

Bike Bytes,
Ride More, Drive Less, Be Active: No one ever outgrows recess.

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1. Auction a Success!

Since we last published, the 13th Annual Bicycle Alliance Auction raised \$70,000 for statewide bicycle advocacy. The new venue proved to be a great move for the auction; it enabled us to increase to three silent auctions; it allowed us to invite more people and 340 generous bidders enjoyed a new caterer, and a very lively live auction. Watch for details about next year soon.

2. Footprints and Bike Tracks Conference Breaks Attendance Record

The auction was followed by another successful Footprints and Bike Tracks conference in Tacoma. Over 146 bicycle and pedestrian professionals gathered at the Tacoma Sheraton November 1-3. The conference attendees flocked to the day long Safe Routes to School workshop. The nationally certified course was taught by Pete Lagerwey and Megan Hoyt of Seattle Department of Transportation, David Levinger, Executive Director of Feet First, and Barbara Culp of the Bicycle Alliance.

The Bicycle Alliance honored three individuals at an awards banquet at the conference. Mr Jan Wolcott, retired Director of Pierce County Parks and Recreation received the More People Bicycling Award for the Foothills Trail. The Bicycle Safety Award was given to Jim O'Horo of Clark County for his ongoing work to teach bicycle/traffic safety skills to middle school students; and Debi Toews of Walla Walla was awarded the Susie Stephens award for her efforts to help pass the Ann Weatherill Safe Passing Bill.

3. We're Moving

After more than eight years in its present location, the Bicycle Alliance of Washington is moving to the Pioneer Square neighborhood of downtown Seattle. The Alliance offices will be moving into the Bikestation at 311 South Third. By rearranging the space to accommodate the Bicycle Alliance offices, 24/7 bicycle parking and bicycle repair will remain. It's going to be a lively space featuring the Bicycle Alliance advocacy and education programs, year-round bicycle repair, and parking for Bikestation members. It will give the Bicycle Alliance a street front presence, at an easy to find location.

The Alliance will also support the King County Metro bicycle programs: lockers at park and rides, bikes left on Metro buses, and the revitalization of the Bike Buddy program.

An Official Open House is planned for the first Thursday in January (1/5/06) but you're welcome to stop by before that.

4. Help Us MOVE on 12/3/05

Volunteers are needed to help move the Bicycle Alliance offices on Saturday, December 3rd. We'll meet at the 903 Union (current location) at 10:00 AM on Saturday. We'll need hand trucks, several more pickups or vans, helpful hands and strong backs. Call 206/224-9252 or email markc@bicyclealliance.org to indicate your availability. Thanks.

5. Ann Weatherill's Safe Passing Bill sweeps state

Thanks to the Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC), and help from a Bicycle Alliance statewide task force, scores of newspaper articles were published, dozens of radio interviews were aired, NPR picked up the story, and KING 5 TV and affiliates carried the story about the importance of the new law. The WTSC provided the news outlets with footage of the incorrect passing maneuver, as well as tips for safe driving and safe bicycling. The purpose of the media blitz was to educate motorists about the new law, as well as tell them how to drive safely around cyclists. The next important step for the Bicycle Alliance is to create educational materials for law enforcement officers.

6. Let Us Know if Your School Would Like Training

The Bicycle Alliance received a \$48,000 grant from the Traffic Safety Commission to train and directly assist 15 schools in the Spokane, Kitsap County, Moses Lake and Olympia regions to plan and implement safe routes to school programs. For more information to see if your community school would qualify, please contact Dave Janis at 206/784-7176. A web site is being developed, and training will be offered beginning in January.

7. Miscellaneous Tidbits

Seattle is poised to issue a request for proposals to write and produce its Bicycle Master Plan. Barbara Culp represents the Bicycle Alliance on an advisory committee overseeing the project. Barbara McCann, a private consultant for America Bikes and the Thunderhead Alliance addressed the Footprints and Bike Tracks Conference on the importance of Complete Streets. She was invited by Secretary Doug MacDonald to meet with Department of Transportation engineers in Olympia after the conference -- a positive spin toward a new design policy.

A not so positive turn of the bicycle wheel = we continue to arm wrestle with the WSDOT over the permit process that bicycle clubs have been subjected to to produce rides that use state routes. Representatives from Capital Bicycle Club, Everett BIKES, Port Townsend Bicycle Association, Tacoma Wheelmen and the Bicycle Alliance will meet with the State Engineer later this month to hammer out a model permit policy. This hasn't been a smooth road!

8. What's news with you and your home town?

Send us your news, and we promise to share it with our members.