BA and Bike Florida presented the 2009 Share the Road license Plate Sales of the Year Awards at the Florida Tax Collectors Fall Conference in Orlando.

Awards were based on the percentage of Share the Road plates sold during calendar year 2008 versus the number of all specialty plates sold. This method puts all counties on the same playing field. Awards featuring beautiful photography by John Moran were presented to the top five county tax collectors noted below. Also listed below are the next top 20 counties. Is yours represented? If not, help spread the word on the importance of supporting the Share the Road License Plate campaign. Proceeds fund bicycle and motorist safety awareness programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Plate Sales</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Alachua County (Honorable Von Fraser)</td>
<td>332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>St. Johns County (Honorable Dennis Hollingsworth)</td>
<td>386</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Leon County (Honorable Doris Maloy)</td>
<td>363</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pinellas County (Honorable Diane Nelson)</td>
<td>947</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Orange County (Honorable Earl K. Wood)</td>
<td>863</td>
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Other top counties/Total sold:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Plate Sales</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Okaloosa</td>
<td>217</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminole</td>
<td>408</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarasota</td>
<td>411</td>
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<td>Duval</td>
<td>649</td>
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<td>Walton</td>
<td>55</td>
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<td>Palm Beach</td>
<td>1,034</td>
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<td>Wakulla</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>Nassau</td>
<td>66</td>
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<td>Lake</td>
<td>220</td>
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<td>Martin</td>
<td>160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broward</td>
<td>971</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Rosa</td>
<td>117</td>
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<tr>
<td>Escambia</td>
<td>172</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hillsborough</td>
<td>775</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miami-Dade</td>
<td>913</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collier</td>
<td>316</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citrus</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Polk</td>
<td>263</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brevard</td>
<td>383</td>
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<td>Lee</td>
<td>396</td>
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Hang tags to take bicycle stores by storm

BA’s bike store hang tag promotion, spearheaded by Mack Cycle and Fitness owner Mary Jane Mark, is set to market FBA and the Share the Road license plate with an eye-catching hang tag.

Bike store owners have the option of hanging the tag on the handlebars of new bikes or including a stuffer version with store purchases.

As the owner of one of the largest, oldest and most profitable bike stores in Florida, Mary Jane carries a lot of clout with dealers with whom she does business. She also understands the value of advocacy having attended three National Bike Summits in Washington DC, as a long time supporter of FBA, plus local initiatives.

Mary Jane invited several dealers who represent a wide variety of products for lunch to brainstorm ways the bike industry could help state and local advocacy efforts.

Miami’s Green Mobility Network Board Executive Director John Hopkins and I were also invited. From that brainstorm session, the bike store hang tag was born.

The copy went through numerous drafts thanks to Mary Jane, Robert Seidler and dedicated FBA Board members. Graphics are by Keri Caffrey.

One tag is designed with a die cut hole and slit for hanging; the other, two inches shorter, as an envelope or bag stuffer. The stuffer can also be used as a goodie bag insert at special events.

Since the dealers are savvy cyclists who understand the need to connect good information with shoppers to advance cycling, they applied the idea to their network of about half the bike stores in Florida. They are continuing to spread the concept to their associates and why it is important to promote FBA and its materials. Stores will also be invited to join FBA as a corporate member. Dealers will distribute hang tags and stuffers to stores so they’ll know first hand how receptive bike store owners are to the promotion versus FBA mailing the materials to the stores. Stores will also have access to FBA’s large inventory of educational and promotional materials.

The hang tag also links people to the website and blog where they can locate pertinent information on cycling, its many benefits and many other links to associated support services for new and continuing cyclists.

The ultimate goal is to educate bike owners and bike store customers on the value of joining FBA and purchasing a Share the Road license plate. Both mean revenue to help FBA continue programs to encourage more people to ride bikes with confidence, as well as educate all users to coexist on roads and trails.
Cyclists see the world differently. We see it close up, everywhere distinct, and, certainly in our minds, how the world might better be.

Pro Bike/Pro Walk Florida takes place May 11-13 in Lakeland. That’s Polk County, where visionaries challenged the mid-20th century mainstream in order to realize dreams on the ground that the whoosh and dazzle of I-4 has only obscured, never replaced.

You can’t visit and leave Polk unimpressed by how bicycling resonates in our times as persuasively as did the vision of others in theirs.

Take time. Come early or stay on. Poke around Polk.

Far southeast in the county, Bok Tower Gardens ranks among the extraordinary public gardens of America. The site occupies the top of 298-foot-high Iron Mountain crowned by the 205-foot lyrical tower itself. The gardens were a gift to his adopted country by the Dutch-born Edward Bok, who, after inventing newspaper “women’s pages” and for 30 years until 1919 editor-in-chief of the Ladies Home Journal, became a leader in the American peace movement.

Bok’s grandson, Derek, the former president of Harvard University, lately returned to mark the gardens’ 80th anniversary. Come for the beauty or for Bok’s singular artistic and humanitarian achievement. The gardens will challenge your view of yourself, of advocacy, and of Florida like nothing else.

Nearby is Chalet Suzanne, the famously whimsical inn started in 1931 by a young widow, Bertha Hinshaw. Hard up in the Depression, Bertha bet her imagination with what money she had, and in a citrus grove far from anywhere built the inn now known far and wide, celebrated by an astronaut who did. (What is in Polk’s water?) The campus is entirely an outdoors museum. You walk the grounds disbelieving that anything this good sits in a small inland city.

That city is Lakeland. Gift-like, Lakeland displays a boutique downtown that advocates of urban style from elsewhere around Florida greatly admire and come to study.

The promenade around Lake Mirror is a legacy of the 1920s American City Beautiful movement, today surrounded by gardens that tell the story of Florida in luxurious seasonal beauty. One-of-a-kind stores and galleries surround the graceful archway entrance to Munn Park. People have been steadily moving back into the town’s historic districts and into new garden apartments. Town remains affordable, popular for walking and for cycling.

Downtown landmarks connect between the park and Mirror Lake. A stroll west around the lake stands the 10-story-high Lakeland Terrace Hotel from 1924, one of the few that remain of its once prevailing grand downtown character, newly restored and home to the region’s best restaurant.

Galleries show affordable and sometimes exceptional local work; others, crafts and architectural antiques. In one, I found a handsome khaki shoulder bag with a picture of a ‘60s banana seat bike. The bag felt like something that in Bok’s time someone might have used to deliver telegrams for penny tips.

For more information about where to discover Polk County’s distinctive places, where to overnight, where to dine, contact the Central Florida Visitors & Convention Bureau, www.visitcentralflorida.org, 800/828-7655.

To register for Pro Bike/Pro Walk Florida and for updates, log onto www.floridabicycle.org/joinus/eventsignup.html.
City names denote board member distribution. Is your area represented? Contact a board member today!

Welcome New/Rejoining Members!

Join FBA
Use the application form on the last page. Suggested contributions (tax deductible):
- Individual $25
- Family $35
- Student/living lightly $15
- Bicycle Club $100
- Corporate/Agency $100
Higher donations are greatly appreciated! See membership categories, below.

Make check payable and mail to:
Florida Bicycle Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 718, Waldo, FL 32694
or join online at floridabicycle.org.

Visit FBA’s Website
www.floridabicycle.org

Subscribe to FBA News, and FBA and FORBA e-mail lists
Stay up-to-date on bicycle issues with these statewide forums.

