

Bike Ped NEWS

The Newspaper of the Hillsborough County
Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee



Issue 36

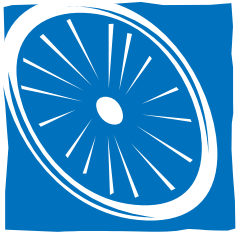
A Transportation Partner

Winter 2006



Walking with the Mayor

Hundreds of walkers came out for the first Walking with the Mayor event at Al Lopez Park on Saturday morning, October 29th. Participants had the option to walk 1, 2, 3 or 4 miles with Mayor Pam Iorio. The event included entertainment, free health screenings and information on how walking and other lifestyle choices can improve our health. The next Walking with the Mayor event will get underway at 8:00 a.m. on March 11th at Al Lopez Park. This is the perfect opportunity to get on your feet and move no matter what shape you're in. All walkers welcome! For more information, contact the City of Tampa Parks & Recreation Department at 813/274-8615 or visit <http://www.tampagov.net>. ❖



RUN FOR SHELTER 5K RUN/WALK

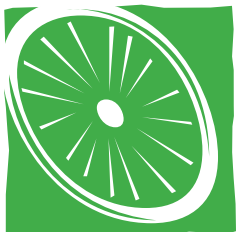
Friday, March 24, 2006

7pm at Centro Ybor

For more information, call
813/874-7223 or register on
www.Active.com.



*Walking
=
Fitness*



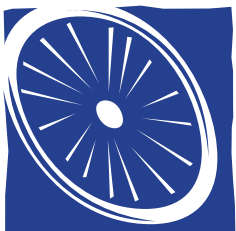
Need to find a safe biking route?

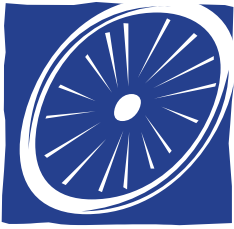
Check out our newly developed, color-coded
Bicycle Suitability Map!

In coming months, the map will be available at Parks & Bike Shops throughout the County.

In the meantime, check it out on our web site at www.hillsboroughmpo.org.

For more information, please contact
Gena Torres at 813/273-3774 x357 or via email at torresg@plancom.org.





Want Better Bicycling & Walking?

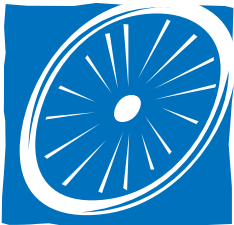
**Your Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory
Committee Needs YOU!**



BPAC volunteers can help teach children bicycle and traffic safety skills; encourage people to try cycling and walking; promote helmet use.

BPAC efforts have resulted in bike lanes being included in several roadway projects across Hillsborough County .

BPAC is working on new projects in areas of On & Off road lanes & trails, Safety Improvement and Public Awareness.

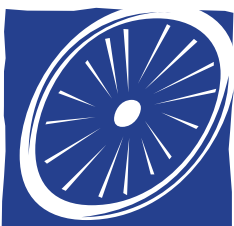
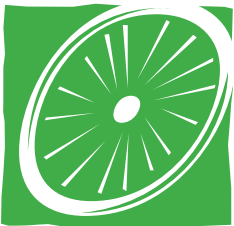


HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- ✓ Consider joining the BPAC
- ✓ Volunteer time for special events
- ✓ Provide info on gaps in the bikeway/sidewalk network
- ✓ Attend government meetings and public hearings



The BPAC is a group of extremely cool people that meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. typically in the Planning Commission Boardroom 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., 18th floor. Please contact **Gena Torres** at 813/273-3774 x357 or via email at torresg@plancom.org for an application or more information.



2006 BPAC Strategy Session Set for April

On Saturday, April 8th, BPAC members with other cycling and walking advocates will meet on Davis Islands at the Sandra Freedman Complex, 59 Columbia Drive for the annual BPAC Strategy Session. The goal is to brainstorm bicycle and pedestrian projects this year. **We'd love for you to attend!**

An optional bike ride, skate or walk will jump start our session at 8 a.m., followed by a guest speaker to kick-off the meeting at 10 a.m. Following the brainstorming exercise, a delicious lunch will be provided by BPAC members.

