

OKI Bicycle E-Info-News #99

June 17, 2010



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.

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

Cincinnati Bicycle Transportation Plan

The Cincinnati Transportation and Engineering Dept. will be presenting the recommendations of the new Cincinnati Bicycle Transportation Plan to City Council's Livable Communities Committee on June 22. The plan has been a year in preparation with the assistance of the Toole Design Group as consultants. The plan will recommend a network of on-street bicycle facilities appropriate for the constraints of Cincinnati's street system with implementation scheduled in phases.

DATE: Tuesday, June 22, 2010
TIME: 6:00 pm
LOCATION: City Council Chamber, City Hall
801 Plum St., Cincinnati, OH
CONTACT: Melissa.McVay@cincinnati-oh.gov
See the plan at: <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/bikes/>

Bike Demonstration

The Giant bicycle company will have a variety of road and mountain bikes available to the public for demonstration riding on East Fork Lake State Park's roads and mountain bike trails. The program is co-sponsored by Montgomery Cyclery.

DATE: Sunday, June 20, 2010

TIME: 10:00 to 4:00 pm
LOCATION: East Fork Lake State Park,
Clermont Co., SR 125 and Bantam Rd entrance
CONTACT: <http://montgomerycyclery.com/about/demo-ride-pg487.htm>

Pro Walk/Pro Bike 2010

The National Center for Bicycling and Walking is planning its biennial conference for bicycle and pedestrian professionals for September in Chattanooga TN. The theme for 2010 is, "Bringing Livable Communities and Regions to Scale." Chattanooga and the southeast region will serve up many examples of what can be done in small and mid-size cities and rural regions to make livable communities come to life.

DATE: Monday – Thursday, Sept. 13-16, 2010
LOCATION: Chattanooga Convention Center, Chattanooga, TN
COST: Registration: \$620 thru July 31 (\$530 for APBP members)
CONTACT: <http://www.bikewalk.org/2010conference/index.php>

American Trails National Symposium

The American Trails National Symposium is your best opportunity to network with the nationwide trails community and learn state of the art trail planning, development, and management techniques. The Symposium addresses both non-motorized and motorized issues and a vision for trails and greenways nationwide. Dozens of speakers and keynote presenters will come from the trails community across America.

DATE: Sunday - Wednesday, November 14 – 17, 2010
LOCATION: Chattanooga Convention Center, Chattanooga, TN
COST: Registration: \$375 thru August 31 (\$325 for American Trails members)
CONTACT: <http://www.americantrails.org/2010/>

NEWS

Bicycles at Highway Engineers Conference

In June, the American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE) held its national conference in Cincinnati. Seizing the opportunity to say "Bicycles" to over 500 highway engineers, Chuck Smith, President of the Ohio Bicycle Federation (OBF), arranged for purchasing exhibition booth space at the conference to remind the engineers that cyclists also use the road. Besides information on OBF's activities for improving Ohio's bicycle related laws, the exhibit featured on-street facilities to better accommodate cyclists on the roads using photos by OKI and Cincinnati. OBF's 2010 bicycle events calendar was offered listing several hundred cycling events which use the public highways. The need for this became apparent as most delegates approaching the booth talked of their bike paths. The problems anticipated from the Ohio Dept. of Transportation's rumble stripe program were also presented. In addition to OBF's booth, the presence of bicycles was also offered in technical sessions on the updated AASHTO bicycle facility guidelines, the Columbus Bicentennial Bikeway plan, and the US Bike Route System. An on-street bike tour of Cincinnati facilities was unfortunately cancelled by rain. Spreading the bicycle gospel at the conference, in addition to Chuck, were Jason Ramler, Carol Callan-Ramler, Jim Coppock and Don Burrell.

US Bicycle Route System

Following the session at the ASHE conference about the AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) US Bicycle Route System, a workshop was held at Cincinnati's city hall on Friday, June 11 to discuss the routes of the system planned for Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky with representatives of all three states' transportation departments. The program is managed by Ginny Sullivan, Special Projects Director with Adventure Cycling Assoc., the technical routing and mapping partner to AASHTO. Routes have been mapped at a "corridor" level with route 25 passing through Cincinnati between Mobile AL and Detroit MI. Other bike routes mapped through the tri-state include 76, 50, 40 and 35. The bicycle route system is shown at: <http://www.adventurecycling.org/routes/nbrn/USBRSCorridorMap.pdf> . With the national system planned by AASHTO and Adventure Cycling, the responsibility for choosing the specific roads and erecting the proposed route signs now goes to the state transportation departments. States will be working with area bicycle clubs, advocacy organizations and MPOs, including OKI, to select the roads. Several states have begun this process. Bike E-News will announce any such route planning meetings. See more at the Adventure Cycling site: <http://www.adventurecycling.org/routes/nbrn/usbikewaysystem.cfm>

New Kentucky State Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has filled the position of state bicycle and pedestrian coordinator with the hiring of Felicia Harper in June. Felicia comes from the consultant side and has worked on several bicycle projects and plans in the Louisville area. The position is a requirement under the federal transportation program (currently SAFETEA-LU) and is primarily funded with the federal transportation planning allocations to states. The bike/ped coordinators for Ohio and Indiana are also relatively new in their positions: Heather Bowden and Jerry Halperin, respectively.

2010 Bike Month – Best Ever

National Bike Month, May, has been promoted in Cincinnati for fifteen years or so and this year's activities have surpassed all those previous efforts.

