneuver around them and that was tricky at times."



BPAC Strategists Hit the Trail

The sun was shining on April 16th when BPAC members and friends got together for the BPAC's annual Strategy Session. A few attendees literally hit the trail early that Saturday for an 8 a.m. bike ride or hike on the Upper Tampa Bay Trail before the brainstorming session began. Hearts pumping with renewed energy and the inspiration that comes with a surrounding other than the typical downtown monthly meetings, fresh ideas and exciting challenges for the BPAC were afoot. BPAC Vice Chair Tina Russo shared one of her recent projects, a video for law enforcement officers showing that stopping bicyclists and motorists who don't obey traffic rules can save lives. The group then enjoyed a picnic while cooking up strategies for the coming year. Here is just a sampling:

- * Advocacy activities such as giving bike/ped awards to deserving elected officials & business
- * Educate road designers to the safety benefits of on-road facilities versus sidepaths
- * More pedestrian representation on the BPAC
- * Host an Awareness Day Event or Bike/Ped Summit
- * Increase media partnerships

HIT THE TRAIL - continued on page 4

Hundreds Turn Out to Bike the Bay!

HARTline did it again – an annual favorite not just for participants but for employees as well, HART's 8th Annual Bike the Bay, was held on Saturday, March 19, 2005. With the sun shining, blue skies and a light spring breeze, weather was just ideal for the nearly 300 bicycle enthusiasts who participated in this family friendly, 10-mile ride. Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio was there to kick off the race. The ride began at the Marion Transit Center, wound through Downtown, all the way to very end of Davis Islands, and back to the Marion Transit Center where participants enjoyed munchies and free goodies.



MPO Repaves the Information Highway

Same old MPO internet address, www.hillsboroughmpo.org, **entirely new MPO web site!** Built with Macromedia Flash technology and a Content Management Solution (CMSmx) developed by EGO7, the newly redesigned web site is both faster and easier to navigate. In coming months, the site will be fully translated into Spanish, a search engine will be added, and ongoing enhancements will be made. Please visit www.hillsboroughmpo.org. Then, tell us what you think, and you could **win one of five \$20 gift certificates to Hurricane Pass at Channelside!** A drawing will be held among all respondents. Comments and suggestions regarding new web site:

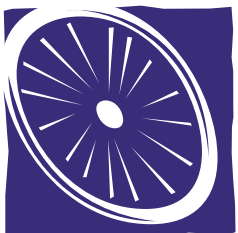
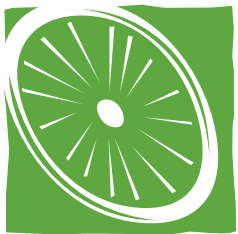
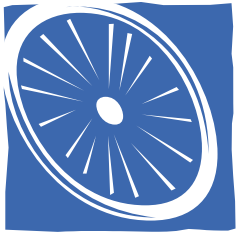
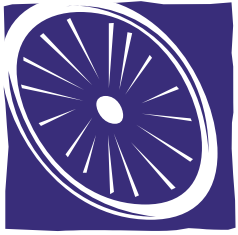
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www.hillsboroughmpo.org





Free Bike Rack Program Battles Rising Gas Prices

The New North Transportation Alliance is doing its part to encourage commuters to get out of their cars and onto a bike. The Bike Racks for Businesses Program offers free bike racks to University Area businesses. Interested businesses simply have to call in their request and install the racks. Chris Hagelin, bicycling expert and research associate at the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), will even assist the businesses in choosing the proper location for bike rack installation. Businesses like MOSI, Best Economy Lodge, University Collection, Delta Healthcare, and the Hillsborough County Development Center have already received their bike racks and are enjoying the benefit of providing the bicycling option for their employees and customers. To take advantage of the free Bike Racks for Businesses Program or for more information, please contact **Heather Sobush** at 813/974-9799 or sobush@cutr.usf.edu.



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Since the Strategy Session, BPAC members have hit the ground running and are already tackling several of these and other on-going projects that will make a difference in the lives of bicyclists and pedestrians. If you'd

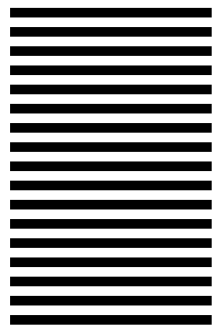
like to pitch in, the BPAC normally meets on the 2nd Wednesday each month at 5:30 p.m. on the 18th floor of the County Center. Visit www.hillsboroughmpo.org for meeting agendas and minutes, or contact **Gena Torres** at 273-3774 x357 or torresg@plancom.org.



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