

Bike Ped NEWS

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



Issue 38

A Transportation Partner

Autumn 2006



A Recipe for a Livable Community

A livable community combines all the right ingredients including healthy lifestyle and bustling economy. If there were a recipe for a livable community, the master chefs would be Dan Burden and Billy Hattaway. On June 28th, the Florida State University Department of Urban & Regional Planning, in coordination with the Tampa Downtown Partnership and the Florida Department of Transportation, hosted a Livable Communities Workshop in Tampa featuring Burden, Executive Director of Walkable Communities, Inc., and Hattaway, Vice President of Hall Planning & Engineering.

Starters to Consider Before the Main Course

- Economic appetizer: Shoppers spend 12% more when they are under a canopy like a tree or an awning.
- Traffic soup: 30% of business district traffic is generated by people looking for a parking spot.

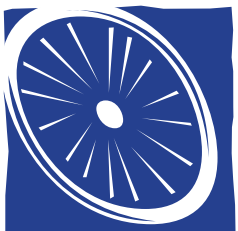
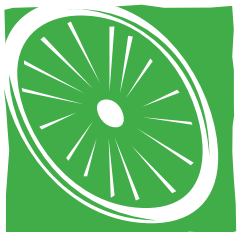
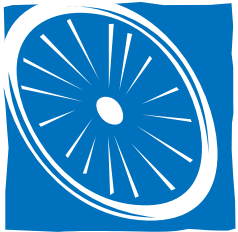
Livable Community Ingredients

- Every downtown should have at least 7 "places of discovery," at least one of which includes the ability to touch water.
- Every resident should have a park, plaza, or open space within 1/8 of a mile.
- Angled parking on the street creates up to 150% more parking than parallel parking.
- More traffic lanes do not necessarily mean improved traffic flow. Think about walking, cycling, public transit and advanced technologies.
- Don't copy other places; figure out what's unique about our community and make that the focal ingredient of our livable community.



Simulated 'livabilization' of an industrial park.

By the end of the workshop, many ideas were generated to improve communities throughout Hillsborough County. The 'chefs of livability' left attendees with an appetite for a livable community of our very own. More information is available online at www.walkable.org/fdot.htm. ❖



Sheldon Road Has Bike Lanes!

The BPAC congratulates the County Public Works Department on the restriping of Sheldon Road to give cyclists over 6 miles of dedicated bike lanes complete with signage to alert drivers. These lanes provide an important connection to existing bike facilities on Linebaugh, Waters, and to the popular Upper Tampa Bay Trail. Cycling enthusiasts and commuters can keep their cars parked and access destinations in northwest Hillsborough County using a network of bike lanes and trails. ❖

Bike Rider's Ed 101

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) is committed to reducing bicycle crashes in our county. Taking a hands-on-handlebars, and feet-on-pedals, approach to giving bike safety lessons to beginning riders of all ages, the HCSO sponsored a bike rodeo at the University Square Mall on July 29th. Sporting a new trailer filled with bicycles, helmets, cones, and miniature street signs to assist with bike safety lessons, Hillsborough's finest love helping kids get a safe start to what we hope will become a life-long passion for cycling. All five police districts are now equipped with the new bike rodeo trailers.

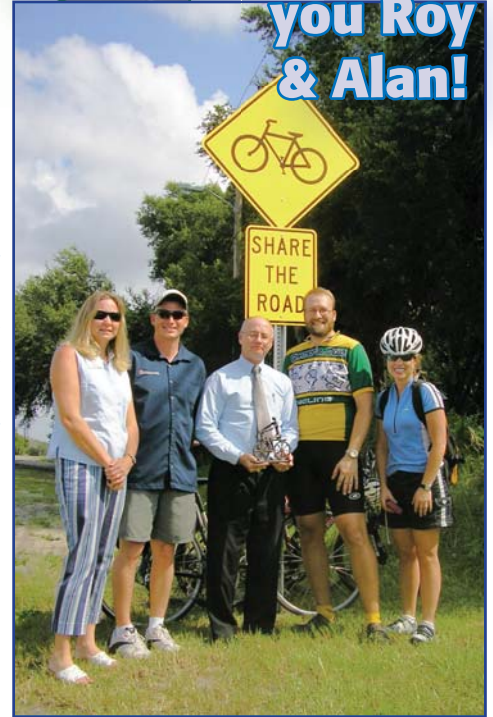
BPAC will host our annual bike rodeo on January 20th on Bayshore Boulevard at 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. prior to the Gasparilla Children's Parade. ❖



Thank
you Roy
& Alan!

Thanks to cycling advocate **Alan Snel's** letter writing, Rowlett Park Drive now has Share The Road signs in place. Posing with BPAC members & friends, City of Tampa's **Roy LaMotte**, Manager of Transportation, is recognized by BPAC for getting these important signs into place. Picture by Snel.

Left to right: Mary Helen Duke, David Luppino, Roy LaMotte, Chris Hagelin & Julie Bond.



Commuter Corner

After 15 years of cycling, Jack Sweeney hasn't lost his enthusiasm for pedaling. Besides his zest for life, Jack's commute to work downtown is for practical reasons: gas and parking are expensive. Plus it's actually a time saver when he can pass traffic jams on his bike.

"I like to get on my bike. It always makes me feel like a kid again!"

Sometimes rain will dampen his spirit for riding, since a wet tie and dirt-splattered office clothing NEVER looks nice. But rather than giving in, Jack is in the process of building the 'ultimate' commuter bike with fenders and weatherproof bearings, so he can brave bad weather with a bit more ease. When asked what he thinks prevents others from riding, Jack responded:

"A number of factors - fear of unpredictable motorists, inability to identify safe routes, loss of convenience, fear of being sweaty at work, etc. Plus, most people look at bike commuters like they are crazy or have some sort of death wish, which is almost never the case!"

Jack recommends the *free* **BPAC Bicycle Suitability Map**, available at area bike shops or by contacting **Gena Torres** at **273-3774 x357**, for finding the safest routes. ❖

You don't know Jack.



And, now you know Jack!

