

Letters

T.A. Love

I AM TRULY SORRY THAT I WAS NOT ABLE to attend the Pedestrian Safety Rally (March 4th, 2007) at City Hall. But I wanted to drop a quick note to show my support and to request information on any further pedestrian/cyclist safety developments. I also wanted to say that I have never supported an organization that has so accurately voiced my personal and political concerns. I joined TransAlt as an experiment, and you have so exceeded my expectations that I can't imagine not being a member. I am a Brooklyn resident who dodges traffic every day. Why do we have to be our own enemy? Calm the traffic!

NATHANIEL LEE

Sidewalk Cycling – Knock it Off!

THERE ARE SOME STREETS I FEEL ARE TOO scary to ride a bike on. And sometimes I need to get somewhere and a street goes one-way the wrong way. I solve this problem by occasionally riding my bike on the sidewalk to keep myself safe and avoid a collision. I know I risk a ticket when I do this, but it's pretty much ok right?

ANONYMOUS

Dear Anonymous,

Your personal decision to ride your bike on the sidewalk is a disservice to the entire cycling community in NYC. T.A. is bombarded by complaints about unsafe cycling practices. Riding bikes on sidewalks terrifies pedestrians, even when you feel you are aware and responsible doing it. All cycling on the sidewalk accomplishes is adding fuel to the disdain for cyclists fire. As advocates and activists, we must remember the impact that our personal choices make.

As daily cyclists we can relate to the fear that some stretches of pavement invoke. It is unfair that cyclists need to do this and that the streets are safer for cars than bikes. But, we as cyclists in NYC need all of the support

we can get in our efforts to improve infrastructure. Part of this is popular support, and the related image that we have with pedestrians as much as with anyone else. So when you need to dismount because a road is dangerous, you should walk, not ride, your bike on the sidewalk. And then you should go home and make phone calls and write letters until something is done.

Wheelchair Access to Bridge Paths

I'VE GONE ALL THROUGH YOUR SITE, BUT I still can't find any clear description about the Brooklyn Bridge pedestrian walkway and wheelchair access.

Obviously, you can carry a bike up or down stairs, but not a wheelchair. Could I roll through the approaches on either side and across the bridge?

DHRUVA HEIN

Dear Dhruva,

The Brooklyn Bridge walkway is fully ramped on both sides. Manhattan-side access is at Centre Street/Park Row across from City Hall, and Brooklyn-side access is at Adams and Tillary Streets.

A close-up map of both sides of the bridge is available from the City's bike map: nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/bike/brbb.shtml.

We do not have specific information as to whether the grade of the bridge's ramp meets ADA requirements, though we have certainly seen people in wheelchairs crossing the bridge.

If you need more detailed information, you can con-

tact the NYC Department of Transportation Bureau of Bridges at (212) 788-2100.

You may also want to contact Disabled In Action, a very effective advocacy group. Their website is disabledinaction.org.

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Corrections: *Transportation Alternatives Magazine*, Winter 2007

- Peter Meitzler who contributed a photo on page 7, should have been listed in the masthead of contributors
 - The letter "New York's Unfriendliest," was written by John Hunka
- Apologies for these and all other mistakes and omissions.

POETRY CORNER

AUTO

At first, the mobiles were for multitudes--
the horse was doubled, then redoubled;

way and station made for
social arts, within which

conversations, trains of thought
held sway. Today

I drive morosely and alone, like half
a billion others, each

in a glassed-in,
speakered-up

contraption, each
with a brain she thinks

she can control (it goes off
on its own, on detours

now and then; it dreams of cable-
cars and smoking cars and Volksses that can spill

unthinkable powers of ten in clownface) unlike this poor
hollowed-out sedation of sedan I pull

off the throughway, up to the pump
marked SELF, and fill.

HEATHER MCHUGH
from *Hinge & Sign*

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!