



## Denver Urban Bike Transportation System Overview

by Andrew Duvall

Prior to the implementation of the Freewheel'n project, many individuals and groups dedicated to bicycle issues focused for months on planning and coordination of the Freewheel'n project, contributing to ultimate success. Instead of simply disbanding this talented group after the DNC, the city has formed the Denver Urban Bicycle Transportation System (DUBTS) advisory group with three subcommittees: Connectivity and Accessibility; Education and Awareness; Policy and Research.

Each subcommittee is charged with examining issues that might contribute to shaping the necessary environment for a bicycle sharing system to take off in Denver. The goals and objectives of each subcommittee are distinct but overlap, and are coordinated to attempt to create multifaceted approaches toward achieving meaningful improvements. Each subcommittee draws upon the knowledge and experiences of its members who range from interested private citizens to dedicated city employees.

Work is underway to introduce supportive policy, emplace infrastructural improvements and to educate the public about bicycle sharing and bicycling as transportation. This coincides with the launch of a 30-bike



pilot system for city employees beginning in December of 2008, to be expanded to 70 or more bicycles in late Spring 2009. A larger municipal system is slated for 2010, but the DUBTS group has much to do to ensure that components are in place for the system to be a success.

*Working with BikesBelong, Andy played a key role in much of the planning for the DNC bike share program. Corraling 100s of Freewheel'n bikes, near Invesco Field on the final evening of the Convention, was just another aspect of this enormous project. He is Vice Chair of the Denver Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Committee.*

### Share the Road Tips for Bicyclists

#### SIDE-BY-SIDE RULE:

Ride no more than two abreast; move to single-file if riding two abreast impedes the flow of motorized traffic.

**RIDE PREDICTABLY:** Scan the road, anticipate hazards, and communicate your moves to others.

**SIGNAL FIRST:** Use hand signals to alert nearby vehicles to turns or lane changes.

**BE AN EXAMPLE:** Bicyclists have the same rights, rules, and responsibilities as other vehicles on the road.

*For more about Share the Road, Safe Routes to School, and related projects, visit: [bicyclecolorado.org](http://bicyclecolorado.org).*

### Monthly Meeting

BikeDenver meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Alliance Center at 1536 Wynkoop. Our meetings are in the 2nd floor Conference Room. Please join us!

## BD Board Members Attend Thunderhead Retreat

After a busy week as bike ambassadors at the Democratic National Convention, board members Lise Neer and Gary Rossmiller went to Bainbridge Island, Washington for an intensive weekend retreat with 70 advocacy leaders from all over the US and Canada.

Of the 16 workshops offered, they learned and shared wisdom on topics such as:

- Building a Team
- Membership Strategies
- Technology for our Movement
- Avoiding Common Pitfalls (like Burnout)
- Complete Streets
- Safe Routes to School

A talent show was highlighted by the reading of *Duck Rides a Bike*. Check

it out the next time you're at a library or book store.

The most important item brought home was the participant contact list and the knowledge that Thunderhead is an enormous resource that we can utilize. They offer monthly tele-conferences, an extensive online resource library, website/computer tech support, and staff members who are ready and eager to help us find a solution to a current roadblock.

*The Thunderhead Alliance for Biking and Walking is the national coalition of state and local bicycle and pedestrian advocacy organizations working together to promote bicycling and walking in North American communities.*



*Thunderheaders furthering a Complete Streets agenda*



*We found time for some hilly, invigorating rides around the island.*



# Take a ride with us!



The gang on BikeDenver's first tour of the lights from City Park

## o BikeDenver's Annual Winter Solstice Ride & Inaugural Charity Drive

On Sunday, December 21 at 6:30PM we'll roll through the streets of City Park South, Capitol Hill and City Park itself to ogle holiday lights and laugh at Winter's chill on the shortest day of the year. Visit [bikedenver.org](http://bikedenver.org) for more info.

## o Worst Day of the Year Ride

Just when you thought it was safe to hang up that bike and snuggle up inside... nope, it's time for another cold one! A ride, that is. Visit [bikedenver.org](http://bikedenver.org) for more details on this fun ride, slated for Jan. 23rd!

## Bike Commuter Bill passes

The federal bicycle commuter tax provision recently passed into law recognizing bicycling as a major method of work commuting trips. Set up like existing tax incentives for commuting by transit or parking your car, this act provides an employer tax break of \$20 a month to reimburse employees for bicycle commuting expenses. For more info, visit [bicyclecolorado.org](http://bicyclecolorado.org).