To subscribe to Florida Bicycle Association’s FBAnet, go to FBA’s homepage at the website URL listed above and click on the “Sign up for FBA News Updates by E-Mail” link.

FBA’s Blog is on the website
www.floridabicycle.org

Messenger Deadlines
Copy and Advertising Deadlines:
- Summer Messenger - June 15
- Fall Messenger - September 15
- Winter Messenger - December 15
- Spring Messenger - March 15

Inquiries and submissions: laura@floridabicycle.org

Membership Categories:
Paceline Leaders ($1,000+)
Titanium Partners ($500-$999)
Golden Gears ($250-$499)
Silver Spokes ($100-$249)
Bronze Pedals ($50-$99)

Membership includes a subscription to the FBA Messenger.

Advisory Board
Dwight Kingsbury, Historian
Henry N. Lawrence, III, Special Programs
Laura Minns
Roger Pierce, Florida Touring Calendar
Carol Pulley
Tina Russo
Robert Seidler, Filmmaker
John Smibald, Jr.
Randall Williams, Newsletter

Welcome New/Rejoining Members!

David and Marilyn Van Derzee
Caroline McMaster
Wayne Jentis
Tom Blazejack and Suzanne Levinson
Lois Brown
Wendy Iaasken

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President’s message...

Let’s get engaged

For years the Florida Bicycle Association has worked to build relationships with cyclists and bike clubs around the state. Occasionally we have reached out to important state agencies for assistance and to support their programs but we have focused on providing services to Florida cyclists. We needed to build awareness of the organization among our core supporters. To become a more powerful voice for Florida bicyclists the Board has decided to engage more with strategic partners: our membership, State legislators, bike clubs and the law enforcement community.

Members

We asked you to help set our priorities through an on-line survey to prepare for the 2010 Florida Bike Summit (April 8, 2010). Over 600 of you ranked issues from traffic safety to greater access to Florida’s roads to funding for educational programs (see the results in the separate article, below). FBA will take those results to Tallahassee next spring.

To become a more powerful voice for Florida bicyclists FBA will engage more with strategic partners...

Legislature

The legislative process is like making sausage so we do not expect to get everything we want in the first year. But by participating, FBA and the needs of bicyclists will be present and on the minds of legislators while decisions are being made.

Clubs

To help bike clubs help FBA help bike clubs, a statewide club president’s meeting has been scheduled the afternoon before the Horrible Hundred ride in Clermont on Saturday, November 14. Clubs play an important role in developing Florida’s bike culture. They schedule weekly rides, organize important festivals and races, set local standards for riding behavior, and raise money for worthy causes. If you are a club president, contact Laura Hallam (laura@floridabicycle.org) to find out how to sign up for the meeting and how attending will benefit you and your club.

Law Enforcement

To help raise the awareness of bicycle traffic safety among law enforcement agencies, FBA has begun development of a Florida Bicycle Law Toolkit for Law Enforcement Agencies. The toolkit will expand on the existing Bicycle and Pedestrian Law Enforcement Guides and the “Ride on By” video series. Police Departments and Sheriff’s Offices are on the front lines of bicyclist safety and equal protection under the law. Giving them the information they need to work with the cycling community will improve safety and community relations.

FBA’s membership, state legislators, bike clubs and law enforcement are four groups that are strategically important to FBA’s goal of making Florida a more bike-friendly state. By engaging with them in a meaningful way we are going to leverage their resources to advance our programs and continue to build FBA as an organization.

2010 FBA legislative priorities survey results

Thanks to all of you (603) who took the time to complete the 2010 FBA Legislative Priorities survey. The results will help the FBA Board of Directors determine the best plan of action.

Generally, based on combining the top two choices, rankings varied from 5=Very important to 1=Not important. Rankings by item were as follows:

1. Legislation is already being developed. FBA will support existing efforts by developing partnerships with other organizations.

2-4. All three are potentially controversial so research must be done due to the complexity and many unknowns. We must be well prepared with statistics before introducing legislation. These items are very important, but we must do our homework first.

5. Trust for Public Land is supportive of this item, however, we need to communicate with Rails to Trails Conservancy and other partners before proceeding.

6. This could be our champion item out of the starting blocks and it is very important to be successful on our first go at introducing legislation. Fifteen states have limited access exceptions and the safety record is good. FBA will proceed with drafting language, solicit feedback from peers and then approach sponsors to introduce the bill.

7-9. The education items were discussed as one topic. It was acknowledged that working with individual school districts has not been very successful. Developing a relationship with the Dept. of Education is important in order to move forward. More research needs to be done before proceeding.

Stay tuned for more information as our plan is further developed.

David Henderson

You can get engaged also. Every month there are opportunities in every city and county in Florida for someone to stand up for bicycling. Commission meetings, planning workshops, business group and service organization luncheons are all open to you to say “What are we doing to improve bicycling?” Raising the question helps put bicycling on the agenda of the FDOT, public works department, school board, chamber of commerce, health department, arts group, homeowners association, etc. Getting engaged with them will lead to a happy, long-term relationship.

Are you interested in helping build FBA into a more powerful voice for Florida cyclists? Join the Board of Directors.

To become a more powerful voice for Florida bicyclists FBA will engage more with strategic partners...

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FBA’s membership, state legislators, bike clubs and law enforcement are four groups that are strategically important to FBA’s goal of making Florida a more bike-friendly state. By engaging with them in a meaningful way we are going to leverage their resources to advance our programs and continue to build FBA as an organization.

2010 FBA legislative priorities survey results

Thanks to all of you (603) who took the time to complete the 2010 FBA Legislative Priorities survey. The results will help the FBA Board of Directors determine the best plan of action.

Generally, based on combining the top two choices, rankings varied from 5=Very important to 1=Not important. Rankings by item were as follows:

1. Legislation is already being developed. FBA will support existing efforts by developing partnerships with other organizations.

2-4. All three are potentially controversial so research must be done due to the complexity and many unknowns. We must be well prepared with statistics before introducing legislation. These items are very important, but we must do our homework first.

5. Trust for Public Land is supportive of this item, however, we need to communicate with Rails to Trails Conservancy and other partners before proceeding.

6. This could be our champion item out of the starting blocks and it is very important to be successful on our first go at introducing legislation. Fifteen states have limited access exceptions and the safety record is good. FBA will proceed with drafting language, solicit feedback from peers and then approach sponsors to introduce the bill.

7-9. The education items were discussed as one topic. It was acknowledged that working with individual school districts has not been very successful. Developing a relationship with the Dept. of Education is important in order to move forward. More research needs to be done before proceeding.

Stay tuned for more information as our plan is further developed.

David Henderson

You can get engaged also. Every month there are opportunities in every city and county in Florida for someone to stand up for bicycling. Commission meetings, planning workshops, business group and service organization luncheons are all open to you to say “What are we doing to improve bicycling?” Raising the question helps put bicycling on the agenda of the FDOT, public works department, school board, chamber of commerce, health department, arts group, homeowners association, etc. Getting engaged with them will lead to a happy, long-term relationship.

Are you interested in helping build FBA into a more powerful voice for Florida cyclists? Join the Board of Directors.
Positve press reports provide pleasant surprises

Laura Hallam

We could use more elected officials who understand the benefits of biking and walking. This is a great segue to the 2010 ProBike/ProWalk Florida Conference: The Dollars and Sense of Biking and Walking. The 5th edition of the conference will be held in Lakeland at the Lakeland Center May 11-13. The host hotel is the Hyatt Place Lakeland Center. Pre-conference events on May 11 include an elected officials luncheon. Save the date now to attend and visit www.floridaactive.org for more details.

