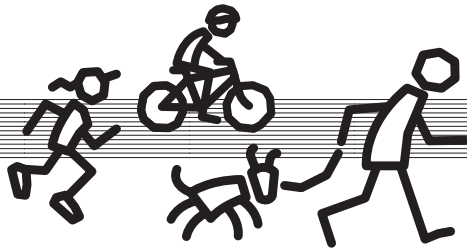


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pima county department of transportation

# WALKIN' & ROLLIN'

news for pedestrians and cyclists

JUNE / JULY 2004 • Available online at [www.dot.pima.gov/tpcbac/](http://www.dot.pima.gov/tpcbac/)

*Walkin' & Rollin'* is produced by the Pima County Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, Matt Zoll, Program Manager (740-6746)

## Davis and Marin County, California lead the nation in cycling and walking

By Donna Lewandowski  
Pima County Department of Transportation

Davis, California is generally recognized as one of the premier bicycle-friendly cities in the U.S. They report that an astounding one-fifth of all trips are taken by bike – no wonder, considering the extensive system of bikeways within the city.

This April, Pima County and City of Tucson staff were privileged to attend a fact-finding trip to northern California to study Safe Routes to Schools programs and high-quality bicycle and pedestrian projects.

In Davis we met with Tim Bustos, the city Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator (more commonly known as the Bike Czar) and David Takemoto-Weerts, the Bicycle Program Coordinator for UC Davis. They treated us to a bicycle tour of some of their best projects, and several of their innovative roundabouts (some of which were for bicycles only!) so we could see firsthand how these devices function in the real world.

We then travelled to Marin County to see their very successful Safe Routes to Schools program. We met with their educator, Chris Davis, who



L-R: Robin West, Donna Lewandowski, Trace Tang, Albert Letzkus, Matthew Geweke, David Takemoto-Weerts. Photo by Matt Zoll

allowed us to sit in on several of her classes as well as assist in running a bike rodeo called the "On the Bike Challenge".

We also went on a tour with local engineer David Paris to see some of the cutting-edge installations he has worked on, including pedestrian crossings with flashing lights embedded in the asphalt and a school-hours only speed limit sign that showed the posted speed limit and the car's actual speed (it even gave the message "Slow Down!" when a driver was going too fast).

No doubt, seeing these projects at work in other

places will encourage innovative thinking when approaching our local challenges with bicycle, pedestrian, and Safe Routes planning. Many thanks to the Brad Gorman Fund, the Greater Arizona Bicycling Association, and the Perimeter Bicycling Association for their sponsorship of this informative trip!

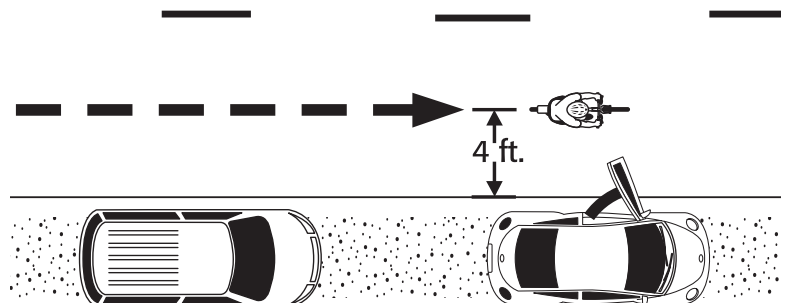
*Donna Lewandowski is Pima County's Safe Routes to School Coordinator. She recently toured the bicycle and pedestrian facilities in Davis California*

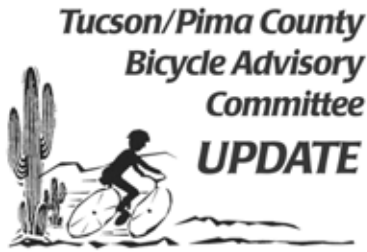
### RULES OF THE ROAD

#### Stay alert when riding past parked cars...

Look for people sitting in parked cars ahead of you and ride in a straight line at least 4 feet away from the car. Someone may open the car door in front of you unexpectedly. Remember to be predictable: don't weave in and out between parked vehicles.

