

BRONX

Bronxites Embrace Bogotá

New York City is a latecomer to the car-free movement sweeping much of Latin America and Europe. When T.A. brought Gil Peñalosa from Bogotá, Colombia last fall to preach about Ciclovía's success in getting millions into the street to exercise, our goal was to stoke the interest of New Yorkers to do the same. The idea caught fire in the Bronx. With more than a decade of experience organizing Car-Free Grand Concourse and the Tour de Bronx, T.A.'s Bronx Committee is joining with Sustainable South Bronx, Montefiore Medical Center, Moshulu Preservation Corporation, Bronx River Alliance and the Bronx Borough President's office to host a Bronx Ciclovía on May 18, 2008.



ETHAN KENT

Ciclovía draws 1 million participants in Bogotá. Is NYC fertile ground?

Current plans call for a closure of Crotona Parkway from Crotona Park in the south all the way to Bronx Park in the north. That's more than a mile of street closed to cars, connecting on either side with car-free greenways in the parks. The Bronx Committee is currently organizing feeder rides to Ciclovía from all corners of the Bronx, and will marshal and staff the event. Community partners will help with outreach to schools, promoting the event during Bike Month and ensuring the thousands who attend Ciclovía have endless options to bike, skate, walk (and samba).

Meetings

When: Second Wednesday of every month, 7 – 8 pm

Where: Citizens Advice Bureau, 1130 Grand Concourse (Bronx)

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

QUEENS

A Greenway by Any Other Name?

When it's completed, the Queens East River and North Shore Greenway will provide a contiguous bike route from Long Island City all the way to Flushing. No other addition to the Queens bike network has as much potential to get thousands of riders biking for fun and commuting. Unfortunately, many of the on-street portions being developed by the DOT consist of painted bike lanes that offer no physical protection to cyclists.

T.A.'s Queens Committee is organizing to add more physically-protected components to the greenway design. Last fall, the Committee circulated a sign-on letter to community groups in Queens and Astoria calling for more car-free space on the greenway, traffic calming on Vernon Boulevard and a more hands-on approach to winning waterfront access from major landholders like Con-Ed and Keyspan. Eighteen groups have signed on so far, and Council Members Eric Gioia and Peter Vallone also lent their support to a better greenway.



WILEY NORVELL

Without a unified car-free route, the Queens East River Greenway won't live up to expectations. T.A. is pulling together community groups to make it happen.

The Committee is looking forward to what the DOT has in the pipeline for West Queens, and will be working to galvanize tenant groups, block associations, businesses and elected officials to set a world-class greenway in motion and overcome the unique obstacles to car-free space along the East River.

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

BROOKLYN

Eyes and Ears (and Hands) Needed

With the first meeting of T.A.'s reinvigorated Brooklyn Committee this winter, we've begun a new chapter of grassroots organizing in the Borough of Neighborhoods. But our efforts rely on a steady stream of input and involvement from volunteers. Where are the best sites for new bike parking in your neighborhood? Where is illegal placard parking out of control? Where is speeding rampant? Is there a bus route in desperate need of faster, more reliable service?

Join the Committee, put these problems and opportunities on our radar, and be part of making Brooklyn's streets safer and more livable in 2008



Help T.A. keep abreast of street conditions in all corners of Brooklyn. Keep your eyes and ears open on your commute.

Meetings

When and where: Monthly dates and locations vary.

Contact: Oksana Mironova, Volunteer Coordinator, volunteer@transalt.org

Join the Brooklyn Committee 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.