There’s never been a better time than now, to promote bicycling. The types of bikes are endless, and if you haven’t retired cycling, now IS the time. Just visit your local bike store and you’ll see. Visit our website regularly since the blog is the homepage with information you don’t want to miss. You’ll also want to subscribe to the FBA e-newsletter. Just click the link on the FBA home page for monthly updates between the quarterly Messenger.

Do one?

A week in October and then four early December days.

Join the start of Bike Florida touring along the St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop. Get close up and intimate with backroads Florida. Enjoy sociable mixing, indoor overnights, full on-road service.

October’s week-long tour begins and ends in Palatka. Take the train here and back. Tour historic St. Augustine, ride through farm fields, through Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Swim at sea beaches, cross Ponce Inlet by water taxi to the first of B&B overnights, cruise by houseboat down the St. Johns. October 10-16, $1,250

December’s 4-day begins and ends in DeLand. Ride farm-to-market roads to Cheers-like 3 Bananas in Crescent City, along serene Emporia Road to lodgings on the river, along historic CR 3 to breakfast at the Old Sugar Mill Pancake House and a swim at DeLeon Springs State Park. December 3-6, $625

Oh, to be young and do these things!

Oh, to be older and keep doing ‘em!

Do both?

In 2008, the City of Miami began to develop and implement an ambitious Bicycle Action Plan including the usual program areas of engineering, education and enforcement. The key to making the plan a success was showing that bicycling was popular among city residents and investing in bicycling would bring substantial returns. Bike Miami Days (BMD) events were an ambitious strategy that proved Miamians wanted safe opportunities to ride their bikes and helped build support for the other elements of the Action Plan.

The seven monthly BMD events closed over two miles of streets in downtown Miami to motorized traffic and were attended by over 10,000 participants. This concept is also called Ciclovía.

When the weather got too hot for half-day street closures, BMD’s were transformed into Bike Miami Rides: 8-10 mile explorations of the city that emphasized inclusiveness, vehicular-style riding and basic bicycle safety education.

BMD monthly events resumed the first Sunday of October. Mayor Diaz’s vision and leadership were essential for the existence of Bike Miami Days and Bike Miami Ride events, as well as cooperation from the police and sanitation departments, merchants, residents and property owners. Visit http://bikemiamiblog.wordpress.com for more information.

Know I’m in the minority when it comes to reading the paper. My favorite time of the day is reading my local newspaper, The Gainesville Sun, with a cup of coffee. And the Sunday edition is even better. I was pleasantly surprised this Sunday morning (9/27/09) with two positive articles about bicycling.

Editorial Page Editor Ron Cunningham is no stranger to writing about his love of bicycling, but today’s piece featured how the American cities are designed almost exclusively for cars. For the mayor, the situation was all wrong. With the help of the Federal Highway Administration, more than $90 million has been allocated to four communities including Columbia. Each community will receive about $22.5 million to make them more bicycle and pedestrian friendly.

Isn’t that what all communities should be doing, especially ones in Florida where people can bike and walk 365 days a year? Of course money helps, but if more mayors could be like Darwin Hindman then Florida could be well on its way to being more bikeable and walkable.

St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker and Miami Mayor Manny Diaz get it. The Federal Highway Administration labeled St. Petersburg a “MEAN STREETS” community in 2002; Baker and the city went to work to make St. Pete more bicycle friendly.

He pooled the best experts, and created an entirely new program called “Courtesy Promotes Safety” where drivers and pedestrians interact in the street in positive ways. Yielding to pedestrians is up over 80% from under 10%. He also added infrastructure for cyclists and walkers that fueled a downtown redevelopment that has not been slowed by the recession.

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Do both?
Florida Bicycle Association Annual Awards
Presentation Mount Dora, October 10, 2009

FBA presented its annual awards to worthy recipients for their contributions to bicycling.

The purpose of the awards is to bring attention to the efforts and achievements of groups, organizations and individuals that help deliver our mission to inspire and support people and communities to enjoy greater freedom and well being through bicycling.

The 2009 awards were presented during the annual meeting held in conjunction with the 35th annual Mount Dora Bicycle Festival and Lake County Bike Summit. Share the Road promotion awards were presented at the Fall Tax Collectors conference (see page 1).

Complete narratives given during the awards ceremony are available on the FBA Website: Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC): Volusia County MPO BPAC, Stephan Harris, Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator

Among their initiatives over the past year include publishing the “Volusia County Bicycling Map for the Experienced Cyclist,” “It’s The Law” (3 ft space) bumper stickers for all county vehicles and buses and the “Bicycle and Pedestrian Child Safety” video for schools and other community outlets. The BPAC helps fund such improvements through bicycling.

BPAC and staff participate in about 900 helmet fittings per year. The BPAC is a major participant in the MPO’s Safety Awareness Day, performs feasibility studies on proposed recreational trail projects, grades proposals and provides funding of up to 75% of recreational trail and sidewalk projects.

Trail Promoter: Steve Stackhouse, Manager, Withlacoochee State Trail

The Withlacoochee State Trail is Florida’s longest open rail-trail. The trail also has one of the largest Citizen Support Organizations in the State with approximately 400 devoted volunteers.

Enforcement Officer: Pete Kelting, Seminole County Sheriff’s Office

Lt. Kelting is a friend to cyclists. As a former bike patrol officer, he understands cyclists’ safety concerns. Facing a challenge from pack riders in 2008, he met with bicycle community leaders to seek common ground. With a desire to correct the problems of motorist hostility and unsafe passing, he serves on FBA’s Civility Coalition (a citizens’ strategy group sponsored by the Winter Park Health Foundation). He also serves as an adviser for the development of FBA’s Bicycle Law Enforcement Tool Kit.

Educator/Regional Trainer: Kim Smith, Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization

Kim has created a wonderful working relationship with teachers, community members, bike shops, law enforcement officers and other educators in Brevard County. The Brevard County program has grown under her diligent coordination and is a model for other communities.

Sponsoring Agency: Mayor Stacy Ritter, Broward County Board of County Commissioners; Commissioner Daniel Sterninger, Chair, Broward MPO

Since 1981 with the creation of its Bicycling Advisory Committee to provide vision and direction, the program areas: engineering, education, and enforcement. The key to making the plan a success was showing that bicycling was popular among City residents and that investing in bicycling would bring substantial returns. The Bike Miami Days events were an ambitious strategy that proved that Miamians wanted safe opportunities to ride their bikes and helped build support for the other elements in the Action Plan.

All of the Bike Miami Days and Bike Miami Rides events are documented at: http://bikemiamiblog.wordpress.com.

Program or Event: Cristina Cruz and Charles Brown, City of Orlando Transportation Planning Dept.

Christina Cruz and Charles Brown developed an innovative approach to community education to attract children and new riders to bicycling. Presentations and demonstrations were offered in four different city commissioners’ districts of Orlando during Florida Bike Month, March 2009. The March presentations were so popular that commissioners from other areas of the city asked for presentations in THEIR communities.