# Bicycle-Friendly Business Honor Roll

Alliance for Sustainable Colorado  
Brand Iron  
Campus Cycles  
Catalyst Communications  
Center for Systems Integration  
Cintron Technologies, Inc.  
City O' City  
City Cycle Logic  
Civitas  
Colorado Dept of Transportation  
Colorado Ski Country USA  
Colorado Rickshaw Company  
Concept Photography, Inc.  
Davis Partnership Architects  
The Denver Athletic Club  
Denver Public Library  
Denver Water  
Downtown Denver Partnership  
Encon Colorado  
GearHost Inc.  
Health Dialog

Hutton Architecture Studio  
James E. Brown & Associates, P.C.  
Janus  
Location3 Media  
Meininger  
Mile High Pedicabs  
Monroe & Newell Engineers, Inc.  
PaySimple  
Questar  
REI  
RTD  
Salvagetti  
The Shoppe  
Spin  
U.S. Environmental  
Protection Agency EPR-EP  
Wash Perk  
WaterCourse Foods  
Wolf Camera—Downtown  
YourHub.com  
90octane Interactive Marketing

*Your business should be recognized publicly as one that promotes smart transportation choices.*



# Comings and Goings

## Goodbye, For Now...

In September, I resigned as president in order to move to Washington D.C., where my beautiful girlfriend, Karen Beach has started a prestigious fellowship with the federal government. Moving away from Denver was a difficult decision, mostly because of the wonderful community



of cyclists I have come to know and love. I got involved with BikeDenver almost exactly two years ago, and my involvement with all of you has been a large part of my identity ever since.

In those two years, we have seen a groundswell of interest and activity surrounding cycling. From the Capitol Hill hipsters riding in quiet rebellion, to the daily commuters in their 12th year of riding to work, to the city employees who spend time trying to figure out how we keep this trend growing, to the local businesses installing bike racks, to the grade schools working on safe routes for their students...times are changing for cyclists. I know the reasons for this are diverse, but I know that part of it is that BikeDenver

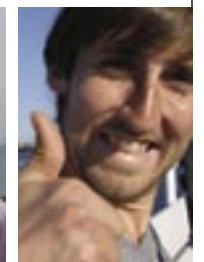
## Rossmiller elected Board President

As if Gary hasn't worked hard enough as bike parking program manager all these years... he's decided to take on BikeDenver's



presidency. BikeDenver's bike parking corral at festivals has been more successful than we imagined. We need an energetic volunteer to fill the position of bike parking coordinator. Contact us if you are interested in taking this program to the next level. [bikeparking@bikedenver.org](mailto:bikeparking@bikedenver.org)

## Welcome, Piep & Eric!



Piep van Heuven has joined us as BikeDenver's first staffer, in the role of Interim Executive Director. While she works on the organization's strategy and focus, Eric Bunch—a League-Certified Instructor hailing from Missouri—is interning with her and learning all he can about the Denver bicycle advocacy scene.

has been offering a different example for how people get around our fair city, how others can join us, and most importantly, how the city can help us make Denver a better place to bicycle.

If there is one piece of advice I can give, it's that you can make a difference, every individual has something to contribute. If you are frustrated and dissatisfied with what you see now, the only way to change it is to show up and tell anyone who will listen what can improve,

and how it can be done.

I will miss everyone, and I may move back to Denver some day, but until then, I have one last thing to ask of you. Will you get involved in whatever way you can, and help make Denver a better place to bicycle? If the answer is yes, a good place to start is where I did a little over two years ago, at a BikeDenver monthly meeting.

Warmest farewell,  
Will Handsfield

# A Freewheel!n Five Days



by Will Handsfield



A taste of things to come...



We led delegations on rides, offered directions and went out for ice cream.



Conventioners embraced it.



Locals accessorized...



...and now—for starters—Denver gets one of these!

This August, BikeDenver volunteers spent hundreds of man hours helping to operate Freewheel!n, a bike share system operated during the DNC convention. I was one of those volunteers, and can say without hesitation, it was one of the best times I've ever had doing so much work.

The week began with a gigantic group ride from the warehouse to Sculpture Park to help get about 200 bikes stocked at the downtown locations. The ride was led by Mayor Hickenlooper, and Mayor Ryback from Minneapolis. This critical mass of bike advocates set the tone for

the rest of the week; basically, we all had a blast while working really hard to keep everyone going in the same direction.

