

Committees Raise the Bar in '09

BRONX

Spike in Bronx Turnout

ATTENDANCE AT THE T.A. BRONX Committee meeting in December totaled 16 volunteers, up from the previous five-member gatherings. With continuous high turnout, the group is poised to conduct lots of advocacy work, boost T.A. membership outreach and support car-free events in 2009. Led by T.A.'s Volunteer Coordinator, members of this committee take on goals through improvised sub-committees.

Many of the Bronx committee members come from different areas in the Bronx—Pelham Bay, Riverside, Co-op City and the South Bronx, to name a few—and varying professional backgrounds. There is a Montefiore Hospital staff contingent who have organized a group of bicycle commuters who bike regularly to the hospital. Two members are affiliated with NYC schools and have brought the lack of bicycle parking on school grounds to the list of advocacy projects. Some projects on deck for this budding group of Bronx-based advocates also include:

- Conduct a traffic survey in Pelham
- Support the NYC Century, Tour de Bronx, Car-Free Crotona and Summer Streets
- Involve youth in school bike rack orders and car-free events
- Campaign for at least three new specific bike lanes in the borough
- Advocate for a better Pelham Parkway Greenway



DANIEL SIMONS

T.A.'s Bronx Committee finally has the volunteer base to fully undertake big car-free events.

Meetings

When: Second Wednesday of every month, 7 - 8 pm

Where: Please email elena@transalt.org for 2009 meeting locations

Contact: Elena Santogade, Volunteer Coordinator, elena@transalt.org

BROOKLYN

Brooklyn Charts New Course

THE BROOKLYN COMMITTEE AND ITS newly elected leaders are eager to take on 2009 with the momentum of a constantly growing membership base. Over the last five months, the committee's email discussion group doubled in size, now reaching over 110 inboxes with lively conversations about new street conditions, community board happenings and reviews for all the freshly painted bike lanes put down this year. That same energy has boosted monthly meeting attendance, with regular showings of more than twenty people brainstorming livable streets ideas and preparing for action, even in the winter months.

At the December meeting, the committee harnessed this spirit and voted on a list of key resolutions for 2009. Though the group decided monthly bike rides and other street advocacy will continue, there were 10 distinct goals chosen to pursue. Each project will have its own point person but there is plenty of room for more volunteers so all are encouraged to join the campaigns. The resolutions include:

- Organize behind T.A.'s "Biking Rules" campaign
- Win Brooklyn's first Class 1 bike lane
- Protect the Kent Avenue bike lane and improve the street
- Launch Brooklyn Bike Month in June
- Provide valet bike parking at major events in Brooklyn



SHOLOM BRODY

Monthly rides have built a strong team spirit on the Brooklyn Committee.

Meetings

When: Last Thursday of every month, 7 - 8:30 pm

Where: BCUE, 168 7th Street at 2nd Avenue (Brooklyn)

Contact: Dave 'Paco' Abraham, Chair, dave.paco.abraham@gmail.com

QUEENS

Queens Committee Branches Out

IN NOVEMBER, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP of its 2008 Chair, Mike Heffron, the committee voted for 10 goals it wished to achieve in 2009. Building upon this, its new Chair, Eddie Hernandez, gathered the dynamic Queens committee to outline the steps they will take to achieve these goals.

"There are a lot of new volunteers in Queens who want to know how they can help to make Queens a more pedestrian- and cyclist-friendly part of the city. We're breaking our goals down into achievable steps that can get done in relatively little time," says Hernandez. "We're looking to deliver big results for T.A.'s Queens members this year."

The committee will be liaising closely with T.A. staff this year to connect on campaigns that require both local organizing as well as T.A.'s resources and connections with policymakers. The top five 2009 goals are:

- Propose a redesign for the dangerous 31st Street and Astoria Boulevard intersection
- Recruit more members at schools, colleges, senior centers and bike clubs
- Push for a Queens Boulevard redesign that recognizes pedestrians and cyclists
- Help the DOT implement an enhanced LOOK campaign in Queens
- Increase bike lane miles in Queens by 50%



WILLISHERMAN

Continuing the monthly Queens Boulevard bike pools is only part of the 2009 agenda.

Meetings

When: Second Monday of every month, 6:30 - 8 pm

Where: Greater Astoria Historical Society, 35-20 Broadway, 4th Floor (Astoria)

Contact: Eddie Hernandez, Chair, edhernandez201@gmail.com

Keep up to date with the latest on the volunteer committee websites. Visit transalt.org/takeaction.