Bicycle Professional: Cheryl Stacks, P.E., Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator, City of St. Petersburg

Cheryl is an enthusiastic, energetic advocate for bicycling in the City of St. Petersburg and beyond. Cheryl is an asset not only for St. Petersburg, but also for Tampa Bay and the rest of Florida. She is a tireless worker for bicyclists’ safety and mobility. She truly deserves to be recognized for her work, her attitude, and her continued efforts.

Citizen Bike Advocate: Kimber Heddon, Florida Department of Corrections

To assist offenders in a re-entry program, helping them adjust into their community, Corrections Probation Specialist, Officer Kimber Heddon of Circuit 5, Gainesville West office, developed “Bikin’ for Life” to help provide bicycles for transportation to work.

Supporting Agency: Mayor Mary Jane Mark, Mack Cycle and Fitness

As the owner of one of the largest, oldest and most profitable bike stores in Florida, Mary Jane understands the value of advocacy having attended three National Bike Summits in Washington DC, as a long time supporter of FBA, plus local initiatives in Miami. Among other national awards, Bicycle Retailer & Industry News has named Mack Cycle and Fitness as Florida’s 5-Star Retailer for 2009. See story about bike hang tags on page 1.

Volunteer: Libby Harrow, Indian River County MPO BAC Chair

Since the time of Libby’s involvement, Indian River County has gone from a single-mode (auto) oriented community to a true multi-modal community. Alternative transportation options awareness has risen steadily, and bike/ped improvements routinely outrank roadway improvements as the citizens’ preference for the expenditure of transportation funding. Libby has contributed thousands of hours of her own time to the cause of the BAC while training for worldwide competitive events and working fulltime in the local bicycle industry.

Special Recognition: Ken Bryan, Rails to Trails Conservancy, Florida Field Office

Ken has led the RTC office in Florida since its inception more than a decade ago. He has been the state’s most consistent and effective non-governmental leader in the advancement of multi-use trails. Almost single-handedly he prevented elimination of OGT funding, with the result that OGT continues with its trail-building and management tasks only minimally affected. OGT has given vital support to some of the most sought bicycling trails in Florida, including the Overseas Heritage Trail through the Florida Keys and the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail (LOST). Rail-trails in particular are critical components of the St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop.

Special Recognition: Raphael Clemente, FBA

Raphael brought to the board his skills as Palm Beach County bike/ped coordinator, urban planner and bike racer, bringing energy and passion to FBA. His dedication to events like CycleFest, the Frank Stark Ride and many other bicycle events and races was tireless. Raphael is a positive role model to all cyclists.
Jeff and Jodi Hohlstein were having lunch with FBA Executive Director Laura Hallam in Jacksonville following the Naval Air Station bike safety rodeo.

Over lunch they brainstormed ideas for improving bicycle education and advocacy in Northeast Florida. After some discussion Laura suggested, “Jeff, how about an FBA First Coast Chapter?”

“I didn’t know FBA had chapters,” Jeff replied.

“We don’t,” Laura said, “but we’ve talked about having them.”

The next day, Jeff sent Laura an outline of how he would develop the concept of a regional FBA chapter into a proposal. The proposed chapter would serve four counties, Duval, Clay, St. Johns and Nassau—also known as the First Coast.

Jeff is a former Navy fighter pilot and experienced small business owner, but relatively new to the world of cycling. Some months before, as a new rider looking in vain for bike education sources in Jacksonville, he had called Laura with a question. Their discussion inspired a mission to help bring a focus on education to the area.

Jeff became involved, was elected recording secretary of the North Florida Bicycle Club and selected to direct the 2009 Tour de Forts ride. He later produced Jacksonville’s first Traffic Skills 101 class, partnering with FBA and Lakeshore Bicycles & Fitness owner Mark Fetzer, who donated classroom space. Mark and Charlie Fetzer are strong proponents of local bicycle education and Lakeshore Bicycles & Fitness became the first organization to partner with what would become FBA First Coast.

At its July meeting the FBA Board unanimously approved formation of the First Coast Chapter with Jeff as its Director. The chapter was officially created on August 7, 2009, when FBA President David Henderson and Jeff signed the FBA First Coast Chapter Memorandum of Agreement.

The chapter is off and rolling with two initial goals. (1) continue TS 101 to firmly establish it in Jacksonville and (2) establish the Alternative Transportation Education course in the First Coast.

Traffic 101 is the flagship cycling course sanctioned by the League of American Bicyclists. Graduates not only become better vehicular cyclists, but also can go farther in their training to become LCIs—League Cycling Instructors qualified to teach 101 and other FBA offerings developed through the League.

As of this writing, FBA First Coast has produced three Traffic Skills 101 classes. A fourth is set for the end of October.

The FBA’s Alternative Transportation Education program was started in Seminole County about three and one-half years ago by Migik Wilson and Lyndy Moore. Studies of adult pedestrians and cyclists killed or seriously injured by motor vehicles, revealed that a large proportion were people who had recently lost their driver’s licenses, either permanently or temporarily.

Although the course is open to anyone, it is mandated by judges in many cases where a person has lost or is about to lose their license.

To bring this program to the First Coast, Jeff met with Sue Holley, Associate Executive Director of the Northeast Florida Safety Council, to propose a partnership. NEFSC would interface with First Coast judiciary and law enforcement to schedule the courses and would provide teaching facilities. FBA First Coast would adapt ATE to the greater Jacksonville metro area and provide certified instructors.

So what’s next? This year the First Coasters will continue work to establish the education programs as sustaining entities. As the new year approaches, they will also start to work on regional advocacy and fund raising issues.

What does it take to become a First Coaster? If you are already an FBA member, live in the First Coast and want to become actively involved in community projects, you are already a First Coaster.

Just email Jeff at jeff@fbafirstcoast.org and let him know how you would like to participate. If you are specifically interested in helping with the ATE program, contact Paul Calewarts at paul@fbafirstcoast.org. If you are not an FBA member, just sign up at https://floridabicycle.wufoo.com/forms/individual-membership and then contact Jeff.

FBA First Coast has its own blog now, at www.FBAFirstCoast.org. Sign up for automatic announcements of new material. And please participate. Your comments are welcome! That’s how we know where to improve Chapter operations.

FBA’s ‘First Coast Chapter’ is on a roll
Newest FBA Board members...

Jodi Hohlstein

The former Miss Jo Manly of Jacksonville started her career working as a sales person in the Navy Exchange, first at the Naval Air Station Jacksonville, and then at NAS Oceana Virginia.

At Oceana, she met and married Jeff Hohlstein, a Navy F-4 Phantom II pilot stationed there. Jodi held a series of banking positions as they relocated about the country during Jeff’s 21 year military career.

In Meridian, MS, during Jeff’s final military assignment, she became Chairman of Volunteers, American Red Cross.

She used her motivational management and organizational skills to develop an all-volunteer staff to replace paid personnel at the Naval Air Station Meridian. Under her leadership, the volunteer program increased service delivery 600% providing financial aid and health and welfare services to military members.

When they settled in Southern California in 1981, Jodi kick-started her corporate career and was soon a branch manager at Citibank. She was a troubleshooter who turned two successive branches initially considered marginal, into very strong profit centers.

This earned her promotion to Vice President and Area Operations Manager, responsible for all customer service and operational aspects of 43 branches in Southern California and Nevada.

Jodi and Jeff opened Management Recruiters of Round Rock in December 1994. Jodi, as president, became the floor manager for the account executives. She did all the initial training, managed the day-to-day operations and still found time to be a billing manager. At the peak, they had a team of eight.