*Reprinted from the 'Share the Road' pocket guide, available in most bike shops.*





At the past two meetings, the Bicycle Advisory Committee voted to endorse a number of issues. These matters included sending letters of support for new bike lanes on Houghton Road between Escalante and Irvington Roads; the addition of bike lanes to areas within Green Valley; and a recommendation that the City of Tucson assist Barrio Centro's plan to develop a "Botanical/Bike Park" on land adjacent to the Aviation Parkway.

The BAC unanimously supported the removal of the "reversible lane" on Grant Road. Along with members volunteering time and assisting to make 2004's "Clean Air Fair" a huge success, these are but a few of the important issues that the BAC has dealt with lately.

The BAC is also addressing recent needs of membership. Three names were submitted to Pima County. All three persons are knowledgeable about cycling needs and very dedicated to bicycling. One includes a potential member who resides in Green Valley, as well as one from the Town of Sahuarita, which is a newly created seat to the BAC. They bring concerns from an area that is heavily used by cyclists. We hope for quick approval of all three, as their appointment makes it easier to obtain a meeting quorum.

To learn more about the BAC, please call 740-6746 or visit the web site at [www.pima.gov/tpcbac/](http://www.pima.gov/tpcbac/). You can get involved by attending a monthly meeting starting at 6:00 P.M. at the Himmel Park Branch Library, 1035 N. Treat Avenue (one block south of Speedway Boulevard).

*Jesse Morales, Chairman,  
Tucson-Pima County Bicycle  
Advisory Committee*



*Photo by Tim Bustos,  
City of Davis Public Works*

## Evolution of a Bicycle Friendly Community - the Davis Model

*By David Takemoto-Weerts  
Bicycle Program Coordinator  
University of California*

Davis, California, is sometimes referred to as "The Bicycle Capital of the U.S." because of the city's high rate of bicycle use (with estimates of 20-25% of all trips being made by bicycle) and its long history of providing its thousands of pedalers with a "cyclist-friendly" environment.

Wide streets, an extensive bikeway network, gentle terrain, mild climate, supportive official policies, and an attitude of mutual respect between cyclists and motorists have resulted in a community with perhaps the most bikes per capita of any city in the U.S. and a real "bicycling culture."

Davis may seem like a utopian model and a social oddity in a country otherwise dominated by the motor vehicle. It is important to realize, however, that many other communities around the nation have emulated Davis in large and small ways, and gradually transformed themselves into places that enjoy the improved quality of life that marks bicycle friendly communities.

It is important to examine what was "special" about the city thirty years ago that led to its success in promoting cycling. It is also necessary to look at the formidable challenges facing Davis cyclists, planners, and politicians today.

As the city continues to grow, it attempts to sustain bicycling's many benefits while confronted with expanding borders, population growth, and associated factors that threaten to transform "America's Best Cycling City" into just another auto-centered municipality indistinguishable from most other North American cities in its reliance on, and subservience to the motor vehicle.

Recognizing this challenge, both the city and the University are taking steps to preserve, protect and promote bicycling and its benefits to the community. In recent years, these steps have included the hiring of a full-time city bicycle/pedestrian coordinator, the establishment of city and campus bicycle advisory committees, and an earnest effort to take advantage of local, state and federal monies to fund a wide range of facilities development and programmatic improvements.

With more and more communities becoming aware of the many advantages which accrue to the promotion of alternative transportation modes, Davis can continue to serve as a shining example of what can be achieved when hard-working residents and community officials agree on a common vision of what makes a place truly livable.

You can find the complete text of this article at [www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org/davis1.htm](http://www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org/davis1.htm)

**Editor's note:** Davis has made serious commitments to promote bicycling and walking, including limiting all roadways to no more than four lanes plus bike lanes and sidewalks. They've eliminated costly school buses and instead have provided biking and walking facilities and safety programs for schoolchildren.



