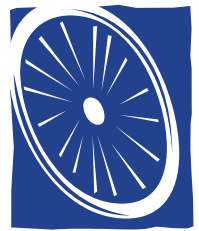


Bike Ped NEWS

The Newspaper of the Hillsborough County
Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)



Issue 43

A Transportation Partner

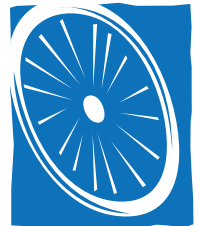
Spring 2009

March is for Cycling!

Celebrate Florida's Bike Month with Tampa BayCycle. A collaborative effort of the New North Transportation Alliance and the Tampa Downtown Partnership, Tampa BayCycle brings together people who believe that riding a bicycle allows people to save money and gas, stay fit, reduce traffic congestion and most importantly, have fun.



Bike Month events include: bicycle and gear giveaways, group rides, street skill classes, films, festivals, and more. For a complete event listing visit www.TampaBayCycle.com. Don't miss the 1st annual Downtown Tampa Twilight Criterium and Festival, Saturday, March 21st from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. For the schedule of events including bike decorating and family fun parade, race registrations and more, visit www.tampacrit.com. ❖



Do the Local Motion

The Tampa Downtown Partnership teamed up with Healthy Together, Hillsborough County, and FDOT to "Do the Local Motion," a free walking program. Narrated walking routes feature Downtown Tampa's public art, architecture, history and legends. Groups will meet at noon at Lykes Gaslight Square on the 2nd and 4th Fridays in March and April. (March 13: Walk to Oaklawn Cemetery & March 27: Walk to Bayshore Boulevard). Before or after your walk, browse the



pedestrian-friendly Tampa Downtown Market. Visit www.DoTheLocalMotionTampaBay.com for a schedule of events, mileage tracker, downloadable maps, and pod casts. ❖



Commuter Corner with Jonathon Scott: Utopia on Two Wheels!

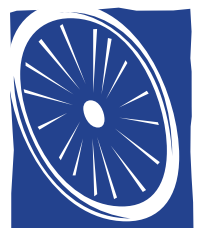
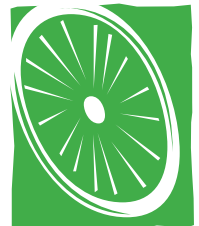
Since 1994, Jonathan Scott has been riding his bike to work. He tries to live close enough to his employer to make it an easy ride. In fact, when his consulting job kept him from biking to work, he actually quit! Now he works for the City of Tampa as a traffic engineer. When asked why he bikes, Jonathan said, "I can't stand driving. The last thing I want to do first thing in the morning is get inside a car. Driving a car puts me in a negative state of mind. Riding a bike is a utopia." His route Tampa's Bayshore Boulevard to Downtown takes about 30 minutes to ride. For bicycle commuting neophytes, Jonathan offers this, "Take the first step. After you ride in for the first week, you get used to it, and then the second and third weeks get easier." That's excellent advice from an experienced bicycle devotee. ❖



Get your Wheels Turning...

WE'RE HAVING A BPAC LOGO CONTEST!

It's time for a new BPAC logo, and we need creative ideas! Submit logo designs, either hand drawn or computer generated with your name, address, email and phone number by 5 p.m. on April 7th 2009. The winner will receive a "classic" BPAC logo polo shirt and bike light. For details or to submit an entry, contact **Gena Torres** by phone or email at **813/273-3774 x357**, torresg@plancom.org. ❖





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Finding Your Way

It's easier than ever to find your way around Downtown Tampa, thanks to 160 new vehicular, parking and pedestrian signs. The Tampa Downtown Partnership worked with government agencies, and stakeholders of major downtown attractions and facilities to create the new wayfinding system. "In addition to helping people easily find their destinations in a car or on foot, we believe the new coordinated signage package will help create a sense of place in Tampa's Downtown," said Karen Kress, Director of Transportation and Planning for the Tampa Downtown Partnership. ❖



Gasparilla Bicycle Safety Rodeo Rounds 'Em Up

Before the pirate invasion, your Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee combined a fun event with bicycle safety, hosting 260 children at our annual Gasparilla Bicycle Rodeo on January 24th at the Children's Gasparilla Extravaganza celebration.



MPO staff Gena Torres shows a participant how to fit the helmet for safety and comfort.