In late 2005, Jodi and Jeff retired and relocated to Jacksonville to be near family. Jodi has been quick to volunteer her services at North Florida Bicycle Club events including the Endless Summer Watermelon Ride and the Tour de Forts.

Jodi developed a passion for learning and eventually helping others to do vehicular cycling right. She graduated from the first Jacksonville Traffic Skills 101 course in March this year and she has worked behind the scenes with Jeff to help coordinate and deliver each one of the Jacksonville Traffic Skills 101 classes.

Stephanie Striefel

Stephanie is a third-generation West Palm Beacher, and the youngest member of the Board.

She is a Senior Planner with the Renaissance Planning Group’s Delray Beach office. She earned a BA in Environmental Studies and then a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from FSU. It was during her first stay in Tallahassee that she rekindled a childhood passion for off-road riding.

In Tallahassee Stephanie was exposed to a wider bicycling community. She worked part time at a bike shop on campus, “though I did more hanging out than actually working,” she says.

She learned about shop teams, general repairs and different sub-groups of the cycling community.

She had no idea of the long history of cycling advocacy in Florida at that point, but got an up-close and practical lesson while in grad school a few years later.

At FSU’s Department of Urban and Regional Planning, she was provided the opportunity to delve into the world and community of bicycle and pedestrian planning.

She served as a researcher and assistant project manager for a year and a half while at the university. Her work included coordinating 10 Livable Communities Workshops held in 2005 and 2006, featuring Dan Burden and Billy Hattaway, staffing the statewide Ad-hoc Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and co-authoring both “Best Practices for Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning: A Guide for Plan Preparation” and the draft “Florida Strategic Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Plan.”

As a professional urban planner, her relationship to bicycling has remained largely policy-based, examining treatments of the right of way to provide safety for all users, and the policies needed to implement such strategies.

Earlier this year, Florida Planning’s April issue included her article, “Florida’s ciclovias and the potential transformation of the right-of-way.”

ROADS LESS TRAVELED...

Polk County offers endless opportunities for extreme family fun. Cyclists can pedal along rolling country roads or attack our off-road trails. Enjoy high-energy excitement with roller coasters and water sliding, or try your hand at bass fishing and golf. Experience award-winning theatres and museums, celebrate nature with an airboat ride or a relaxing walk in one of our beautiful gardens.

Central Florida Lakes District offers you the vacation value you deserve.

For more information and a free guide to Central Florida Lakes District call 800/828-7655, code FB or log on to www.visitcentralflorida.org.
Making the commitment to alternative transportation...

Jesse the human engine

by Keri Caffrey

Jesse and Angie Ross and their two daughters are a one-car family. In January, they traded their SUV for an SUB. The family rides bikes to the store, church and for family fun.

Jesse's vehicle is a Madsen Bucket bike. I asked him how he chose the Madsen. “We were looking at the Xtracycle and the Yuba Mundo when we came across it on Google.” The price was good and the bucket holds a lot of stuff, plus has seats and seat belts for kids.

He’s done some work on it and plans to do more mechanical tweaking, but he really likes it. He uses it to bring their two daughters home from daycare/preschool every day, and to haul mind-boggling loads from Costco and Home Depot.

Robert Seidler and I joined Jesse for his commute home one Monday. We met him at Colonial High School, where he teaches.

Getting to Colonial High was a challenge; it's a poster child for the metro area’s lack of connectivity—isolated from anything resembling a useful grid in the southeastern corner of Colonial (SR50) and Semoran (SR436).

The kind of teacher you never forget

Mr. Ross is teaching more than high school English. His Madsen sits on display in front of his classroom every day—a silent symbol of freedom and possibilities. His enthusiasm for utility cycling is infectious. It can’t help but make a positive impact on his students.

“I have such a great life!”

Jesse rides to work early in the morning, enjoying an exhilarating workout. He showers at school, parks his bike in his classroom and begins his workday happy and refreshed.

Later in the morning, Angie drops one of the other motorists just trying to get there. Jesse never liked driving a car. It made him feel stressed out, impatient and bored — just trying to get there and being obstructed by all the other motorists just trying to get there.

He’s discovered the power of gaps. He uses an eastbound gap to cross half of Hwy 50 to the median (which, at the moment, is a dirt construction zone). He then waits for a gap in the westbound lanes, turns left, controls the right lane for 450 feet and turns right onto a quiet street. (He uses 436 on his way to work and tried it with the girls, but they didn’t like it.)

A few cars caught up and passed us courteously in the left lane as we rode on Colonial. Another waited behind in the right lane, to make a right turn at the street just beyond where we turned. Jesse noted that drivers seem extra careful and considerate when the girls are in the bucket. Every one we encountered was patient and considerate. As we waited for the light at Old Cheney and 436, the driver of a minivan behind us leaned out and chatted with me for a moment about how cute the girls are and gave Jesse a big thumbs-up.

A community amenity

Jesse handles himself like a pro in traffic. But a wonderful feature of his commute is that most of it is on the Cady Way trail. In May, he and Angie bought a house in Winter Park near the trail. Imagine taking your kids for a ride on the trail on the way home from work!

Not just quality of life, an entirely different kind of life

Jesse solves the connectivity problem. Robert and I had quite an adventure getting there. I have a hard time getting out of the Home Depot on that corner with a car! Northbound the connectivity issue could be solved with a traffic light at Tucker Ave. and SR50 (it’s nearly impossible to cross there without one, even in a car).

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Jesse never liked driving a car. It made him feel stressed out, impatient and bored — just trying to get there and being obstructed by all the other motorists just trying to get there.

He’s discovered that biking to work not only increases his enjoyment of the journey, it actually saves him time!

“No matter what, I never got out of the house in less than an hour,” he tells of when he used to drive to work. Then he had to sit in traffic in his car. Now he gets up, makes coffee, loads the bike, fills the travel mug and is out the door in 15 minutes. It takes him 25 minutes to get to work and 15 minutes to shower, shave and change. So, “in less time than it used to take me to get out the door, I’ve had coffee, a good workout, a shower and I’m at work and feeling great!”

He’s getting quality time with his daughters from the moment he gets off work and he has the freedom and satisfaction of not being dependent on a car with all its associated stresses. That is a different kind of life.

“I am an Engine”

That’s the title of a poem he is writing for his daughters. He read a few verses of it for Robert and me.

Jesse is not just the engine of his vehicle, he’s an engine of the changing traffic culture.

At a recent Bike Education Rebranding Powwow (BERP) held in Orlando, FBA education leaders discussed ways to identify potential customers, niche markets and how to deliver information to make bicycling viable in the eyes of the average person and motorist. L to R: Jeff Hohlstein, Mykh Wilson, Lyndy Moore, Robert Seidler, Keri Caffrey, George Martin.
One of the most troublesome issues in urban cycling is this: who has the right of way?

The right of way at intersections involves different legal issues that all boil down to just one conclusion: to the motor vehicle, it’s a dent, to the cyclist it’s devastation.

**Right of Way**

Right of way means simply who’s supposed to go. Florida law says “All persons may use the streets and highways but each has a duty to comply with lawful regulations of its use applicable to him and to use reasonable care to comply with lawful regulations of the streets and highways but each has a duty applicable to him and to use reasonable care for his own safety and for the safety of others.” For you and that car driver this means you both have to obey the laws.

