

Wheels and Heels – September 2006

Email news from MoDOT Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator Caryn Giarratano

Greetings Windbenders,

The Missouri Bicycle and Pedestrian Program is taking a new, exciting direction. I will be creating and delivering training to district personnel on who, what, where, when, how and why to accommodate for bicyclists and pedestrians on state roads. **What a great opportunity!**

Earn Respect – On Aug. 28, I was a guest of Simon Rose, a radio talk show host with KFRU in Columbia, to talk about bicycle use on the road. Several listeners called in with concerns. Following the MS150 charity bicycle ride, I received a call from an unhappy motorist representing a group of 100 who encountered rude bicyclists on the ride. Here's my perspective: **road users must show respect to earn respect.**

In most cases, there is only one road to get from point A to point B and all users must share. Bicyclists have the same rules, rights and responsibilities as motorists. That means that both are required to stop at stop signs and red lights. Both are required to signal turns, use the lane correctly (slower traffic keeps right) and not impede traffic. If bicyclists want to be treated as equal to motorists, we must follow the same rules. My defense of bicyclists' rights to the road is severely undermined when bicyclists break the law. I ask that we all find ways to fix this problem. See Missouri law regarding bicyclists ...

http://www.modot.mo.gov/othertransportation/bike_ped/documents/MO_bikelaw_August05.pdf.

Pilot Project in Columbia – The city of Columbia is seeking comments regarding needed bicycle and pedestrian improvements within city limits. Types of concerns include maintenance of sidewalks, road pavement and trail surfaces. Other topics include improvement of intersections, need for signs and bike locker issues. See ...

http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Public_Comm/NonMotorized_Transportation/nonmotorized-concerns.php

The week of September 5, I spent in meetings. I represented Missouri on the AASHTO Technical Committee on Nonmotorized Transportation, soaked up information from ProWalk/ProBike and met with the other state bicycle and pedestrian coordinators. Wow! Did I ever learn lots!

Technical Committee Update – The AASHTO Technical Committee on Nonmotorized Transportation met Sept. 5. Bridge railing height for bicyclists will be 42 inches. A committee has been formed to lead the project to rewrite the AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities. The Tech Committee recommends research topics to the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP). Topics for consideration include: pedestrian crash methodology for urban and suburban arterials, and rumble strips and geometric design of driveways.

Future topics for consideration may include: user volumes and mode shifts as a result of bicycle networks, quantitative assessment tool and guidance for side paths, a program to promote traffic safety awareness among middle-school children, and safety and operational effects of properly designed bicycle lanes.

Future NCHRP research topics the committee will explore include: review and evaluation of bicycle law enforcement and training, liability aspects of bikeway designation updates, quantitative assessment tool and guidance for side paths, safety and operational effects of properly designed bicycle lanes and data needs and methodologies for bike/ped issues. See ... <http://design.transportation.org/?siteid=59&pageid=761>.

ProWalk/ProBike Report – Sponsored by the National Center for Bicycling and Walking, this conference spans three and a half days stuffed with sessions and filled with 650 participants. Topics that I soaked up included: bike signage changes in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Controls (MUTCD), how to use creative engineering to retrofit for bike/ped accommodations, the good news about how well roundabouts are working for BP travelers, characteristics of good bicycle routes and the use of new pedestrian signals. I attended the session held by John Fegan (FHWA) regarding the Nonmotorized Pilot Project and met other pilot DOT liaisons. Of great benefit was the opportunity to attend sessions that discussed the ways other communities, states and countries included bike/ped accommodations in new road construction and retrofit. **The most important benefit was the face-to-face meeting of the many national experts who invited me to contact them in the future for advice!** See ... <http://www.bikewalk.org/conference/index.html>.

State Coordinators Meeting – Connecting to my peers in other states provided an excellent opportunity to learn what other DOTs have done, are doing and plan to do soon regarding the BP program. The biggest joy was discovering that Missouri is making good progress in our program. Several were most interested in our state strategic plan! See ... http://www.modot.mo.gov/othertransportation/bike_ped/documents/TrailMap_072506.pdf.

