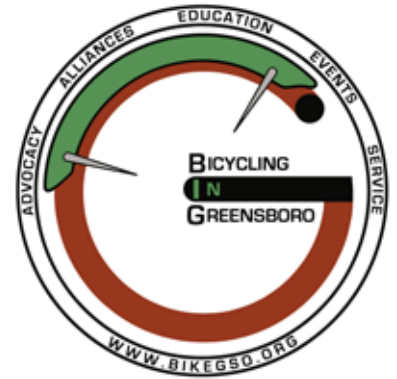


The **BIG** News Journal

Bike Month Issue

May 2011



Bicycling In Greensboro, Inc. - Helping Transform the Greater Greensboro Area into a More Bicycle-Friendly Community.

It's Bike Month!

May is National Bike Month and the perfect time to enjoy your Bike Friendly City with family, co-workers and friends.



Sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists, May has been recognized as National Bike Month since 1956. The third week in May is designated Bike to Work Week and the third Friday of May is Bike to Work Day.

Keep up-to-date on all the local events this month with **BIG's** event calendar at www.bikegso.org.

It's going to be a great month!

Greensboro's 5th Annual Ride of Silence

Bicycling in Greensboro is proud to, once again, bring this important international event to Greensboro.

Join bicyclists worldwide in a silent, slow-paced 8.7 mile ride in honor of those who have been injured or killed while cycling on public roadways. Wednesday, May 18, Free sign-in starts at 6pm. The ride departs at 7pm sharp from the Wrangler / VF Corp. parking lot at 400 North Elm Street in downtown Greensboro. Helmets are required for this ride.

If you only do one group ride this year, make it the Ride of Silence!



A Report from the 2011 National Bike Summit

By Aaron Daniel

I was fortunate to attend my first League Of American Bicyclists' National Bike Summit (NBS) in Washington, DC on March 8-10. The NBS is an annual meeting of cycling advocates for the purposes of lobbying Congress to support bicycling friendly legislation and exchanging best practices for state and local bicycling advocacy.

The NBS started off with a rousing speech by Oregon Congressman Earl Blumenauer who was instrumental in transforming Portland into one of the most bicycle friendly cities in the world. Wednesday was a day full of breakout sessions in which I learned about issues like National Highway Funding and Transportation Enhancement funds that are provided to states every year. These funds have been used in recent years to fund the recent extension and enhancement of the Atlantic & Yadkin Greenway in Greensboro. All too often these funds go unused every year and are given back to the Federal Government.

In his keynote address, Ray LaHood, the US Secretary of Transportation spoke about the need for all states and cities to adopt Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School legislation and the progress being made on those projects. Complete Streets is framework for engineering and reengineering roads to support transportation of all types – including bicycles. Safe Routes to School legislation makes sure that school age children have safe ways to walk or cycle to their schools. Funding for a Safe Routes project was recently used in Raleigh to install crosswalks in front of a school where a child had been struck by a car on her way to school.

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A Message from the President of **BIG**

Hi, I am Mark Schulz and I am the president of the **BIG** Board of Directors for 2011. I have been active with **BIG** almost since its founding and I have served on the Board for the past two years. I am an associate professor in the Public Health Education department at UNCG where I have worked since 2002. Over the past few years, I have involved my students in counts of Greensboro bicyclists and pedestrians in collaboration with the Greensboro Department of Transportation and the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project.

I have been commuting by bicycle since I entered first grade. Currently, I pedal a Bianchi Volpe purchased from Cycles de Oro in Greensboro. It is only the second new bike I have ever purchased. Oh, in case are wondering, I am the cyclist who was hit and almost killed by a texting motorist on Aycock Street just north of Spring Garden Street in March 2008.

I am proud of **BIG**'s first five years and anxious to build on our efforts to expand safe and convenient cycling in Greensboro. Many other **BIG** members and I contributed to the Greensboro BiPed Plan and advocated for its timely implementation. In 2011, **BIG** looks forward to participating in the update of the plan and continuing to advocate for its implementation.

By organizing the annual Ride of Silence the past four years, we have raised the visibility of cyclists and promoted safer driving by both cyclists and motorists. This year on Wednesday, May 18th we will remember and honor cyclists who have been killed or injured on the road once again. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate and we will see an even bigger crowd of cyclists for this important ride.

Another way we work to accomplish our mission to help transform the greater Greensboro area into a more bicycle-friendly community is through our Changing Gears program. This program has provided new and refurbished bicycles to over 25 people in need, and safety training to more than twice that number.

I look forward to expanding our membership and our alliances with non-profits, government agencies, bike shops and other businesses as we take the next steps toward transforming the greater Greensboro area into a more bicycle-friendly community in 2011.

See you at the Ride of Silence,
Mark Schulz

Get the latest Bike Month event information from our Calendar and Membership information at

www.BikeGSO.org

Items of special interest...

The Greensboro BiPed Plan is being updated. Find the current plan at www.GSOsharetheroad.org and check **BIG**'s calendar for the next public meeting date. **NCDOT** announced Chapters 1 through 4 of the Complete Streets guidelines will be ready for review by all interested stakeholders in the next 4 to 6 weeks. Visit www.nccompletestreets.org.

National Bike Summit

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Janet Sadik-Khan, New York City Transportation Commissioner, spoke about the radical pace of transformation that is bringing cycling lanes to America's Largest City. She concluded her presentation by discussing the recently completed National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Urban Bikeway Design Guide. Sadik-Khan encourages the use of the NACTO Guide for implementation of Complete Streets legislation.

The final day of the NBS was spent calling upon all of our Senators, Congressmen and Congresswomen to request that they support continued funding of Federal Transportation Enhancements, trail building initiatives and Safe Routes to School.

Please consider joining, donating to or volunteering with **Bicycling In Greensboro**. Doing so will help **BIG** advocate for Greensboro to adopt legislation like Complete Streets Guidelines and continued Safe Routes to School improvements. Help improve the safety of cycling on our roads.

Be Safe - Be Smart
www.bikeed.org