**Two Primary Conflicts**

Two primary areas of crashes between cars and cyclists are the road intersection and the sidewalk intersection.

**The Road**

The road intersection conflict occurs when you’re on the through street and the car is stopped at the intersecting road.

In this case, you have the right of way.

Florida law provides that a vehicle must stop at a “stop bar” (the white line painted across the road) and not enter onto the road when there is approaching traffic (that’s you) “so close as to proximate a hazard.” ((§316.123). Under Florida law, you are “traffic.” Florida Law says a cyclist “has all of the rights and all of the duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle under [Florida law]...” (§316.2065)

If the car pulls out and you collide, he’s at fault. Just remember that cars are not watching for you or they underestimate your speed here.

**The Sidewalk**

Then there are the sidewalk conflicts, first of which is whether you should be on the sidewalk at all.

On the sidewalk you are essentially “on your own” and, unless you know the local codes in advance, you gamble.

So, check the city or county code here: www.municode.com/Resources/OnlineLibrary.aspx

If you can’t find your town’s codes, call the city cops and ask “when can bikes be on sidewalks?”

A good Florida law is §316.1995: “no motor-powered vehicle, except bicycles, on sidewalks.” If you are stopped, use this STATE statute with the city officer and it may get you just a warning.

The next sidewalk conflict is where a road interrupts a sidewalk. A pedestrian has rights here. §316.130(7) says a car has to stop for pedestrian in crosswalks at stop light and signs.

So get off; be a pedestrian.

You can also use §316.2065(10) which gives you “all the rights and duties of a pedestrian.”

The third sidewalk conflict is where the car turns into or out of a parking lot or alley and crosses the sidewalk. For the coming out part, §316.125(2) says that car has to stop if you are an “immediate hazard.”

This is gold.

On sidewalks, remember cops sometimes will apply wrongly the “riding with the traffic rule” to you, so try to ride with traffic.

Finally, whether you are right or wrong you are still hurt and your ride is still damaged.

Remember these pearls from the words of my injured clients, “I’d give all this money back, if this had just never happened”

So be safe out there.

**Attorney J. Steele Olmstead practices law statewide from offices in Tampa. One of his specialties is bicycle law and he’ll even come to you...wherever you got broken.**

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**From Main Street to No Street**

by Charlie Morris

Sarasota Florida has its share of celebrities, including Steven King, Steffy Graf, Jerry Springer, and for you old timers who are football fans, the late great Otto Graham of the Cleveland Browns.

Yes, it’s a wealthy community with a rich history of circus folks and known as a mecca for the performing arts. East of I-75, straddling Sarasota and Manatee counties, is the upscale gated community of Lakewood Ranch.

We can guarantee you’ll look a lot better in an FBA jersey than this guy, so get yours today. Available by phone or via the FBA Store on the website. $70 (or free with your donation of $250 or more).

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---

**ASK A CYCLING ATTORNEY...**

**What do you mean I don’t have the right of way?**

by J. Steele Olmstead, Esq.

The Road

The road intersection conflict occurs when you’re on the through street and the car is stopped at the intersecting road.

In this case, you have the right of way.

Florida law provides that a vehicle must stop at a “stop bar” (the white line painted across the road) and not enter onto the road when there is approaching traffic (that’s you) “so close as to proximate a hazard.” (§316.123). Under Florida law, you are “traffic.” Florida Law says a cyclist “has all of the rights and all of the duties applicable to the driver of any other vehicle under [Florida law]...” (§316.2065)

If the car pulls out and you collide, he’s at fault. Just remember that cars are not watching for you or they underestimate your speed here.

**The Sidewalk**

Then there are the sidewalk conflicts, first of which is whether you should be on the sidewalk at all.

On the sidewalk you are essentially “on your own” and, unless you know the local codes in advance, you gamble.

So, check the city or county code here: www.municode.com/Resources/OnlineLibrary.aspx

If you can’t find your town’s codes, call the city cops and ask “when can bikes be on sidewalks?”

A good Florida law is §316.1995: “no motor-powered vehicle, except bicycles, on sidewalks.” If you are stopped, use this STATE statute with the city officer and it may get you just a warning.

The next sidewalk conflict is where a road interrupts a sidewalk. A pedestrian has rights here. §316.130(7) says a car has to stop for pedestrian in crosswalks at stop light and signs.

So get off; be a pedestrian.

You can also use §316.2065(10) which gives you “all the rights and duties of a pedestrian.”

The third sidewalk conflict is where the car turns into or out of a parking lot or alley and crosses the sidewalk. For the coming out part, §316.125(2) says that car has to stop if you are an “immediate hazard.”

This is gold.

On sidewalks, remember cops sometimes will apply wrongly the “riding with the traffic rule” to you, so try to ride with traffic.

Finally, whether you are right or wrong you are still hurt and your ride is still damaged.

Remember these pearls from the words of my injured clients, “I’d give all this money back, if this had just never happened”

So be safe out there.

**Attorney J. Steele Olmstead practices law statewide from offices in Tampa. One of his specialties is bicycle law and he’ll even come to you...wherever you got broken.**
## Selected State-wide Contacts

Here's whom to call about your bicycle/pedestrian/transportation concerns. Go to [www.floridabicycle.org/statecontacts.htm](http://www.floridabicycle.org/statecontacts.htm) for the complete list.

### AGENCY/FUNCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statewide Agency</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>E-MAIL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td><a href="mailto:dennis.scott@dot.state.fl.us">dennis.scott@dot.state.fl.us</a></td>
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</table>

### District Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Telephone</th>
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<td>727.892.1998</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cheryl.stacks@stpete.gov">cheryl.stacks@stpete.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
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</table>

New frames for new ages (part 2)

by Mighk Wilson

"In not sure [George is] wrong about automobiles ... With all their speed forward they may be a step backward in civilization — that is, in spiritual civilization. It may be that they will not add to the beauty of the world, nor to the life of men’s souls. I am not sure. But automobiles have come, and they bring a greater change in our life than most of us suspect. They are here, and almost all outward things are going to be different because of what they bring. They are going to alter war, and they are going to alter peace. I think men’s minds are going to be changed in subtle ways because of automobiles; just how, though, I could hardly guess. But you can’t have the immense outward changes that they will cause without some inward ones, and it may be that George is right, and that the spiritual alteration will be had for us. Perhaps, ten or twenty years from now, if we can see the inward changes in men by that time, I shouldn’t be able to defend the gasoline engine, but would have to agree with him that automobiles ‘had no business to be invented.’"

— from The Magnificent Ambersons, the 1918 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Booth Tarkington

#### Bicycle were just collateral damage in the overthrow of pedestrian rule of the streets.

It was the speed of these new roads that had the biggest impact; combined with the keep-as-far-right-as-practicable laws, it helped push bicyclists literally and figuratively to the edge of the roadway, where they had to suffer the stress and risk of being passed too closely by speed- and time-obsessed motorists. Being told one was an intruder on “somebody else’s road” only made it worse.

The public relations and social marketing firm Salter-Mitchell, in a new study for FBA through a Winter Park Health Foundation grant, heard a common refrain from motorists: “Roads were viewed as ‘belonging’ to cars; cyclists and pedestrians should stay out of the way as much as possible.”

