

OKI Bicycle E-Info-News #117

December 8th, 2011



To Bike-Minded People in the OKI Region

One of the recommendations of the *OKI Regional Bicycle Plan* is to initiate timely communication about regional cycling issues among individuals with personal and professional interests in them. Computer technology has facilitated this through e-mail messaging. These "newsletters" will be issued on an as-needed basis as a "critical mass" of items accumulates. As the distribution list is often expanded, and issues are forwarded, previous editions are available to new readers on request. Also, Bike E-News can now be found on OKI's web site at: <http://www.oki.org/departments/transportation/bike.html>

On the other hand, if you can't tolerate additional e-mail, or your interests have changed, let me know in order to have your address removed from the distribution list.

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MEETINGS

OKI Bike Route Guide Update

As previously mentioned in these pages, we are updating the Ohio county bike route guides for Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren Counties this year. Now that the cycling season is winding down, and while the roads toured are fresh in mind, we are collaborating with several area bike shops to host meetings for cyclists to come and review the maps for cycling suitability. The value of these maps comes from the first hand knowledge of experienced cyclists who ride the roads. Meetings are scheduled in December at five area shops as follows:

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, December 13, 2011, 6:30 pm
LOCATION: Team Cycling and Fitness, 7765 Colerain Ave., White Oak

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, December 14, 2011, 7:00 pm
LOCATION: West Chester Cyclery, 9304 US Rt 42, West Chester

DATE/TIME: Saturday, December 17, 2011, 3:00 pm
LOCATION: Bishop's Bicycles, 313 Main St., Milford

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, December 20, 2011, 6:30 pm
LOCATION: Montgomery Cyclery, 8483 Beechmont Ave., Cherry Grove

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, December 28, 2011, 6:30 pm
LOCATION: Oakley Cycles, 2709 Observatory Ave., Hyde Park

CONTACT: Don Burrell, dburrell@oki.org 513-621-6300

APBP Webinar Series : Accessibility in Work Zones (NOTE: 2ND Wednesday)

High-quality pedestrian and bicycle accessibility in work zones begins with policy that is carried out consistently through planning, project development and construction. Attend this webinar to learn best practices for handling bicycle and pedestrian travel during construction operations. Attendees will hear how the Minnesota DOT has developed its standards for Temporary Pedestrian Access Routes (TPARs), including a workshop, demonstration project and focus group evaluation. Presenters from Boulder, Colorado, will discuss how that city worked with developers, contractors and decision-makers to develop a new work zone traffic control policy that establishes policies and procedures for pedestrian and bicycle travel during construction operations and identifies criteria for closing the PROW and designating alternate routes.

DATE: Wednesday, December 14, 2011
TIME: 3:00 – 4:00 pm
LOCATION: OKI Regional Council of Governments,
Large Conference Room (by Receptionist)
720 E Pete Rose Way, Cincinnati
Car parking \$4 in the Bicentennial Commons lot across the street; also a free bike rack
CONTACT: Don Burrell, dburrell@oki.org 513-621-6300

League of American Bicyclists National Bike Summit

Dedicated federal funding for bicycling projects and programs has transformed towns, cities and states by enabling them to build trails, stripe lanes and install parking for bicyclists; to deliver bike education and encouragement programs; to hire staff; and adopt ambitious plans to get more people on bikes more often. Don't let Congress turn back the clock on decades of hard-fought progress towards creating a more bicycle-friendly America. Attend the 2012 National Bike Summit to help defend these critical programs – just when America needs them the most.

DATE: Tuesday – Thursday, March 20-22, 2012
LOCATION: Grand Hyatt Hotel, Metro Center
1000 H St. NW, Washington, DC
COST: LAB member: \$375 (after Feb. 4, \$475)
LAB non-member: \$475 (after Feb. 4, \$575)
CONTACT: <http://www.bikeleague.org/conferences/summit12/>

NEWS

Federal Transportation Legislation

While progress towards new federal transportation legislation to replace SAFETEA-LU, which expired in 2009, has been anxiously awaited, there is concern that bills being introduced will adversely affect funding for active transportation. Policies instituted in 1991 to better integrate bicycling and walking into highway transportation for safety, environmental and health reasons,

are considered by some to be de-emphasized. Mode specific programs, including Transportation enhancements, Recreational Trails and Safe Routes to School are being combined to compete with highway projects. The issue is intensified by the unwillingness of congress to increase the 18 cents per gallon gas tax that has not been raised since 1993 and is causing deficits in the highway trust fund.

The Senate bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century, or MAP-21 combines these programs as "additional activities" with the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program and with probably less funding. Provisions also have been found for a mandatory side path law for roads on federal lands and national parks that is being opposed by cycling interests. MAP-21 has been moved from the committee to the full Senate and is awaiting hearings. There are concerns that a transportation bill to be presented in the House after the holidays may eliminate these programs entirely. The current extension of the SAFETEA-LU (the eighth) expires in March. Keep up at: <http://www.bikeleague.org/> and <http://www.americabikes.org/>

FHWA Rumble Strip Policies

The League of American Bicyclists reported that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has responded favorably to the requests of cycling interests for revisions to their *Technical Advisory: Shoulder and Edge line Rumble Strips* released last May. The guidelines for state and federal agencies building or reconstructing roads called for the expansion of rumble strip use on rural and urban roads and reduced a previous requirement for four feet of shoulder space to the right of the rumbles. These, and other issues to reduce the hazards for cyclists such as regular rumble-free spaces to allow cyclists to cross the rumbles, had been addressed in the 2001 version of the advisory. The November revisions to the May advisory address these concerns and call for a more open process for public input on highway reconstruction projects. See the response by the League and other groups at:

http://www.bikeleague.org/news/pdfs/rumble_statement11.29.11.pdf

See the FHWA advisory at:

http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/pavement/rumble_strips/t504039/

