

Bike more, drive less beginning today!

Recapture the JOY of your first bike ride!

Welcome to the first Bicycle Alliance electronic newsletter. We want to let you know what we're working on and what's happening around the state of bicycling. (Help name this newsletter; send your suggestion to info@bicyclealliance.org.)

In Olympia

The legislative session began January 10th. With help from legislative sponsor Representative Bill Grant, HB 1108 was introduced to amend the rules that govern safe passing = in the same direction giving cyclists plenty of room and to prohibit passing when bicyclists and pedestrians are in view and approaching from the opposite direction = like a bridge, curve, etc. That bill passed the House with no opposition and is now at the Senate Transportation Committee. We anticipate that it will pass out of the transportation committee and on to Rules and the full Senate soon. Watch for action alerts on HB 1108.

The license plate bills have been consolidated into HB 1254, which was heard by the Senate Transportation Committee on the March 28th. As of this writing, we are confident that it will pass out of the Transportation Committee and onto Rules.

The Bicycle Alliance as part of a large coalition of health, transit, bicycle and pedestrian organization has called upon the legislature to fund **Active Transportation** that includes funding for Safe Routes to School and bicycle connections around the state among other things. The letter signed by all the partners asks for **\$20 million for Active Transportation**.

In Spokane

Board member Eileen Hyatt is teaching 3 series of League of American Bicyclists Road 1 classes. The next series is April 4 & 5 followed by May 6 & 7. For additional information, call 509/747-3778 or email SpokaneBikeBuddy@aol.com.

Board member Sally Lodato has recently been chosen to serve as Chair of the Spokane Bike Board and has invited Bicycle Alliance staff to participate in the River Fest activities on National Trails Day which is June 4th.

Bicycle Alliance staff member Louise McGrody has been traveling to Spokane every month for the Inland Northwest Trails coalition meetings and is now working with advocates to strengthen the Bike Advisory Board and work on a Master Plan for Spokane bicycle routes.

In Bellingham

The Washington Department of Transportation Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee met in Bellingham and heard from the City of Bellingham Bicycle and Advisory Board as well as the Whatcom County Bike/Ped Advisory Board on trail, funding and roadway design issues. Executive Director Barbara Culp serves on that committee as the statewide bicycle representative.

King County

The Bicycle Alliance in partnership with King County Metro is recruiting bike buddies for a social marketing effort to get study participants to bicycle to work.

Seattle

A report is being finalizing for Councilmember Richard Conlin called Bicycle Facilities Collaborative Findings. Twenty-five volunteers surveyed the city, which will culminate in a report of their top 20 priorities to present to the Council by Earth Day. **Chelan.** Staff member Dave Janis is giving a presentation about safe and active routes to school at the Washington Recreation and Park Association Annual Conference at Lake Chelan in early April. He is also working with schools around the state to plan and implement safe and active routes to school.

Bicyclists in Kitsap and Walla Walla counties are eager for Share the Road safety campaigns and the Bicycle Alliance plans to apply for funding to help finance those efforts as well as update the driver's license manual.

The Alliance continues to work with bicycle clubs and service organizations to help write an **Events Policy** with WSDOT that works for all roadway users. It's a long and frustrating process for all sides. Charlotte Claybrooke, the WSDOT bicycle pedestrian coordinator will have a document available by 4/20 for clubs and other groups to comment on. To receive a copy, send an email to Charlotte at ClaybrC@wsdot.wa.gov. The Bicycle Alliance will host a meeting later in April to review the documents.

The rumor mill:

Heard at Bike Expo "that the I-90 Bridge path would be narrowed to 8'. We checked in with the project manager and were assured that it would remain 10' but with a narrow to non-existent shoulder.

Important upcoming dates:

May 9, 2005 The Washington Department of Transportation and the Bicycle Alliance of Washington are teaming together with Feet First to present a daylong **workshop on Safe Routes to School on May 9, 2005** at the Sea-Tac Community Center. Imagine bicycle-friendly towns all across Washington filled with children and families biking safely to school, to work, to the neighborhood store. This workshop will address how to get your community interested.

May 14, 2005 Bicycle Alliance board retreat on Vashon Island, Camp Burton Retreat Center 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

May 17, 2005 Human Powered Vehicles: a presentation with the Sierra Club at the Seattle REI at 6:30 PM. Details to follow in later newsletter.

October 1, 2005 13th Annual Bicycle Alliance Auction at a new venue on Lake Union, earlier in the year, bigger and better than ever. Tickets go on sale in mid-April. Items are needed now.

November 1, 2, 3, 2005 Footprints and Bike Tracks Conference in Tacoma, WA at the Sheraton Hotel. Call for presenters to go out soon. Bicycle Alliance Bi-Annual Awards Ceremony. Nomination forms available in June '05. Imagine

every elected official and decision-maker working to make roads and streets safer for biking and walking. Imagine funding for bicycle lanes, trails, and bikeways everywhere you want to go.

"When I was a kid I used to pray every night for a new bicycle. Then I realised that the Lord doesn't work that way so I stole one and asked Him to forgive me." -- Emo Philips.