

We Got the Bumps Out!

THANK YOU! FOR THE PAST NINE YEARS, my daily commute has taken me over the Williamsburg Bridge. I have witnessed the path go from flat-out dangerous to new and almost nice ... save for those damn bumps! So, I was really excited to ride over the bridge today and find that almost all of the bumps had been removed. Thank you so much for your time on behalf of the Williamsburg Bridge and its commuters. You have done a great job and made it so much safer and more pleasant. YEAH!!!!

JEFF TANCIL

City Should Set Better Example for Bicycle Riding Employees

I WORK FOR HRA IN THE BRONX AND HAVE ridden to work for about 8 years. Recently I moved to a new office and have had difficulty getting my bike in and out of the City leased offices. I was told that although clients (welfare) can't bring a bike into the building, workers could, but that the bike had to be properly stored. The problem—no one in charge seems to be able to supply proper storage. In the other buildings I worked in, informal arrangements prevailed and I established informal rights.

Now the City encourages bike commuting, but for its very workers, it provides no decent building access and storage. Others at work say they would ride to work but are deterred by HRA police, private security, and administrators, all of whom almost criminalise bike riding by ignoring the need for proper storage at the work site. Biking by workers and clientele should be recognized and accommodated by the City.

Some action should be taken about this inconsistent City policy, which stops workers from using their bikes for commuting. Additionally, I note that clients want to bike to the center but can't bring their bikes into the welfare center. Biking saves them money and is good for their health. If all welfare centers, and the like, had bike stands installed on the adjacent sidewalks, so many people would benefit. The City should provide access and on-site storage in City facilities for City workers, and should supply on-street parking for clientele.

Do you have a task force, or someone who works on such matters? Please hook me up if you do.

JOHN RIELEY

HASA supervisor at Crotona Center, Bronx

Editor's Note: We wholeheartedly agree that the City should pay more than just lip service to encouraging bicycling. The City could



The Word on the Streets

Thank you to the many readers who send letters in response to *Transportation Alternatives Magazine*, the T.A. E-Bulletin or transalt.org. Feedback from readers is hugely helpful.

We encourage all readers to send us comments. E-mail info@transalt.org; mail to 127 W. 26th St. Ste. 1002, New York, NY 10001; fax 212-629-8334; or submit a comment through our Web site. We look forward to hearing from you!

make a great step in the right direction by making it more convenient for their employees and clients to bike to their offices. We are currently working on an indoor bike access bill that will make this easier.

In the near-term you can consult Transportation Alternatives' Bicycle Parking Solutions booklet for a thorough guide to winning indoor bike parking at your workplace. You can access the guide on our website at the following address: <http://www.transalt.org/features/bikeparking.html>

It includes all the information you need to create safe and secure indoor bike parking at work. It also includes a list of bike rack suppliers if you want to have outdoor bike parking installed for your clients. An easier and cheaper, though not necessarily faster, meth-

Maybe pedestrians, motorists, the MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL, would cooperate more if everyone bit the bullet and followed some simple rules.

Please do an article on road etiquette/smart cycling.

ANONYMOUS

Editor's Note: As a matter of fact, TA has three ongoing campaigns that address the very issues you bring up.

Working Cyclist Campaign - <http://www.transalt.org/campaigns/bike/working.html>

The goal of T.A.'s Working Cyclist program is to encourage commercial bicyclists working for restaurants and courier services to ride more safely by ensuring they and their employees know traffic rules and the laws

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od for installing secure outdoor bike parking is the CityRacks program. CityRacks is a program run by the DOT that provides FREE sidewalk bicycle parking racks throughout New York City to encourage cycling for commuting, short trips and errands. You can access the DOT's CityRack website, which includes the online request form near the bottom of the page, at the following address: <http://nyc.gov/html/dot/html/bikeped/bikerack.html>

Good luck and keep us posted!

Give Respect/Get Respect

CAN YOU TELL ME IF ANYTHING IN YOUR history has been done regarding cycling in NYC and following the rules of the road/traffic laws?

I'm a cyclist, but when riding, I signal when I'm going to turn and stop at a red light like the cars do. How hard is that?

What can be done to have others, especially messengers, do the same?

Your organization does a lot of great work in getting the city to make it safer for us cyclists (including myself) to bike and you are to be commended. But you also need to add announcements to you website, that cyclists also aren't immune to the traffic rules of the road.

related to commercial cycling in New York City. We distribute tri-lingual posters to these businesses that educate owners, managers, and working cyclists regarding the rules of the road.

Give Respect/Get Respect Campaign - <http://www.transalt.org/campaigns/bike/giveget.html>

Give/Get events happen several times a year. T.A. activists join with police officers to educate cyclists and motorists about proper conduct on the road. Activists hand out fake tickets to motorists for a number of activities that endanger cyclists, and pass out multi-lingual educational flyers to wayward cyclists. Meanwhile, the cops hand out real tickets to cars illegally blocking the bike lane.

Bike Ambassador Campaign

The Bike Ambassador Campaign is similar to Give Respect/Get Respect, except its focus is on conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians. During Bike Ambassador events, TA's Bike Ambassadors distribute information to cyclists and pedestrians using City Parks and Greenways that clearly spells out the rights and responsibilities for both.

If you'd like to help in our efforts to improve the public perception of cyclists, I encourage you to volunteer to assist in any of these campaigns. Please contact T.A. if you are interested. □