Ohio Safe Routes To School Applications Coming

Julie Walcoff, Ohio Safe Routes To School Program Manager, announced the timing for the next round of applications for Safe Routes to School funds. Applications will become available on January 2, 2012 and must be submitted online by March 2. Applicants will be notified by April 30. Applications should include infrastructure and non-infrastructure components. More at:

www.dot.state.oh.us/saferoutes

Contact: Bill Vorst, ODOT District 8, william.vorst@dot.state.oh.us

Gleeful "Safe Out the Door" Video Inspires Safety for School Kids

If you ever need a reason to smile, check out the Ohio Dept. of Transportation's (ODOT) new Glee-inspired Safe Routes to School video. The All-Ohio Safe Routes to School Show Choir will sing and dance their way into your safety awareness in this high-energy video to be shown at schools statewide. Ohio's First Lady Karen Kasich serves as Ohio Safe Routes to School ambassador. Public service announcements are currently airing on radio stations statewide thanks to the sponsorship of the Ohio Association of Broadcasters.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qPMcEBIqVWo&feature=youtu.be>

Once you have watched the video a few times, you might be inspired to enter ODOT's school safety contest. Students, classes and schools from Kindergarten through grade 8 are eligible to show how to be safe when walking or biking to school. A project could be a video, a science experiment, a poster, a cheer, a safety device or their own idea. Prizes include Trek bikes, running shoes and \$1,000 to a school or teacher for safety education. Deadline is February 29, 2012 and winners will be announced in April. More and the application at:

<http://www.dot.state.oh.us/groups/EveryMove/SRTS/Pages/SchoolSafetyContest.aspx>

State Bicycle Planning Activity

The Ohio Bicycle/Pedestrian coordinator, Heather Bowden, met with bike coordinators from the various regional transportation agencies in November. Items on her plate include:

- A GIS inventory of statewide bicycle facilities to update the 2007 Ohio Bikeways map
- Presentations at the OTEC traffic engineering conference on bicycle issues
- Working with Pittsburgh cycling interests for a connection from the Great Allegheny Passage into northeast Ohio
- Coordinating with Adventure Cycling on the Ohio routes for the US Bicycle Route System. A new route proposal is being developed along the Ohio to Erie Trail.
- A new safety booklet to replace Street Smarts is in the review phase
- A state bicycling summit is being considered for summer 2012

And in Kentucky, the Ky Bicycle and Bikeway Commission met in Lexington in November. Presentations included:

- Bicycling activities in Northern Kentucky and Cincinnati's signal loop detectors for bikes
- Political advocacy through the League of American Bicyclists
- Adventure tourism for Kentucky
- Lexington's Legacy Trail
- Program initiatives for 2011 including
 - Education through the Paula Nye grant program from license plate fees
 - Signage for statewide bicycle touring routes and the US Bike Route System
 - Safety revisions to the Ky statutes and state highway safety plan

Complete Streets

OKI's application to Smart Growth America for a Complete Streets workshop was not selected. Although competitive with many other applications for the single workshop, OKI was planning to provide technical assistance to member local governments to implement complete streets policies.

APHA Conference in Washington

The American Public Health Association concluded its 139th Annual Meeting and Exposition November 2 in Washington, D.C., where more than 13,000 public health professionals from around the world met to address leading public health challenges. Centered on the theme "Healthy Communities Promote Healthy Minds and Bodies," the meeting explored the role communities play in our health and what public health practitioners can do to build healthier,

more sustainable communities across the country. More than 1,000 scientific sessions showcased the emerging public health research and leading advocacy efforts reflecting the broad impact of the field on the lives of U.S. families. New research on youth violence, chronic disease among U.S. immigrants, occupational health and safety of construction workers and sugary drink marketing to youth was released at the meeting. Also this week, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services unveiled the "National Release of 2020 Leading Health Indicators." (from APHA press release) <http://www.apha.org/about/>

POINT YOUR BROWSER

Here are links to the **state bicycling organizations** for OH-KY-IN:

Ohio: <http://www.ohiobike.org/>

Kentucky: <http://www.bicycleky.org/> <http://transportation.ky.gov/bike-walk/Pages/default.aspx>

Indiana: <http://www.bicycleindiana.org/>

Five Myths About Your Gasoline Taxes – found in Centerlines, the newsletter of the National Center for Bicycling and Walking: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/11/18/opinion/tsay-gordon-gas-tax-myths/index.html>

Update on Hit and Run Case – The Georgia mother, whose child was struck and killed by an impaired driver while they walked across a street from a bus stop to their home, will get a second trial to nullify the charges of vehicular homicide. (The motorist was also charged.) See Peds E-Newsletter at: <http://bit.ly/t8WsIR>

OKI Congestion Management Study – This report documents the methodology and results of the third 4-year cycle of travel-time information for the OKI region's Congestion Management Network, as well as forecasted congestion levels for 2040. Congestion mitigation strategies for selected congested locations are evaluated.

<http://www.oki.org/okirestructure/departments/transportation/pdf/CMPAnalysisCycle3.pdf>

How Holland Became So Bike Friendly – An interesting article in *Projects for Public Spaces* found through Centerlines on how Holland cut back on auto dominance and learned to love their bicycles. There is an excellent video included. <http://www.pps.org/blog/how-the-dutch-got-their-cycle-paths/>

QUOTE OF THE NEWSLETTER

"Life is like a ten-speed bicycle. Most of us have gears we never use."

--- Charles M Schulz