Cops shifted from protecting vulnerable users by upholding their rights, to keeping them out of the way. Today, even after cops are shown that basic cyclist violations such as no lights, wrong-way riding, and red light running are the primary causes of cyclist/motorist crashes, and that group rides rarely result in crashes with motorists, they still put more focus on group rides because they get in the way of the “rightful owners” of the roads.

Cyclists putting themselves at risk are of little concern; cyclists impeding motorists is evidently a far more serious problem.

Pedestrians fare no better with today’s law enforcement philosophy. A Florida Highway Patrol officer once said during a discussion of crosswalk laws, “I’m not going to stop six lanes of traffic on SR 436 so some guy can cross the street to get a Frosty at Wendy’s.”

We see law enforcement agencies focusing much more on “jaywalking” than on motorists violating crosswalk laws. Delaying motorists is evidently the bigger sin.

Next time: Mighk concludes with a report on the need to reframe the streets back to their original concept of public space.
bicycle parking. We applied for and received generous grants from the Florida Department of Transportation, SRTS and Winter Park Health Foundation to build and install shelters to cover the new bicycle parking. Even the students have become involved by creating commercial campaigns to promote the benefits of "active transportation!"

The outpouring of enthusiasm for Walk n’ Roll continues to keep us motivated. Parents, teachers, and community leaders have all been outspoken in their support of this endeavor. Propelled by this exuberance, we have begun to share our experiences in local conferences and also started mentoring interested parents at other local schools. While there is no financial incentive backing our unwavering efforts, we are completely rewarded by the smiles on the faces of the happy, healthy children and the knowledge that we are shaping their emerging attitudes toward alternative forms of transportation.

To assist FBA with the difficult process of collecting credible data, we've decided to make total economic sense. Beyond money spent on bike-related tourism and accompanying tax revenue collected by the state, cycling and walking impacts many aspects of our economy. Some examples include individual and government savings or costs related to health, environmental impacts, and the one with arguably the biggest impact—transportation. To assist FBA with the difficult process of collecting credible data, we’ve decided to make bicycle/pedestrian economics the theme of the 2010 ProBike/ProWalk Florida Conference to be held May 11-13 in Lakeland.

If you believe you have something to offer in terms of a conference session topic, please consider submitting, by December 1, 2009, a paper that summarizes what you’d like to present. We’d also like to get sessions that are appropriate for professional development credits certified for planners, landscape architects, transportation engineers, and other professionals, so please keep that in mind when developing your topic. FBA is looking forward to the information that comes from the conference—and follow-up research—being substantial enough to use in beginning the case that routinely accommodating pedestrians and cyclists makes total economic sense. Please submit your session summary in the following format to Dan Moser, FBA Program Manager, at dam@floridabicycle.org.

CALL FOR PAPERS
Contact Information
Session Topic
Topic Significance to Conference
Outline of Presentation/Session
Other Proposed Speakers to Complement Topic
Date Submitted

Other Proposed Speakers to Complement Topic

Dennis Markatos-Soriano has been outspoken in his support of this endeavor. Teachers, and community leaders have all been involved in their support of this endeavor.

Events throughout the state—bicycle rides on paved state trails, paddling excursions, equestrian events, trail walks, mountain biking events and wildlife festivals—showcase Florida’s natural beauty and the many ways to enjoy healthy outdoor activities. Greenways and trails provide residents and visitors with year-round access to a wide variety of free health and fitness opportunities, conserve native landscapes and ecosystems and link communities to natural areas.

“Greenways and trails provide nature-based recreational opportunities as well as encourage use of alternative, energy-saving forms of transportation,” said Jena Brooks, Director of Greenways & Trails. "The economic benefits of trails are far reaching. Proximity to greenways and conservation corridors increases property values and trails increasingly attract tourism as an affordable, accessible source of recreation.”

Florida’s commitment to a statewide system of greenways and trails recently earned the state a “Best Trails State” award. Office of Greenways and Trails manages eight state trails, in addition to the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway. Visit www.floridafootpathsandtrails.com to find an event in your area.

The outpouring of enthusiasm for Walk n’ Roll continues to keep us motivated. Parents, teachers, and community leaders have all been outspoken in their support of this endeavor. Propelled by this exuberance, we have begun to share our experiences in local conferences and also started mentoring interested parents at other local schools. While there is no financial incentive backing our unwavering efforts, we are completely rewarded by the smiles on the faces of the happy, healthy children and the knowledge that we are shaping their emerging attitudes toward alternative forms of transportation.

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Other Proposed Speakers to Complement Topic

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**Upcoming Bicycle Touring Events in Florida**

ARBITAGED from promotional material provided by tour organizers. We’re not responsible for accuracy of information or quality of these rides. Use the contact information for more details about each ride. Ask your friends. Data are from a calendar maintained by Roger Pierce. To add an event to his (and our) calendar, e-mail to fbtc@piercepages.com. See complete calendar, including many out-of-state rides we don’t have room to print here, and all the helper we edited out at www.florida bicycleride.com/.

### November

**November 1 (Sun) Lehigh Acres**

*Everyone Rides* - 6th annual event to raise money to buy bicycles for the Boys and Girls Club of Lee County. Everyone who raises $500 in donations will receive a free pair of Oakley Radar Sunglasses. [http://everyonerides.org](http://everyonerides.org)  
Active.com  
*Online Registration*  

**November 1 (Sun) Bradenton**

*Salute to Freedom Ride*  
100/66/35/15 mile routes. Registration: 7 am in the parking lot of A&AA on International Parkway. Ride through scenic back roads in north Seminole County. See contact information for tour organizers. [www.salutetofreedombikercycling.com](http://www.salutetofreedombikercycling.com)  
Active.com  
*Online Registration*  

**November 6-8 Chiefland**

*Chiefland Bicycle Fest*  
Three fun-filled days riding on Florida’s Gulf Coast Trail. All rides start in Chiefland. Check out 200/60/60 miles riding north and east on the trails. Optional on-road loop to Cedar Key and back. Phone: (727) 457-6994. [www.chieflandbicyclefest.com](http://www.chieflandbicyclefest.com)  
Active.com  
*Online Registration*  

**November 7 (Sat) Seminole Tour de Vie**  
Alafia River State Park, South of Brandon, FL. With unique topography that offers some of the most radical elevation changes in Florida, Alafia trails are the most challenging in our riding area. For this reason, we recommend and still offering an exciting ride for more experienced cyclists. We have increased the amount of intermediate trail since last year’s event. Guided rides at both locations on Saturday 8:30-689-5309. [http://www.swampclub.org/alafiabicyling.html](http://www.swampclub.org/alafiabicyling.html)  
Active.com  
*Online Registration*  

**November 13-15 Madison**

*28th Florida North Bicycle Tour*  
RESCHEDULED from October 30, 2009. Three days of family fun, cycling, dancing, eating, & more! Overnight sleeping (camping or cabin) at Camp Cherry Lake, Madison FL. Bike rides from 4 to 100 mile. Lunch provided on Sat. & in the pm, shrimp, music and dancing. Registration 11/13-14/2009. [http://www.tourdevie.org](http://www.tourdevie.org)  
Active.com  
*Online Registration*  

**November 14 (Sat) Bartow**

District 6890 Rotary “Ride of your Life”

### December

**December 12-17 Tampa**

*Ride 2 Recovery Florida Challenge*  
Rides range from 400 miles to a 1,000 mile loop tour of Southern and Central Florida led by former RAAM/Director Nick Gerich. (808499-3210). [www.hellweek.com](http://www.hellweek.com)

