

BOARD OF ALDERMEN
AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

ITEM NO. A(1)

MEETING DATE: April 17, 2012

TITLE: Preview of National Bike Month Activities

DEPARTMENT: Planning, Recreation and Parks	PUBLIC HEARING: NO
ATTACHMENTS: None	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Brubaker – 918-7329 Julie Collins – 918-7392

PURPOSE

An update will be provided to the Board on on events planned in Carrboro and vicinity to celebrate May as National Bike Month.

INFORMATION

May has been recognized as National Bike Month since 1956. Bike to Work Week is the third week in May, and Bike to Work Day is on the Friday of Bike to Work Week. As a designated transportation demand management (TDM) “hot spot”, staff at the Towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro are working together to promote events during National Bike Month and Bike to Work Week.

Several activities have been planned to promote cycling as a healthy, convenient, and low-carbon form of transportation. Everyone – from experienced bike commuters, utility cyclists, and veteran recreational cyclists to novice and prospective riders – is invited to participate in the following local events.

****Kidical Mass – Monday, April 16 – Meet at Carrboro Town Hall***

This is a bike ride for kids and their parents, being planned by the Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department. *This event will have been held by the time of the meeting; a brief recap will be provided.

4th Annual BikeAbility Workshop – Saturday, April 21 – UNC campus

This is a workshop for children and adults with special needs to learn more about safe bicycling.

Bike-on-Bus Workshop – Saturday, May 5 – 8:30 AM to Noon – during Farmers’ Market

All Chapel Hill Transit buses are equipped with front bike racks. Community members can practice putting their bikes on the racks on their way to the Farmers' Market. Look for the Chapel Hill Transit bus parked on Laurel St. by the Market.

Bike and Walk to School Day – Wednesday, May 9

Carrboro students are encouraged to bike or walk to school day. This is the first annual International Bike to School Day, started by the National Center for Safe Routes to School and the League of American Bicyclists.

Carrboro Bike Breakfast – Tuesday, May 15 – 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM – Parking lot on Main and Roberson Sts. (across from Armadillo Grill) – TENTATIVE LOCATION

Free food and bike tune-ups are waiting for bike commuters who stop by the Bike Breakfast. A raffle for bike gear is also planned. This event is planned in partnership with the Town of Chapel Hill, local bike shops, and the ReCYCLERY bike cooperative.

Regional Ride of Silence – Wednesday, May 16 – 7:00 PM

This is a ride commemorating cyclists who lost their lives in accidents.

Chapelboro Spring Roll Cruiser Ride – Friday, May 18 – Begin at Wallace Parking Deck on Rosemary St. in Chapel Hill; tour stops for a water break at Carrboro Town Commons

This will be a leisurely ride through Chapel Hill and Carrboro on Bike to Work Day. Cyclists of all experience levels are invited to meet at Wallace Deck in Chapel Hill for a ride that loops through Carrboro and returns to Wallace Deck, where there will be a celebration featuring food, live music, and a raffle.

To volunteer or receive more information, contact Jeff Brubaker, Transportation Planner, at 918-7329 or jbrubaker@townofcarrboro.org.

Recreation and Parks Bicycle Programs

The two bicycle programs listed below have been put together by the Town's Recreation and Parks Commission. They are available for registration through Walk-in or RecConnect.

Introduction to Bicycle Safety

Ages: 18 Yrs. and over

Fees:

- Bicycle Classes \$10.00

Description:

Do you ride your bike occasionally but still find yourself feeling less than confident and comfortable on the streets and trails? This class is designed to provide information on riding safely and legally in traffic or on the trail. Taught by two League Certified

Instructors, the class will address the following topics: Bicycle safety checks, Helmet fitting and bike sizing, Fixing a flat, Riding in traffic, Trail etiquette, and Crash avoidance techniques. Note: Classroom Instruction Only - No bicycling is involved in this class

Spots Available: 20

Meets: Monday 04-23-2012 / 6:00PM - 8:00PM / Activity Room 2/3-Century Center

Basic Bicycle Commuting

Ages: 18 Yrs. and over

Fees:

- Bicycle Classes \$10.00

Description:

Are you intrigued by the idea of riding your bike to work or to run errands? Not sure what to wear, how to plot a sensible route, or how to carry your stuff? This is an inspiring and informational class developed to answer your questions about bicycling to work. Taught by two experienced bike commuters, the class will address the following areas: Selecting a bike, What to wear, Carrying cargo, Riding after dark and in bad weather, Choosing a route, Parking and locking your bike, Taking care of your body during and after the bike commute, and Co-workers' perceptions of cyclists and bike commuters. Note: Classroom Instruction Only - No bicycling is involved in this class.

Spots Available: 20

Meets: Monday 04-30-2012 / 6:00PM - 8:00PM / Activity Room 2/3-Century Center

SmartCommute Challenge

The SmartCommute Challenge is a public service campaign run by the GoTriangle partnership of transit providers (<http://www.gotriangle.org/>) to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality where Triangle-area commuters pledge to get to work via alternative transportation (bike, walk, bus, carpool, or telework, etc.) at least once during the SmartCommute Challenge period.

In recent years, the challenge has occurred in April and May. This year, it will occur in the fall, running from September 1 through October 15. As we get closer to the fall, more information will be made available at: <http://www.smartcommutechallenge.org/>. The past several years, the Carrboro Planning Department has helped promote the Challenge in Carrboro and with Town of Carrboro employees. Maps, brochures, and other information on alternative commuting options have been made available at Town Hall, Century Center, and the Public Works building. Last year, the Town took 8th place in the 100-199 employee category, with 11 employees (or 6.8% of workforce) submitting pledges.

Other events in the region

Chapel Hill-Carrboro events are also part of a larger schedule of events planned by the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC-MPO). For more information about regional events, interested participants can contact Dale McKeel, DCHC-MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, at dale.mckeel [at] durhamnc [dot] gov.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT

About 50 hours of staff time is necessary to complete the planning and implementation of the TDM events. Funding, in-kind assistance, and technical assistance are provided to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro TDM “hot spot” by the Federal Highway Administration, the GoTriangle partnership, NCDOT, and Triangle J Council of Governments.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend that the Board receive the update on National Bike Month events.