# "it's nice to share"

**Get your Share the Road booklets and Share the Streets bumper stickers at your favorite bike shop**



**...or call 740-6746**





## League of American Bicyclists awards Tucson Silver Medal

The League of American Bicyclists kicked off National Bike Month™ by awarding eleven communities its prestigious Bicycle Friendly Community designation.

Among the communities receiving the League's Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) designation, the standouts are Boulder, Colo.—which was granted the League's gold-level BFC award—and silver-level award winners Gainesville, Florida; Olympia, Washington; and **Tucson, Arizona**. The League has yet to bestow its highest-level platinum award to any communities.

Bronze level awards were awarded to Ashland, Oregon; Auburn, Alabama;

Carrboro, North Carolina; Longmont, Colorado; Mountain View, California; Portage, Michigan; and Rockville, Maryland. An Honorary Mention was given to Milpitas, California.

The newly designated communities join 27 others previously given the designation to recognize their commitment to providing safe accommodation and facilities for bicyclists, and for their efforts to encourage bicycling for fun, fitness and transportation.

Visit [www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org](http://www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org) to learn more about the awards process and view the recently published highlights on the award-winning communities, as well as the results of the League's recent International Symposium on Bicycle Friendly Communities.

Andy Clarke, Executive Director of the League of American Bicyclists, congratulated the winners and said, "Given the choice, people will and do ride their bikes. Bicycle Friendly Communities are special places, with a heightened sense of community spirit and an uncommon devotion to improving their quality of life."

*This is an excerpt from the League of American Bicyclists' April 29, 2004 press release.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**June 4 through 6- Grand Canyon State Games** (walk, run, bike) (480) 517-9700 or <http://www.gcsg.org>

**Monday, June 7- Greater Arizona Bicycling Association Club Meeting** Presentation by Greg Hockensmith, well-known handcyclist, about his experiences at the world championship last year! Everybody is welcome. 7 P.M. GABA puts on numerous rides throughout the month; see <http://bikegaba.org>

**Wednesday, June 9- Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee monthly meeting** at the Himmel Park Branch Library, 1035 N. Treat Avenue at 6 P.M.

**Saturday, June 26- Bike-In Movie at BICAS** A drive in movie for bikes will be shown outside at the BICAS warehouse. A group fun ride will start at 6 P.M. The movie will be shown afterwards. 44 W. 6th St., 628-7950

**Sunday, July 4th- Tour for Tucson's Children** Tucson Parks & Recreation and Tucson Fire Department. Four options: 27-mile ride, 10-mile family ride, 10-mile in-line skating and 1/2 mile children's ride. Purpose: Raise money to provide helmets for needy children. Jim Conroy, 791-4873, #141. <http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/hottopics/tour4children.html>

**Wednesday, July 14- Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee monthly meeting** at the Himmel Park Branch Library, 1035 N. Treat Avenue at 6 P.M.

This is a partial listing of bicycling & walking events coming up in the near future. If you would like your event listed in future newsletters, please contact us. Pima County provides this listing as a public service. This listing does not constitute official endorsement of these events by Pima County.

## PROJECT TALK

The Arizona Department of Transportation is currently constructing **6-foot paved shoulders** on Oracle Highway from River Road to Ina Road. The paved shoulders will greatly enhance safety for bicyclists and pedestrians and provide valuable emergency breakdown space for vehicles.

This project was originally conceived and written by Cherie Campbell, the director of the Pima Association of Governments Transportation Planning Division, and Matt Zoll as a volunteer with the Bicycle Advisory Committee. The project will provide an important and much-needed link in the bikeway system from the River Road bike lanes all the way to the community of Oracle.



Pima County has recently begun installing **bike lane stencils with arrows** on several of our paved shoulders around the region. The intent of the stencils is to indicate the purpose of the lanes, give reminders to drivers to watch for bicyclists, and indicate to inexperienced cyclists or children the correct direction to ride in a bike lane.