### January

**January 8-9 Mountain Bike**

*The SMART Ride*  
Start: MorningStar Renewal Center in Miami. A 2 Day, 165 Mile ride from Miami to Key West. Ends up at the AIDS Memorial on the White Street Pier in Key West. Fully supported ride with travels with SAG Vehicles, Medical Team, Full Pit Stops and meals. Overnight accommodations in Key West. Key West. [http://www.smartinbikes.com/bikemiami](http://www.smartinbikes.com/bikemiami)

### Florida Bicycle Association Messenger

- 18/36/62/100 miles. Children's bike rodeo, Games and Events, Arts and crafts show, Concessions, RaFFles, Door Prizes, Silent Auction, Club Challenge, Fun, Food... and more!! 1-866-351-1616. [rotary6890.org/bikerides](http://rotary6890.org/bikerides)
- November 29 (Sun) Sarasota  
Fun, Food... and more!! 1-866-351-1616. [rotary6890.org/bikerides](http://rotary6890.org/bikerides)

**December 13 (Sun) Boca Raton**

*Tour of Boca*  
See Nov 8 listing. [http://www.bocabikeclub.org](http://www.bocabikeclub.org)

**December 23-27 Cross City**

*Gulf Coast Highlight Tour*  
5 days and four tours, cycling on Florida’s beautiful Gulf Coast, other attractions include a visit to Historic Yulee Sugar Mill, see the Mermaids performance, and visit the Manatees at the Three Sisters Springs. [www.gulfcoasteventstours.com](http://www.gulfcoasteventstours.com)

**December 29 (Sun) Sarasota**

*Sanibel Island Bicycle Tour*  
5 days and four rides, cycling on Florida’s beautiful Gulf Coast, other attractions include a visit to Historic Yulee Sugar Mill, see the Mermaids performance, and visit the Manatees at the Three Sisters Springs. [www.gulfcoasteventstours.com](http://www.gulfcoasteventstours.com)

**January 4 (Sun) Naples**

*Ironman Florida Triathlon*  
Full Supported Road Ride with Lunch Provided by Cava Catering. Finish at the North Collier Regional Park on North Livingston Road, Naples. 34190. [www.tourofboca.com](http://www.tourofboca.com) Registration Opens at 7:00 AM. 80 & 62 Miles Route Starts at 7:30 AM. 30 Mile Route Starts at 9:00 AM. 10 Mile Route Starts at 10:00 AM. Registration fees: $55 for ride and new or renewal membership; $35 for ride only (Before 11/13 and current NPC members pay $30) WE MUST HAVE YOUR REGISTRATION BEFORE 11/13/2009 If YOU WANT A T-SHIRT! SORRY - NO EXCEPTIONS [www.naplespathways.org](http://www.naplespathways.org)

**January 10 (Sun) Boca Raton**

*Tour of Boca*  
See Nov 8 listing. [http://www.bocabikeclub.org](http://www.bocabikeclub.org)

**January 24 (Sun) Naples**

*Pedaling for Pathways Biking Brunch*  
Starts and ends at Lowdermilk Beach Park. 10:20/30/60/100 miles throughout Naples and the surrounding area. Fully supported road ride with Brunch on the Beach from Moe’s Southwest Grill to follow. Proceeds support and promote pathways in Naples and Collier County. [http://www.bicycles Naplesflorida.com](http://www.bicycles Naplesflorida.com)  
Active.com  
*Online Registration*
What is it with grates?

What is it with grates? After more than 30 years of discussion, the topic of "bicycle-friendly" drainage grates still seems to pop up every few weeks in my e-mail inbox. What are "safe" slot dimensions? Is there a "standard"?

But grates involve multiple hazards for cyclists—risk of curb strike, debris, uneven pavement-gutter joints, etc. Cyclists should not ride in grates to begin with!

In fact, while riding over drain grates to test the hazard for this article, I lost my balance in the narrow gutter, wobbled, couldn’t unclip in time, fell over and skinned a knee. I had no problem with the grate.

Consider a drain grate like the ones I tested in my neighborhood, with slots 1.25 inches wide and 4.38 inches long. Mountain bike wheels, because of their fat tires, will not enter such slots; even hybrid tires will usually not fit (tires on my hybrid are about 1.38 in wide).

The 700x23 tires on my road bike are about 0.94 in wide, so they did enter the slots.

The 30th Anniversary HORRIBLE HUNDRED
November 14-15, 2009
Clermont, Florida
Presented by The Florida FreeWheelers

...featuring course options of
35, 70 and 100 miles
Registration fees:
$35 pre-registered, $40 day of event
For more information, special hotel rates and online registration, go to
www.horrible-hundred.com
Or call (407) 786-BIKE (2453)

It’s Only Horrible If You Miss It!

Dwight Kingsbury

However, they didn’t go in very far—only about 0.38 in, as best I could measure.

Which was strange, because according to trigonometry it should have fallen in about 0.44 in (diameter of the tires on the rims is about 69 cm).

All of the rim and most of the tire were above the slot.

Drain grates with long gaps in their inlet seats are sometimes encountered in big surface parking lots, or on some roads.

Road bike tires definitely need to be kept out of these, but they’re not hard to spot.

Bicycle club presidents meeting scheduled Sat. Nov. 14, Clermont

3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Fairfield Inn & Suites
Complimentary HH Registration

The Florida FreeWheelers Bicycle Club will host a meeting of all Florida bicycle club presidents in conjunction with the 30th Annual Horrible Hundred two-day event November 14-15 in Clermont.

The purpose of the meeting is to share ideas and discuss ways we can all learn from one another on topics ranging from ride management, charity rides, SCOR (Specialized Cardiac Outpatient Rehabilitation) Chapters, bike education workshops and legislative strategies for 2010.

Other agenda items are also welcomed.

The meeting will be held Saturday, November 14, at the Fairfield Inn & Suites, 1750 Hunt Trace, Clermont, 352-394-6585, from 3:30-5:30 pm.

In support of the Florida Bicycle Club Presidents’ meeting, the Florida FreeWheelers and the Horrible Hundred will provide a complimentary ride registration to each club for their president or designee if they choose to attend the meeting. Interested individuals should contact Scot Hartle, FFW Executive Director at FFWmail@aol.com, to register for the bike ride, as well as Laura Hallam to RSVP for the meeting at laura@floridabicycler.org.

BBA Board of Director members and staff will facilitate the meeting since FFW President Art Ackerman and Horrible Hundred Director Tom Bargnesi will have their hands full with final preparations for the Horrible Hundred.

They have pledged their support and hope this meeting is the beginning of an annual event.

Please share this information with your club so all clubs are represented at the Florida Bicycle Club Presidents’ meeting.

For more information, contact Laura Hallam.

Please make checks payable and mail to:
Florida Bicycle Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 718, Waldo, FL 32694

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Good News, Mr. Smith! The IRS now allows your employer to give you a tax-free reimbursement of up to $20 per month for reasonable bicycle related expenses as a qualified bicycle commuter.*

We can keep you up to date with the latest rulings affecting cyclists everywhere, offering quality tax and financial accounting services with the confidence and solid reputation that comes from over 30 years of quality service to the Central Florida business community.

We're proud to support FBA and its mission to promote good health and well-being in our communities through bicycling.

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