

Transportation ALTERNATIVES

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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BICYCLING UP 500%

AS COMMUTERS CONTEND WITH DAY TWO OF THE TRANSIT STRIKE

On Wednesday, December 21, Transportation Alternatives, New York's advocates for bicycling and walking, announced that bicycling has increased 500% since the beginning of the transit strike.

To determine the increase in bicycling, Transportation Alternatives counted bicyclists traversing the four East River bridges during the peak commute times on Tuesday, December 20 and Wednesday morning, December 21. The results show that the **volume of bicyclists using the Brooklyn, Manhattan, Williamsburg and Queensboro Bridges are 250% to 850% higher** than usual during the month of December. Bicyclists were also counted on Sixth Avenue and the Hudson River Greenway. The transit strike bicycle volume data were compared to monthly bicycle volume data collected by the City of New York and Transportation Alternatives during 2002 and 2005.

Says Noah Budnick, Transportation Alternatives' Projects Director, "Everyone knew that bicycling would increase during the strike. But I don't think anyone expected a jump of this magnitude."

Budnick adds: "Clearly, dedicated, wide bike lanes and bike parking in parks and offices is encouraging New Yorkers to bicycle."

Transportation Alternatives also reports that the sales of bicycles and accessories is up 200% - 400%. Says Charlie McCorkle, the owner of Bicycle Habitat bike shop on Lafayette Street in Manhattan, "Business is up 400%. It's more crowded than a warm day in May."

Other city bike shops report similar surges in sales. The West Side Bicycles bike shop, next to the popular Hudson River Greenway (the west side bike path) reports that sales jumped 300% - 400% on the first day of the strike.

Transportation Alternatives is calling on the city to make permanent the wide, protected bicycle lanes and indoor bike parking provisions that have helped New Yorkers take to two wheels. "Bicycling makes for a resilient and efficient transportation system all year around," concludes Budnick.

T.A. will continue the bridges study and similar studies on streets in popular cycling neighborhoods.

Go to www.transalt.org/bikethestrike for the latest information, including bike commuting tips, maps and "bike pools," where New Yorkers can meet up and commute in small, safe groups.

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