Some projects identified last year's Strategy Session:

- ✓ More pedestrian representation
- ✓ Suitability Map (printed and on-line)
- ✓ Partnership with like-committees
- ✓ Awareness Day Event (elected officials and professionals)
- ✓ Media partnerships/media attention
- ✓ TECO fliers on bike-ped safety issues
- ✓ BPAC web page

**Join us as we make Hillsborough County
a better place to walk and ride!**

Commuter Corner

If you see Brit Hardy pedaling to work one morning, you'll realize he stands out among roadway engineers for more than just his recumbent bike. Seeing "District Road Design Engineer for the Florida Department of Transportation," you may think of a person who lives and breathes to design highways for cars and trucks. But that's not all that's on Brit's mind. Expanding his cycling routine from purely recreational to bona fide bicycle commuter, he cycles a whopping 22 miles to and from work!



Brit says, "The ride is a good mind clearing opportunity. I just need to find a way to make notes of the good ideas that come to mind during a pleasant ride." Bike advocates would love to equip Brit with a mic to record his thoughts. Brit supports striping bike lanes, adding street lighting, keeping shoulders clear of debris, and enforcing required bike lights and helmets for children.

Brit is supported by the FDOT who recognizes the benefit of healthy employees and alternative transportation, and encourages their employees by providing shower and locker facilities.

Designing Roads for People



Your MPO Livable Roadways Committee is currently updating Hillsborough's *Livable Roadways Guidelines*. The guidelines show best practices for designing pleasant, safe, and functional highways and by-ways. Other goals include promoting economic growth and enhanced aesthetics; minimizing impact on the environment; and addressing how roads relate to each other and the homes, businesses and other land uses that surround them.



How many times have been driving or walking on a major road in the heat of the summer and wondered why there aren't any shade trees? Or noticed a sidewalk that abruptly ends or runs into a utility pole? Or visited other communities that have a pleasant "Main Street" with shops and restaurants, and wondered where ours are? Please give us your thoughts by returning the brief survey card on the back cover (page 12) of this newsletter. Your opinion on livable roadways counts.

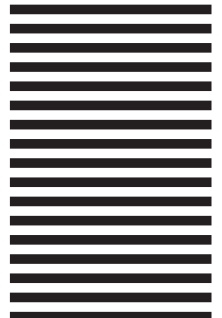


For more information, contact **Alan Steinbeck, AICP**, at steinbecka@plancom.org or by calling 813/273-3774 x336. A draft of the *Livable Roadways Guidelines* is available on your MPO web site under Current Projects at www.hillsboroughmpo.org. ❖

Fold here if mailing, and fill in your name and return address below.



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We can't make plans without you!

What do you think? Please fill in the blanks or circle the responses below that best reflect your views on Livable Roadways (see article on page 3), and fax to 813/301-7172. Or respond via business reply mail by folding the page in half and taping the edges so this survey is on the inside. Drop it in the mail – no postage required.

Thank you!

1. If you like more information about the Liveable Roadways Committee? If so, please supply your email address:

2. List some good examples of the most livable major roads in Hillsborough County.

3. List some examples of the least livable major roads in Hillsborough County.

4. What would fix the least livable roadways or is most needed to improve the roadways listed in number 3 above?

5. What features are most important in a livable roadway?

	Not Important <-----> Very Important				
	1	2	3	4	5
Complete sidewalk network	1	2	3	4	5
Safe crosswalks at intersections	1	2	3	4	5
ADA accessibility	1	2	3	4	5
Comfortable bus stops	1	2	3	4	5
Well lit streets	1	2	3	4	5
Bike lanes	1	2	3	4	5
Attractive landscaping	1	2	3	4	5
Directional signage	1	2	3	4	5
Shade trees	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic calming design	1	2	3	4	5

6. Write *yes, maybe, no, or don't know* next to each statement:

- _____ Attractive roadways are important to my community.
- _____ People drive too fast.
- _____ Roads are built for vehicles, not people.
- _____ Our major roadways are ugly.
- _____ Bicycle and pedestrian safety is a big problem here.
- _____ I would walk more if our roadways were more livable.
- _____ I'd bike more often if I felt safer on the roadways.
- _____ Roads should be functional, who cares what they look like.
- _____ I would take the bus to work if it were more accessible.