The rest of the week, I led planned rides, fixed bikes, organized group rides, rode around

with the pedicab recycling team, called in a pedicab rescue, delivered food by bike, made a wrong turn ending up in Critical Mass, and set up the biggest bike corral Denver has ever seen. I got to try out a half dozen models of bike, ride with three big city mayors, and clock about 150 road miles and 40 hours of work. But best of all, I got to do all of this with many of my friends, and made some new ones to top it all off.

Helping operate Freewheel!n is something that I will treasure for all my life, and I hope it made as big an impression on you as it did on me. Keep your eyes

and ears open for the permanent system we'll be starting within the next two years!

*How volunteers should be treated, lots of great perks and food all day long. People were so jazzed by the idea of free bikes.*

— Gary Rossmiller

*We took a newsman named Austin from Austin, TX on the cupcake ride, saw folks return to check out bikes day after day, and got to ride and smile all week!*

— Lise Neer

*The energy and enthusiasm of the volunteers was terrific and the diversity of riders amazed me! Everyone loved either giving or getting a bicycle.*

— Piep van Heuven  
Bike-share Volunteer Coordinator

*...an amazing experience.*

— Tracy Halasinski  
Chair, Mayor's Bicycle Advisory Committee



On the morning of the 5th day, BikeDenver presented Bicycle-Friendly Business awards to BikesBelong (above) and Humana (right) for bringing 1,000 bikes and a great big experiment to Denver's Democratic National Convention.



# What We're Up to Next...

## BikeDenver Poised to Roll Out Smart Cycling Class

by Eric Bunch

In late October, BikeDenver received a grant from the Downtown Denver Partnership (DDP) for a new education program called Smart Cycling. With this seed money, BikeDenver plans to offer courses to the public as early as this winter. DDP representative, Malia Campbell will be kicking off the promotion of the first round of classes in mid-November. Course offerings will predominately follow League of American Bicyclists (LAB) curriculum and be taught by League Certified Instructors.

The pilot, held in downtown Denver in early January, will be a nine-hour course spread over 3

weekly sessions. Traffic Skills 101 will cover:

- traffic principles related to cycling
- Colorado bicycling laws
- practical aspects of vehicular cycling
- safe roadway positioning
- how to approach bike lanes
- bicycle maintenance, and outdoor practice drills

Successful completion of a written and road test will earn participants a LAB certificate.

Open to the public, the Traffic Skills 101 pilot will be limited to 30 students at least 16 years of age. Since the course will be held after dusk, students must provide lights (front and rear) for each session. BikeDenver will be requesting

a nominal fee to cover expenses.

Malia and DDP have agreed to do the bulk of the marketing for the inaugural class. With their help, Smart Cycling should see a lot of interest.

I have committed to teaching this class as well as any subsequent courses we offer. BikeDenver board member, Robert Clark and former board member, Tracy Halasinski have also agreed to help instruct the courses. We anticipate needing all three of BikeDenver's instructors, and will be training



more LCIs in the near future.

For details and registration, visit [www.bikedenver.org](http://www.bikedenver.org), or contact me at 573.701.2492 or [bunche@gmail.com](mailto:bunche@gmail.com).

### The City and County of Denver is hiring

a multi-modal transportation planner to coordinate Denver's pedestrian and bicycle transportation projects. This person will develop policies pertinent to bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

The new planner will also be instrumental in the implementation of the Strategic Transportation Plan, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans and the Sidewalk Rules and Regulations. The multi-modal planner will advise the public and other city officials regarding the technical aspects of bicycle and pedestrian transportation. A January 2009 hire is expected.

*"If we are going to solve our energy problems, we've got to think long-term... It's time that the entire country learn from what's happening... with mass transit and bicycle lanes and funding alternative means of transportation. That's the kind of solution we need for America..."*

— President-Elect Barack Obama

## Bike Parking @ Events & Festivals

Event	Date	Days	Bikes	People served
Veg Fest	February	1	80	1600
DU Criterium	March	1	100	250
Green Apple Festival	April	1	150	12,000
The People's Fair	Early June	2	600	250,000
Bike To Work Day, Civic Center	Late June	1	150	35,000
Cherry Creek Arts Festival	July 4 weekend	3	1,200	350,000
City Park Jazz	Sunday evenings	10	800	60,000
Dragon Boat Festival	Late July	2	200	100,000
DNC Parking Corral at Rude Park	Late August	1	1,550	70,000
A Taste of Colorado	Labor Day weekend	4	1,200	500,000
Veloswap	Late October	1	60	10,000

