DO BIKE LANES BELONG ON MAJOR ROADS?
Ensuring a comfortable place to ride for all cyclists

Numerous cyclists use Durango's transportation system every day: from the 5-year-old riding with mom and dad, to the young adult commuting to school, to the hearty commuter who rides every day, to the recreational cyclist. The list goes on.

It is the City's job to provide facilities for every type of roadway user. As such, the Multimodal Transportation Plan calls for the placement of appropriate bicycle facilities on all types of streets: residential (less than 25 MPH), collector (25-35 MPH) and arterial roads (greater than 35 MPH).

But is it REALLY necessary to put bike lanes on major roads?

Yes it is. In fact, People for Bikes, a membership organization founded by bicycle industry leaders, clearly lays out that a multimodal network combining comfortable biking on side streets with comfortable biking on main streets has the biggest payoff for getting people to commute. It also saves cities huge amounts of money by reducing fatality rates, hospitalizations, fuel costs and air pollution.

In Auckland, New Zealand, the combination of comfortable biking on side streets and a network of separated bike lanes on busy streets lead to a whopping 40% of trips taken by bike in a 2014 academic study. Closer to home, Vancouver, British Columbia has found that since their city shifted toward building protected bike lanes along with a network of bike boulevards, bike commuting has more than doubled in four years, rapidly turning Vancouver into the the biking-est large city on the continent.

At home here in Durango, we are considering separated bike lanes (with a vertical separation element) along College Drive and East 8th Avenue. This corridor will be the City’s first pilot program for separated bike lanes. This is an ideal location for this treatment since it is a busy roadway (compared to neighborhood streets) and the vertical element helps to delineate roadway space for each user and helps to ensure the safety of bicyclists and drivers choosing to ride these routes.

According to research by the Portland Bureau of Transportation, there are four types of commuting cyclists:

1. Strong and Fearless
2. Enthused and Confident
3. Interested but Concerned
4. No Way No How.

Certain proposed bike lanes, for example the separated bike lanes on College Drive and East 8th Avenue, are a good example of where this label applies.

Higgins Street separated bike lane in downtown Missoula, MT (source: City of Missoula)
A bike friendly street in Copenhagen. Photo: Michael Andersen

College Drive and East 8th Avenue, and the bike lanes to be installed by CDOT this spring on North Main Avenue, target the Strong and Fearless category. These cyclists understand the risks and are comfortable riding with and in traffic. Strong and Fearless cyclists typically want to keep on the roadway in a bike lane to get where they are going, and they usually prefer the fastest and most direct route.

Bike lanes, shared lane markings and bike routes on local Durango streets (not on state highways or heavily traveled, higher-speed arterials) are bike facilities that target those riders who are Enthused and Confident, who are comfortable on lower speed, less trafficked roads. Off-street facilities cater to the first three categories.

By providing facilities for all cyclists, the City allows for the fast commuters to ride on the road safely, which in turn increases the safety on the Animas River Trail and neighborhood streets, allowing those less confident or less in a hurry riders a more pleasant commute. Connecting all of Durango's bicycle networks provides for more options, increased safety and a more connected and comprehensive transportation system.

CITY OF DURANGO OFFERS NEW COMMUTER PROGRAM TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Would you like to find a way to get out of your car, be more active and help improve your quality of life in Durango? Are your coworkers or employees interested in doing the same? The City of Durango is launching the Way to Go! Together commuter program that builds on the success of the Way to Go! Club and is meant to encourage employers and employees of local organizations to commute by means other than driving alone. Way to Go! Together will give organizations the resources needed to start a workplace commute program (or enhance an existing one!), and can even custom-tailor classes and work site evaluations for local businesses.

Did you know that workplace wellness can be improved when employees are encouraged to choose a more active form of transportation over driving? Benefits include:

- Happier, higher performing staffs with less absenteeism
- Lower healthcare costs to employers
- Improved employee health and wellness - less stress, reduced risk of obesity and illness, and fewer sick days!
- Camaraderie among employees

Are you ready to walk and roll with your co-workers? Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey, which will help us gauge the existing conditions and transportation needs of your organization in order to help you create the best commuter program for your team!

For more information about Way to Go! Together, call Sarah at (970) 375-4901.
HELP US HELP YOU!
2017 MULTIMODAL SATISFACTION SURVEY

The City is committed to creating a fully-connected and accessible transportation network that provides safe, enjoyable, convenient and reliable travel options for the community. A measure of achieving this vision is that a middle-school aged child would be able to access transit, walk or bike independently throughout the City of Durango and its environs.

To see this vision through, the City:

- Implements projects prioritized by the public in the Multimodal Transportation Plan, as well as secures grants and other opportunities to fund projects.
- Provides education opportunities, public outreach and marketing materials to increase access and awareness of transportation options in Durango - including public transit, bicycling and walking.
- Manages a mobility management and travel training program.
- Hosts several annual events such as Clean Commute Week, Winter Bike to Work Day, and Safe Routes to School Walk 'n Toll-a-thons as a part of raising public awareness.
- Manages the Way to Go! Club incentive program that rewards members for choosing sustainable modes of transportation in Durango.

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey so that we can serve you better in 2017 by offering events and programs and events that matter to you!

Click here to access the survey!
2016 WAY TO GO! CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

The City of Durango's Way to Go! Club enjoyed another successful year of rewarding the community for sustainable commuting. The Way to Go! Club is a point rewards program that allows members to earn rewards as they enjoy all of the other benefits of sustainable transportation! If you have not already, join for free today!

SAVE THESE DATES FOR 2017 EVENTS!

