

# Letters



DANI SIMONS

## Letters with Snetters

**T**A. STAFFER DAVID SNETMAN recently departed T.A. to start medical school. He will be sorely missed. Over the last few years almost anyone who has written or emailed a bicycling-related question to T.A. has had the pleasure of interacting with David and receiving his sage advice. In honor of his departure we bring you some of his greatest hits.

## Bike Parking

MY WIFE WORKS IN LOWER MANHATTAN and would like to start biking from the Upper West Side. Do you know of any locations near there where her bike can be safely locked up while she is at work? The building management at her building will not let her take the bike to her office.

GARY OPPENHEIMER

Dear Gary,

You can request that DOT install a Cityrack in front of any building in NYC: [nyc.gov/html/dot/html/bikeped/bikerack.html](http://nyc.gov/html/dot/html/bikeped/bikerack.html) However, the City Racks program is currently out of bike racks, and they won't be getting more until next winter, which means they won't be installing new bike racks until next summer. Additionally, there is a current backlog of over 500 requests. Clearly, the City Racks program is desperately under-funded. I encourage you to write to Commissioner Weinshall of the NYCDOT and ask her to increase funding for the program:

Commissioner Iris Weinshall  
NYC Department of Transportation  
40 Worth Street  
New York, NY 10013

In the meantime, please check out our bicycle parking solutions manual: [transalt.org/features/bikeparking.html](http://transalt.org/features/bikeparking.html) In it, you'll find many resources for DIY bike rack installation, and good arguments to get property owners and building managers on your side. If you can convince a property owner to install a bike rack themselves, they'll need a permit from

the City DOT. As there already is a bike rack program, the DOT may be reluctant to issue a permit, so make sure you let them know about the ridiculous wait one must currently endure to get a bike rack from the city. Reach them here:

DOT Office of Permit Management  
40 Worth Street, Room 905  
New York, NY 10013  
212-442-7292  
fax 212-442-7252

The Bike Parking Solutions Manual also includes information about getting your building to allow you to bring bikes inside. They can either provide you with secure bike parking space in a basement or empty office, or they can just let you bring your bike into your office. Unfortunately, the building is not legally compelled to allow you to bring your bike inside. That is why I urge you to contact Councilmember Erik Martin Dilan, Chair

was not seriously injured. This guy was a kamikaze jerk!

ANONYMOUS

Dear Anonymous,

That's terrible! Of course we always advocate safe and legal bicycling. Especially important is yielding to pedestrians. Please see our Give Respect, Get Respect Campaign for more details on our advocacy efforts in this arena, [transalt.org/campaigns/bike/giveget.html](http://transalt.org/campaigns/bike/giveget.html) and if you want to volunteer please let us know.

## No Rest Until We Mapquest

DO YOU HAVE A KIND OF MAPQUEST FOR cyclists?

ANONYMOUS

Dear Anonymous,

Unfortunately, we don't have an automatic bike-friendly route generator. We do have



## 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](http://transalt.org). Feedback from readers is hugely helpful.

We encourage all readers to send us comments. E-mail [info@transalt.org](mailto: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!

of the Housing and Buildings Committee: [nycouncil.info/constituent/member\\_details.cfm?con\\_id=65](http://nycouncil.info/constituent/member_details.cfm?con_id=65). Ask that he convenes a hearing on Intro 38-2006, which would mandate that building owners allow tenants to bring their bikes inside. It's a commonsense bill that would greatly improve bike commuting in NYC, and by extension, the quality of life of all New Yorkers as getting more people on bikes means less people on over-crowded sidewalks and subways, less people in cars, and less pollution, noise and traffic congestion, too!

Additionally, you can park in private garages. Check with other garages in your neighborhood. If they don't already allow bike parking, you might be able to persuade them to install a bike rack in an area of the garage where they can't fit a car, which could then turn a tidy profit from otherwise unusable space.

## Cyclists Suck!

TONIGHT AS I WAS RIDING HOME TO Brooklyn over the Brooklyn Bridge, a rider about 50 feet in front of me plowed through a group of pedestrians who were walking obliviously on the wrong side. The rider made no attempt to alert the pedestrians and squeezed through a narrow space between two of them spinning a woman around. Fortunately she

plenty of maps, though, of bike friendly routes for New York City and the surrounding areas. Just visit: [transalt.org/info/maps.html](http://transalt.org/info/maps.html)

## Advice for Do-Gooders

I FREQUENTLY COMMUTE TO WORK ALONG the 73rd Avenue bike lane in Queens. There is ongoing repaving of major sections of the road that has not only left the bike lane unpainted, but made long sections of the road uneven and dangerous. Is there anyone in particular I should contact about rectifying this situation? I am relatively new to commuting on my bicycle and I am not certain as to what the procedure should be to report a dangerous city road. Thank you.

JEN JOHNSON

Dear Jen,

You can make a complaint to 311 (or 212 - NEW-YORK) and they will put the request in to the Department of Transportation, who then have 15 days to rectify the situation. Alternately, you could contact the Queens DOT directly here:

Mr. Michael DiVerniero  
Director, Queens Street Maintenance  
NYC DOT  
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor  
New York, NY 10038  
718-286-2700