The **Catalina Highway bike lanes** from Houghton Road to Mt. Lemmon (the Brad P. Gorman Memorial Bikeway) will begin construction this summer. The project will be combined with the **Catalina Highway Roadway Bond project**, which will provide a three-lane roadway on Catalina from the City of Tucson limits to Houghton Road. Both projects will include 6-foot bike lanes. During construction, alternate routes of travel for bicyclists will be signed to provide additional ways to get around the construction area.

More news on the upcoming **Camino del Sol bike lanes** in Green Valley and on the paving of the **Rillito Linear Park path** from Campbell Avenue to Alvernon Way will be provided in upcoming issues of *Walkin' & Rollin'*.

## CYCLING TIP OF THE MONTH



### Are you riding the right bike?

By Dave Burnham,  
Pima County Graphic Services

Most people who buy SUV's never take them onto a dirt road. Similarly, many people buy mountain bikes and never use them for their intended purpose, riding on trails.

On pavement, mountain bikes are slower and heavier than other types of bikes. Knobbies are inefficient on the street compared to slick tires. By com-

parison, a road bike will generally be much faster and more comfortable to ride around town.

Hybrid bikes look like mountain bikes with flat handlebars, but built for the street. Many people prefer hybrids (also known as comfort bikes) because of their snappy performance, all-around usefulness and low price.

For longer trips, a bike with traditional drop bars is usually best. They give you plenty of different hand positions for comfort and the aero position you need for speed.

Any good commuter bike should have attachment points for racks, lights and fenders, which you won't find on a pure mountain bike or super light road racer.

Avoid cheap 'department store' full suspension bikes. They're usually not rugged enough for offroading or efficient enough for the street. They often don't come in specific sizes, other than 'adult' and 'child'.

Visit a local bicycle retailer to find a bike that fits your body and fits the kind of riding you want to do.



### Useful phone numbers

**Report polluting vehicles to the Smoking Vehicle Hotline, 622-5700**

**Report road maintenance needs within Pima County to Pima County Street Maintenance, 740-2639**

**Report roadway maintenance needs within Tucson to City of Tucson Street Maintenance, 791-3154**

**Report roadway maintenance needs on state highways to Arizona Department of Transportation, 628-5705**

**Report aggressive drivers to the Tucson Police Department's Road Rage Hotline, 235-RAGE (7243)**

## Pima County's Newest Road Warrior

By Matthew Zoll  
Pima County Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager

Pima County has recently hired Donna Lewandowski as the new Pima County Safe Routes to Schools Coordinator. Congratulations Donna and welcome aboard! Donna has provided over 220 volunteer hours of support to the Safe Routes program and now she will get paid for something she loves to do.

Donna will be working with seven pilot elementary schools in the region thanks to a special federal Transportation Enhancement grant awarded to Pima County and the City of Tucson.

Walking or biking to school gives children a measure of responsibility, while allowing them

the opportunity to enjoy the fresh air and arrive at school alert and ready to start their day.

Yet today, only 13% of all school children are allowed this pleasure – down from over 66% thirty years ago. Additionally, 21-27% of morning traffic is attributed to parents driving their kids to school. This increases traffic congestion around the schools, causing even more parents to drive their kids. This cycle has extensive negative consequences on our children's safety and health, as well as the health of the community.

The Safe Routes program is a community-based initiative to develop routes for children to walk and bike to school and to teach children ways to travel as safely as possible by foot and by bike. We will have additional information in upcoming issues on the Safe Routes program.

If you wish to discuss the Safe Routes to School Program, Donna can be reached at 740-6941.



Donna Lewandowski is Pima County's Safe Routes to Schools Coordinator. Here she is shown assisting the Marin County Bike Rodeo.



**Kurt Weinrich, P.E. Director, Pima County Department of Transportation**

### Pima County Board of Supervisors

Ann Day, District 1; Ramón Valadez, District 2;  
Sharon Bronson, Chair, District 3;  
Raymond J. Carroll, District 4; Richard Elías, District 5  
**County Administrator:** C.H. Huckelberry

**For more information, please contact the Pima County Bicycle & Pedestrian Program at 740-6746 or [Matt.Zoll@dot.pima.gov](mailto:Matt.Zoll@dot.pima.gov)**