January 25: First quarter Way to Go! Together Meeting
February 24: Winter Bike to Work Day
April 26: Second quarter Way to Go! Together Meeting
May 10: National Bike to School Day
May TBD: Walk 'n Roll-a-thon
May TBD: Walk ‘n Roll-a-thon
June 24-29: Clean Commute Week
  June 24 Clean Commute Week Kick-off at the Durango Farmer’s Market
  June 26 Clean Commute Week Community Forum
  June 28 Bike to Work Day
  June 29 Love Your Commute Party
July 26: Third quarter Way to Go! Together Meeting
NEW! August 25: Tube to Work Day
October 4: International Walk to School Day
October 25: Annual Way to Go! Club meeting
December 1: Noel Night

Additional public meetings will be added as 2017 projects kick off! Stay tuned for more information!

JANUARY
COMMUTER OF THE MONTH

Bart Collins bicycles his 11-mile roundtrip commute nearly every day of the week. He put less than 300 miles on his car in 2016.

Bart says: "I can get everything done by riding my bicycle or transit if the weather is really bad. It’s true what they say, though: ‘There’s no such thing as bad weather - just bad gear.’ People wonder where kids get all their energy. It’s because they play and exercise all the time. Since I started riding my bike regularly, I’ve lost 22 pounds and taken my blood pressure down."

If you or someone you know would make a great Commuter of the Month, please email your nomination to GetAroundDurango@durangogov.org.

We’d like to give a heartfelt thanks to all those who served as the City of Durango’s 2016 Commuters of the Month. We appreciate your dedication to sustainable transportation in Durango!

IN TRANSIT NEWS

ART IN TRANSITION

Have you seen the Art in Transition displays at select Durango Transit trolley stops? The displays feature artwork of Durango School District 9-R students.

Art in Transition is a partnership between the City of Durango and Durango 9-R School District that offers
Stops include: Buckley Park (Stop 107); Durango High School (Stop 116); Durango Rec Center (Stop 119); Main Avenue & 27th Street (Stop 164); Brookside Park (Stop 167)

Durango and Durango 9-R School District that offers students from elementary to high school an opportunity to publicly display their creative talents.

Next time you’re waiting at one of the trolley stops, be sure to admire Art in Transition!

UPCOMING FREE TRANSIT DAYS

On Free Transit Days, ride Durango Transit for FREE all day long thanks to our sponsors!

Tuesday, January 31
Methodist Thrift Store

See the Rider’s Guide here!

Free Transit Day Sponsorship provides an excellent opportunity for your business to give back to the community.

By sponsoring a Free Transit Day, your business will provide fare-free transit service to the public, which is also a great advertising tool for your business.

For information on sponsoring a Free Transit Day, call (970) 375-4945 or click here.

IN PARKING NEWS

25 CENTS COULD SAVE YOU $25

Parking revenues are a primary source of revenue that currently funds Durango Transit operations. During City Council’s all-day budget workshop on October 14, Council elected to balance the 2017 Transportation Services Fund budget by increasing parking tickets. The additional revenue the City will collect from the increased dollar amount will create enough revenue to keep Durango Transit service fully operational in 2017.

On December 6, City Council adopted a number of changes to the parking ordinance. ALL parking fines are increasing in January. The most common fine is an expired meter, where the initial fine will go from $12 to $25. The meter rates are not increasing, so please pay your meter and put that extra quarter in to save yourself $25.

Some of the other changes include:
Citations will increase only **one time** on the thirtieth day after the fine. For those who normally pay their expired meter citations after 30 days, the fully escalated amount will be $2 more.

- If you forget to pay your citation, you will still be notified by mail after 10 days, so please make sure your address is current with the DMV, where the Parking Division finds the owner of the ticketed vehicle.

Remember that the Parking Division has parking permits available at the Transit Center for $30/month for all of the Municipal lots. Since there is limited parking space downtown, please remember that the vehicle needs to fit within the lines of the space on the street. If your vehicle is too large for one space, it is okay to take two parallel spaces as long as both meters are fed.

**IN SUSTAINABILITY NEWS**

**WRAPPING UP THE HOLIDAYS**
Christmas tree recycling is available until January 31 at Santa Rita Park, 149 South Camino del Rio. Please note that there will be **NO curbside pick-up** of Christmas trees.

Residents may drop off their natural trees, free of ornaments and tinsel, at the drop-off site near the large playground area in Santa Rita Park. The trees will be recycled into mulch.

Contact the parks department for more information at 375-7380.

Here are a few more tips to help you save time and money while cleaning house after the holidays:

Did you know that an estimated 2.6 billion holiday card are sold each year in the US? That's enough to fill a football field ten stories high! Most of those cards, while thoughtfully written and gratefully received eventually end up in the trash. This year, save those cards to re-purpose as homemade cards with a personal touch in 2017.

Save money by hanging on to wrapping paper, boxes, ribbons and other decorations to dig out next year.

**WHAT WE ARE READING**

**How cities embraced biking and walking in 2016**
In many ways, 2016 was a bad year for all commuters. [Read more.](#)

**Bike parking gets people riding - here's how to build it right**
What do cities with the highest percentage of bicycle commuters have in common? [Read more.](#)

**Transportation redefined: Cities must work with shared mobility options**
It's no secret: transit agencies have been slow to adapt to the rapid changes in the ways people are moving around in cities. [Read more.](#)

**Election Results: What it means for Safe Routes to School and healthy communities**
Now, nearly a month after Election Day, Washington is in the full swing of the transition between administrations and there's constantly changing speculation about policies and personnel. [Read more.](#)

**Why walking helps us think**
This New Yorker article from 2014 explores the vital link between walking and thought. [Read more.](#)