### Bike racks were loaned or rented to:

Botanic Gardens  
 Gambro/Cobe Labs  
 Summer Arts Market  
 at the Art Students' League  
 BrewGrass  
 Watercourse Foods  
 Urban Assault Race  
 Tour de Fat

### The final numbers:

Number of Days BikeDenver provided bike parking – 27  
 Bike Parking volunteer hours – 656  
 Value of volunteer labor at bike parking – \$13,172  
 Number of Bikes Parked – 6,090  
 Total Event Attendance at bike parking events – 1.38 million  
  
 Volunteer hours for bike parking, rentals and fundraisers – 1,273  
 Value of total volunteer labor – \$25,561

# '08 Tour de Fat the Funnest of Fundraisers



Big hats, big hair, big skirts...big fashion-spotting could be had throughout the day.



Volunteer, Kevin McKinstry and BikeDenver VP, Aaron Henry model this year's TDF tee. Nice!



One of the mellower tricks performed by Tour entertainers.

*There are no words that can describe how fantastic Tour de Fat was. It surpassed last year in both ridership and how sore my face was from smiling all day.*

—Nick N

*I've never seen so much beer and cash trading hands.*

—Tracy H



John Munoz gives a hand-up to an aspiring circus performer (maybe).



A gaggle of cruisers cheers on some happy hula-hoopers.

## Tell your friends...

A membership to BikeDenver makes a great gift, AND it's tax-deductible! Join or renew on our website, [bikedenver.org](http://bikedenver.org) (paypal-enabled), or by mailing a check with the form on the back page to: BikeDenver 1536 Wynkoop St., Box 801, Denver, CO 80202.

- As a bonus, members who volunteer are treated to a fabulous end-of-season party!

## Shop discounts for card-carrying members of BikeDenver:

### Bicycle Dr.

860 Broadway #A  
Denver, CO 80203  
(303) 831-7228

### Campus Cycles

2102 S. Washington St.  
Denver, Colorado 80210  
(SE Corner of Evans and  
Washington) 303-698-2811

### Pedal Pushers

Lowry Town Center  
200 Quebec Street  
Denver, CO 80230  
(303) 365-2453

## Spare Parts and Links of Interest

[www.ayearofbikecommuting.blogspot.com](http://www.ayearofbikecommuting.blogspot.com)

### Book Recommendation:

*Pedal Power: The Quiet Rise of the Bicycle in American Public Life*  
by J. Harry Wray

### BD Stuff for Sale:

Get your BikeDenver bells, maps, t-shirts and hoodies by emailing a request to [bikeparking@bikedenver.org](mailto:bikeparking@bikedenver.org)

BikeDenver is a 501(c)3 organization registered with the state of Colorado. Donations to BikeDenver are tax-deductible.



<http://feeds.feedburner.com/bikedenver> (using feedburner as a tracking tool, if you share our feed, please use this address.)

# BikeDenver Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ No. in household: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Annual membership levels:

\$35  \$50  \$100  \$250  \$500  Additional donation \$\_\_\_\_\_

Choice of bike map (\$50+ level):  DBTC  Denver (*see examples on our website: bikedenver.org*)

Choice of t-shirt color (\$100+ level):  Asphalt grey  Mighty magenta (*see examples at bikedenver.org*) Size:  S  M  L  XL

*I'd also like to volunteer for one or more of the following:*

Bike Parking  Advocacy  Membership  Fundraising  Social rides & Events  Wherever you need me

*What kind of rider I am (check all that apply):*

Commuter  Touring  Recreational (road/mtb)  Racer/pro  Messenger/pedicab

*I prefer to ride on:*

Road  Paved Bike Path  Unpaved trail/path

Make check payable to: **BikeDenver** 1536 Wynkoop St., Box 801, Denver, CO 80202  
or join on our website: [bikedenver.org](http://bikedenver.org)

## Our Mission...

*To promote and encourage bicycling as an energy efficient, non-polluting, healthy, and enjoyable transportation alternative within the City and County of Denver.*

*BikeDenver is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, and is registered with the state of Colorado. Your membership is tax-deductible.*



### **BikeDenver**

**A Voice for Denver Cyclists**

1536 Wynkoop St., Box 801

Denver, CO 80202

[bikedenver.org](http://bikedenver.org)