

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES is rebuilding its network of neighborhood volunteer committees, empowering activists around the City to win bike lanes, pedestrian plazas and safer streets in their own neighborhoods. The Bronx and Queens Committees meet regularly, while the Brooklyn and Car-Free Central Park Committees work through active email lists. But never fear! T.A. is reinvigorating our Brooklyn grassroots operation this winter, and will restart meetings and events in the New Year.

QUEENS

The Tour de Queens Rises

You conquered the Tour de Brooklyn. You biked the Tour de Bronx. But ever think you would ride the Tour de Queens? Transportation Alternatives for Western Queens, or T.A.W.Q., is hatching plans to launch a bike



Queens volunteers hone the potential route of the 2008 Tour de Queens.

tour of the City's largest borough in 2008. Thanks to the tireless work of volunteer Helen Ho, the event's shape is rapidly coalescing – a short, family-friendly ride linking some of the borough's most spectacular parks and cultural institutions. The preliminary route begins along the East River and winds its way along scenic greenways, boulevards and side streets to east Queens and Fort Totten.

To better manage logistics, sponsorships and volunteers, the committee has formed a special working group that meets regularly.

Meetings

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

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

Contact: Mike Heffron, Chairperson, heffronmike@gmail.com

BRONX

A New Vision for Car-Free Grand Concourse

In their heyday during the 1990s, Car-Free Sundays on the Grand Concourse drew thousands who came out to walk, bike, skate and



The Bronx Committee is eyeing a bigger, bolder model to return Car-Free Sundays on the Grand Concourse to their past glory.

spend time with their neighbors. The Grand Concourse is the Broadway of the Bronx, and Car-Free Sundays were a lifeline for neighborhoods along the Concourse deprived of open space to recreate. Canceled during the Giuliani administration, Car-Free Sundays returned in 2005 with support of T.A., Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión and community advocates like Montefiore Medical Center. These closures were smaller in scope, with a few hundred children and families joining volunteers along several blocks of car-free streets. Though increasingly popular, this second generation of the Car-Free Grand Concourse has had limitations. The small closure precludes Bronxites from other neighborhoods taking part in the event, and without a long, contiguous stretch of car-free space, bicyclists, joggers and bladers aren't enticed to participate in large numbers.

T.A.'s newly reformed Bronx Committee is consulting with our partners along the Grand Concourse and at Borough President Carrion's office on how to lengthen the closure, improve promotion and link the Car-Free Grand Concourse with major parks and cultural destinations. Modeled on successes a decade past, and international examples like Cyclovía in Bogota, the event's third iteration promises to stoke the Bronx's appetite for car-free space.

Meetings

When: First Wednesday of every month, 6:30 – 8 pm

Where: Location varies

Contact: Wiley Norvell, Communications Director, wiley@transalt.org

BROOKLYN

Brownstone Brawn

Nowhere does T.A. wield more members and influence than in the neighborhoods along Prospect Park, thanks in no small part to the work of our Car-Free Prospect Park volunteers and years of legwork by the Brooklyn Committee. In recent months, we have flexed the Committee's muscle to fight off proposals for a one-way Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, wrestle the 9th Street bike lane through Community Board approval and sway the minds of elected officials trying to make sense of congestion pricing (all this without ever meeting one another face to face!).



T.A.'s Brooklyn Committee shepherded the first generation of bike improvements. Be a part of what is to come.

It's time to change that. With all the changes and possibilities in Brooklyn, T.A. will be reforming the Brooklyn Committee this winter, giving Brooklynites an ally in making change on their own streets. Join the Brooklyn list online and keep an eye out for notice of the first meeting this January!

Meetings

When and where: To be announced January 2008

Contact: Join the email list at transalt.org/campaigns/brooklyn/list.html.

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