

# Bike Ped NEWS

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



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A Transportation Partner

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## Comprehensive Bicycle Plan Update Rolling Along

The Comprehensive Bicycle Plan identifies priority bike lanes, trails, and safety projects to be included in the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. One of the major components for creating a connected transportation network in Hillsborough County is safe, connected bicycle facilities.

When updating the Plan, the goals and objectives were the first on the list. The BPAC wanted to connect the dots for bicyclists, to achieve better connections between bike lanes, trails, transit, adjacent communities, and major activity centers that will maximize limited funds. More education, awareness, partnerships, and funding were also identified as goals for the Plan.



The next step was updating the list of needed improvements throughout the county. To do that, the existing facilities were identified and catalogued, and information about bicycle accidents was reviewed and analyzed. More than 800 citizens provided comments and suggestions on their cycling behavior and needs.

### HIGHEST PRIORITY PROJECTS

Once the needed improvements were identified, projects were prioritized using nine guiding principles including: connectivity, safety, community support, and congestion reduction.

Some of the highest priorities include:

### On-Road Bicycle Corridors

- Nebraska Avenue from Hillsborough Avenue to Fowler
- Hillsborough Avenue from Central Avenue to 56th Street
- SR 39 (Collins Street/Wheeler Street) from Charlie Griffin Road to the I-4 Frontage Road
- Grant Street from Alexander Street to SR 39
- Temple Terrace Highway from 56th Street to 78th Street
- 15th Street from Fowler Avenue to Fletcher Avenue
- Fletcher Avenue from North Boulevard to 22nd Street

### Off-Road Trails

- South Tampa Greenway/Friendship Trail from Westshore Boulevard at Gandy Boulevard to City Limits
- Plant City Connector from North of SR 60 to the Hillsborough/Polk County Line
- Temple Terrace Multi-Use Trail from Temple Terrace Highway to Whiteway Drive and Riverhills Drive following abandoned CST rail bed to Railway Park
- Brandon Parkway from Lumsden Road to Town Center Boulevard

### SAFETY/EDUCATION STRATEGY AND IMPROVEMENTS

- Intersection Visibility
- Intersection Signage and Pavement Markings
- Signal Timing and Bicycle Detection ❖

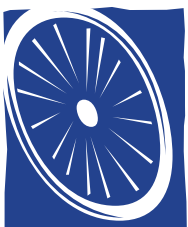
### STRATEGIES FOR BETTER BICYCLE CONNECTIONS

- Build new trails and greenways
- Build new and expanded roads with bike lanes
- Retrofit paved shoulders
- Re-stripe existing roads for bike lanes
- Improve streets adjacent to high volume, high speed roads for bicycle use
- Maintenance on existing bicycle facilities
- Combine with Safety and Education Programs

## Bicycle Suitability Map Available from Your MPO

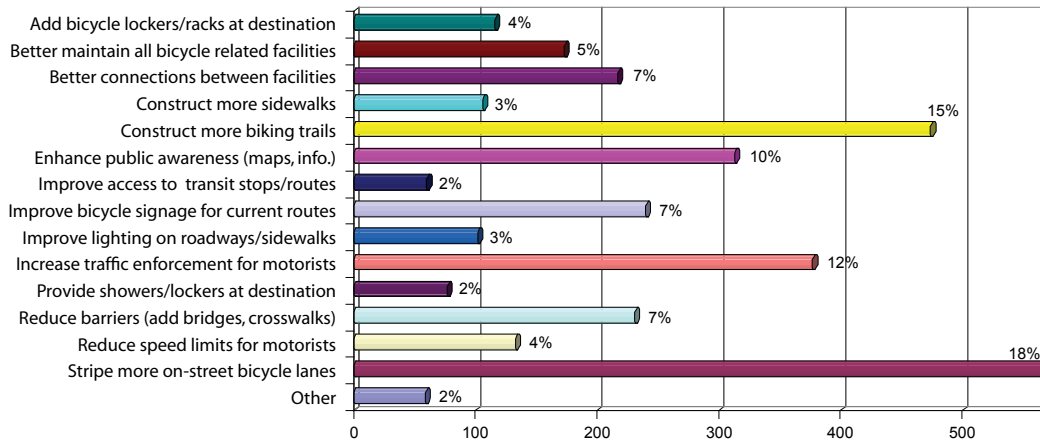
The Hillsborough County Bicycle Suitability Map is the only guide you need for bicycling in Hillsborough County, and the good news... it's FREE!

If you would like a copy of the Bicycle Suitability Map, please contact **Gena Torres** by email at [torresg@plancom.org](mailto:torresg@plancom.org) or by calling **813/273-3774 x357**. ❖



# What You Told Us - What improvements would encourage you to bicycle more often?

During the Comprehensive Bicycle Plan Update, Hillsborough County residents were surveyed about bicycle improvements that would encourage them to bicycle more often. Here's what we heard.



## Commuter Corner: Karl Smart

Cyclist Karl Smart offers insights on commuting, safety, and a little bit of cyclist humor. He has been a cycling commuter for over 10 years, riding approximately five miles to and from work. It started out as a casual affair, but has turned serious over the last three years.



Bicycling is Karl's mode of choice because, "It is better for the planet, saves money on gas, is great exercise and is fast enough that it doesn't take much longer than driving." He deals with the occasional aggressive dog by "growling and steering toward them" having found that if he rides away, most dogs will chase him. He doesn't recommend this approach to everyone, but it works for him. When asked what makes his ride more safe, Karl noted, "Safety is all about being aware of your surroundings. Know where the cars are and establish eye contact if you are going to cross paths with a car. Know the neighborhoods you are riding through and have alternatives to your planned route."

Excellent advice for bike riders of all ages. Thank you Karl and enjoy your "smart" bicycle commute! ❖

## AWESOME FAMILY FUN!

### Walking with the Mayor Keeping Tampa Fit

**Saturday, October 18th**

6:30 a.m. Registration 7:30 a.m. Walk  
Al Lopez Park, Tampa

[www.tampagov.net/dept\\_parks\\_and\\_recreation](http://www.tampagov.net/dept_parks_and_recreation)

### Bicycle Bash by the Bay

**Sunday, October 19th**

11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Vinoy Park,  
Downtown St. Petersburg

[www.bicyclebash.com](http://www.bicyclebash.com)

### Gasparilla

#### Bicycle Safety Rodeo

**Saturday, January 24th**

12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Bayshore Boulevard,  
between Albany Avenue and Gunby Avenue

[www.gasparillaextravaganza.com](http://www.gasparillaextravaganza.com)