- Ten morning commuter stations served 180 cyclists, but were passed by 60 more
- Eighty people at Breakfast on the Bridge (Purple People Bridge)
- Fifty riders for the Bike and Dine progressive dinner (a sellout)
- Four Tuesday night Bike Flix movies at Grammers
- Four Bike Depot info displays at Findlay Market each Saturday
- Ninety cyclists converged on Fountain Square for the Ride of Silence
- Twenty riders at Saturday's Bike About around downtown
- Hundreds at Thursday's Bike Day displays on Fountain Square
- Free rides on Metro and TANK buses on Thursday's Bike Day with your bike
- Two hundred eighty-eight bicyclists counted at 14 count locations
- One thousand OKI Cincinnati Bike Route Guides handed out
- Six hundred Green Card bike contacts added to the Queen City Bike data base
- Too-many-to-count volunteers – but Hooray! for Katie Vogel and Dan Korman, Bike Month Chairs and Gary Wright, President of Queen City Bike

OKI's Complete Streets Guidelines for Kentucky Highway Projects

On June 8, OKI held a workshop to review the procedures and deadlines for projects in Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties in Kentucky seeking federal Surface Transportation Program funds for Northern Kentucky (SNK). This will be the first round of Kentucky applications for which OKI's complete streets criteria will be applied. The project prioritization process now includes up to five points for the travel modes accommodated by the completed project. These may include motorized vehicles, transit, bicycles and pedestrians. A point is also available for traffic calming measures. For most road projects, the motor vehicle mode is given. The transit point is also awarded if the project is on a fixed route transit line, even though the highway project is not transit related. The points for the active modes of cycling and walking are intended for accommodation in the projects, although these points are also awarded where existing facilities are maintained or improved. Completed SNK applications are due to OKI by July 16. The Prioritization Subcommittee will rank them on July 27 and their recommendations will go to OKI's Board in August. The full application guidelines are at: http://www.oki.org/pdf/transportation/snk/Flexible%20funding_Final%202010%20instructions.pdf

Kentucky Bike Route Guide

The update of OKI's Kentucky Bike Route Guide is complete and will be going to press this month. These maps were last updated in 2002. The road suitability ratings were reviewed by area cyclists for changes affecting their cycling status. Roads were sometimes downgraded as a result of more traffic from suburban growth. Also, several highways have been upgraded as a result of bicycle facilities included in reconstruction projects by the Ky. Transportation Cabinet. One change from the previous individual county maps for Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties is that they will be combined onto one map. This will make it easier to follow routes that cross county boundaries and will also permit a larger map scale. Topographic relief will also be shown as on the Cincinnati Bike Route Guide. The new maps will be printed on paper instead of the waterproof material used previously due to cost. However, the new maps will be free. To get yours, contact Don Burrell dburrell@oki.org to be put on the list. The map will also be on our website.

US Dept of Transportation Strategic Plan

Centerlines, the newsletter of the National Center for Bicycling and Walking, called my attention to a draft publication of the US Dept. of Transportation, the *Strategic Plan for FY 2010 – FY 2015, Transportation for a New Generation*. This plan is intended to:

- Improve transportation safety,
- Maintain transportation infrastructure in a state of good repair,
- Promote transportation investments that bring lasting benefits to the Nation,
- Foster livable communities and
- Advance environmentally sustainable transportation policies

The draft was released in April and includes several recommendations related to bicycle and pedestrian travel. These are included in the strategies for improved safety of all road users, which includes addressing distracted driving, and in the strategies for achieving livable communities and environmental sustainability. Comments on the plan are encouraged and can be read or submitted at: <https://dotstrategicplan.ideascale.com/> The plan can also be accessed from that site.

Women in Cycling

The Women Cycling Project group is hosted by the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP). It is a work in progress. This public group invites discussion about how to change transportation culture by engaging women in sustainable transportation. Its intent is to collect information about resources, barriers, and successes so that more women can cycle more places more often. APBP received more than 13,000 responses to the Survey on Women Cycling for Transportation. Final results will be reported at the Pro Walk - Pro Bike conference in September, but preliminary results about where respondents live and how they use their bicycles can be found here:

http://www.apbp.org/resource/resmgr/downloads/apbp_5-28_pressrelease.pdf

POINT YOUR BROWSER

Lock Your Bike - It is easier to do in Cincinnati as all of the bike racks within the City have been mapped and added as a layer to OKI's interactive Cincinnati Bike Route Guide. Go to <http://maps.oki.org/BikeRouteGuide/> and click on the "Tools" cube and then on the bike rack symbol to add their locations to the map. Place your mouse over the rack to get the actual location.

Queen City Art Racks - ArtWorks presents, a new initiative to bring artist-designed, functional bike racks to public spaces across Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. Queen City Art Racks is a green initiative that supports ArtWorks' mission of creating impactful public art projects and employing professional artists. <http://www.artworkscincinnati.org/artracks/>

Little Miami Scenic Trail – needs help. State funding shortages have led to unsafe conditions on the trail. The Friends of the Little Miami State Park have begun Wednesday night clean-up crews to help with maintenance. See <http://www.flmsp.org/> and volunteer.

Race Across AMerica – RAAM will be passing through Ohio on its way from Oceanside CA to Annapolis MD. Racers started on June 8 and will be crossing Ohio June 17 – 20. More info at: http://www.raceacrossamerica.org/raam/raamfp.php?N_webcat_id=109

QUOTE OF THE NEWSLETTER

"The bicycle is the vehicle of a new mentality. It quietly challenges a system of values which condones dependency, wastage, inequality of mobility and daily carnage.... There is every reason why cycling should be helped to enjoy another Golden Age." --- James McGurn, author *On your Bicycle*.