

Craig Raphael



ALISA DOGA

WHEN THE DANISH URBAN PLANNER Jan Gehl called, Craig Raphael answered. He joined a team of T.A. volunteers to collect pedestrian, bicycle and car counts at dozens of intersections around the City so that Gehl could develop plans for safer, more livable streets in every borough. When that first generation of Gehl-styled streets emerges in NYC, we'll have volunteers like Craig to thank.

Occupation: Writer/Musician

Age: 23

Are you a T.A. member? Yes, since last fall.

What neighborhood do you live in? What neighborhood do you work in? I live in Boerum Hill. I work in TRIBECA and the Flatiron District.

Why did you start volunteering with T.A.? A host of reasons: most importantly, the traffic level in New York is insane and will only get worse; mass transit is a precious asset that needs adequate funding; bicycles and pedestrians deserve their spot at the top of the pecking order. T.A. does so much important work on all of these issues and I feel compelled to support them any way that I can.

What kinds of volunteer activities have you done with T.A.? I've counted pedestrians and surveyed parking availability in Manhattan and the Bronx, cycled around the Upper West Side posing as a car searching for a parking spot and stuffed envelopes (from which I've always derived a strange satisfaction).

What was your best experience volunteering? Exploring neighborhoods of the city that I wouldn't have otherwise visited and getting to use the multicolored counting clickers from the DOT.

What was your strangest experience volunteering? Nearly getting run over by a truck and then receiving a genuine apology from the driver, which almost made up for my near-death.

What upcoming projects are you working on? In my spare time I like to dream about convincing the MTA to extend G train service into Manhattan once the 7 line extension is completed. I think it's important to set goals for oneself.

What sort of projects would you like to see T.A. pursue that you would be interested in working on? The tunneling of the Gowanus Expressway has always been a good idea, and I fear it might suffer the fate of the Westway project of the eighties and be abandoned altogether. I'm also eager to improve access to and the quality of the East River Greenway as it has the potential to be a much better resource for cyclists. I'd love to help T.A. garner support for both of these issues.

Share some thoughts about working with other T.A. volunteers and staffers. Everyone I've worked with has been super friendly and accommodating.

What are some issues that concern you as a bicyclist/pedestrian in NYC? Way too many infuriating and terrifying moments, especially on my bike. I hate when people shout at me because then I feel compelled to shout back, which only fuels that awful New

York mentality. One time a motorist slowed down on the Brooklyn Bridge just to curse me out for biking too slowly up the pedestrian ramp. He hurt my feelings! I realize I shouldn't take these things personally, but I can't help it.

Thoughts on T.A. as an organization: T.A. is a lifeline that deserves all the support it can muster. I'm confident that it will only grow stronger in the coming years. □

NYCewheels
alternative transportation solutions



electric bikes
adult kick scooters
folding bikes

www.NYCewheels.com (212) 737-3078
1603 York Avenue between 84th & 85

BREAKAWAY COURIER SYSTEMS, INC.

CLEAN AIR



QUIET STREETS

212-947-7777