Pedicabs Arrive in Columbia - Shakespeare's Pizza has launched a new service - free pedicab rides. The pedicabs are high-quality vehicles built for passenger comfort. As drivers are hired, the pedicab will be running regular shifts. The goal is to have the cab on the streets seven days a week, all year long. Rides are free, and the pedicabs can be used just like taxis.

See ... <http://www.pednet.org/>.

Columbia Hires BPC - Ted Curtis has been hired to lead the Columbia bicycle and pedestrian program as part of the Nonmotorized Pilot Project, the \$22 million federal earmark to create a mode shift from the use of motorized vehicles to walking, bicycling and the use of transit. Ted helped start the St. Louis Trailnet and became its first president in 1988. Trailnet is recognized as one of the largest and most successful trail and greenway organizations in the country. Ted holds master's degrees in management and engineering from Washington University and a bachelor's degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Prior to 1993, he held various engineering and management positions at McDonnell Douglas for 24 years. See ... <http://www.pednet.org/>.



OTHER NEWS

Funding for BP - The general public is requested to provide feedback to FHWA regarding the Surface Transportation Environment and Planning Cooperative Research Program Outreach (STEP). The goals of this program are to: (1) determine the relationship between physical activity and active transportation modes such as bicycling and walking; (2) investigate and institutionalize the collection of bicycle and pedestrian use/exposure data at national, state and local levels; (3) provide technical knowledge and products needed by state and local officials in developing and implementing bicycle and pedestrian projects; (4) determine how to make the appropriate provision of bicycle and pedestrian projects a routine part of all transportation decisions; and (5) develop meaningful measures of effectiveness for bicycle and pedestrian projects and programs. See the implementation strategy at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/step/>. For more information, see ... http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped/step_outreach.htm.

Here's what to do – go to ... <http://knowledge.fhwa.dot.gov/cops/step.nsf/home/>. Then click on the bicycle/pedestrian/health link under the list of Feedback Topics. Answer the four questions: Tell us more about potential lines of research for this emphasis area; tell us about current or planned research in this area; tell us more about possible funding sources related to research activities in this emphasis area; and other comments about research in this emphasis area.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bike Humor – The Bristol Evening Post recently reported that a road sign in Wales proclaimed, “llid y bledren dymchwelyd.” This was meant to be Welsh for 'cyclists dismount.' It actually says, “your bladder disease has returned.” See ... <http://www.lifecycleuk.org.uk/>.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Check this link for other state agencies connected to bicycle and pedestrian issues, state bicycle coordinators' contact information, bicycle organizations, pedestrian information, advocacy contacts and research sources... http://www.modot.mo.gov/othertransportation/bike_ped/bicyclepedprogram.htm.

CALENDAR

Walk to School Day is October 4 - Celebrate Walk to School Day Oct. 4 or pick any day in October to participate in International Walk to School Month. See ... <http://www.walktoschool.org/>. Win cool stuff by registering your Walk to School event at ... <http://www.walktoschool.org/register/index.cf>. Find easy planning ideas ... <http://www.walktoschool.org/eventideas/index.cfm>.

October 7 – Tour de Cape (15, 30, 62, 100 miles) bike ride to benefit Mississippi Valley Therapeutic Horsemanship Program. See ... www.tourdecape.com.

October 14 – BikeMO (32, 62 or 100 miles), MoBikeFed's Fall Foliage Extravaganza bike rides from Holt's Summit, five miles north of Jefferson City on Highway 54. See ... <http://MoBikeFed.org/BikeMO>.

November 2-4 – Missouri's Trail Summit conference for all trail users at the Discovery Center in Kansas City. See <http://www.mopark.org/MissouriTrailSummit.htm>.

November 28-30 – The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety is host for the *Blueprint for Safer Roadways* Conference at the Adams Mark Hotel in St. Louis. See ... www.savemolives.com.

Please forward this newsletter to anyone you feel may be interested. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to be added, please tell me!

Tailwinds, Caryn

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