



For Immediate Release
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PRESS RELEASE
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Communities Across the Country Celebrating Bike to Work Week 2009

Washington, DC - May 11, 2009 – For nearly fifty years, Bike to Work Week has been the main feature of Bike to Work Month. Businesses and schools across the nation are encouraging employees and students to bike their daily commute and leave their cars at home. After the cost of gas soared in 2008, people tried out cycling and kept on pedaling. Andy Clarke, President of the League of American Bicyclists, comments, “Biking to work is an efficient and fun way to get the exercise you need, without having to find extra time to work out. And this year, with gasoline prices as high as they are, biking to work makes more sense than ever.”

Communities across the country that have seen drastic increases in Bike to Work Week participants and overall bike commuters, including Denver, Colo.; Houston, Texas; Charlotte, N.C.; and Fairfax County, Va. Denver’s Bike to Work Week 2008 cyclists numbered 35,000 – a 43 percent increase over 2007’s total. Houston, Charlotte and Fairfax County confirmed a record increase of bike-on-bus boardings. There were 3,624 Houston-area bus riders who boarded after attaching their bicycles to racks on the buses in June 2008, compared to 1,510 in April 2008. Charlotte’s June 2008 bike-on-bus boardings were an impressive 30 percent higher than the previous June record. Fairfax County equipped 100 percent of their bus fleet with bike racks in 2008 and had a 160 percent spike of bike-on-bus boarders over five months.

As a nation, we need to get together and bike to work, school and play. Although more than half of the U.S. population lives within five miles of their workplace, lack of knowledge and incentive has deterred many from commuting by bike. According to the 2007 [American Community Survey](#), only 0.5 percent of trips to work are made by bicycle even though the 2007 [National Household Travel Survey](#), states that 40 percent of all trips made are two miles or less; and of those trips that were between 1.1 and 2.0 miles in length, 89.4 percent were made by car.

Biking to work is fun, builds morale, encourages camaraderie and is a great way to get active in your community. Additionally, employers who promote biking to work have more active employees that are more alert, healthy and productive. Biking reduces your carbon footprint, reduces traffic congestion and saves money. Celebrate Bike to Work Week this year, and make every day Bike to Work Day.

Notable events this year include:

Sacramento, Calif. – The Million Mile May campaign challenges the region’s residents, through friendly competition, to log 1 million miles of bicycling collectively and beat May 2008’s record of over 5,700 participants and 1,242,215 logged miles. On Thursday, May 21, the region celebrates Bike to Work Day with a BikeFest at the State Capitol. Visit www.mayisbikemonth.com.

Washington, D.C. – The Washington Area Bicyclist Association is having a huge Bike to Work Day celebration, complete with 26 pit stops all over the region and a festival at D.C.’s Freedom Plaza. WABA Bike to Work Day is a free event and is open to all commuters. There will be raffle prizes, food, drinks and more at all pit stops throughout the region. Visit www.waba.org.

Minneapolis, Minn. – Twin Cities Bike Walk Week is May 10-16 with their Bike Walk Day on Thursday, May 14 with celebrations sites all over the area. Businesses will be celebrating with free meals, drinks and items. The downtown Minneapolis YWCA and YMCA will be offering free use of their shower facilities

to Bike Walk to Work Day participants. Also, all Bike Walk participants will receive \$5 off Minnesota Twins afternoon game ticket and free bike parking. Visit www.bikewalkweek.org for further details.

Greenville, S.C. – May is National Bike Month from May 26-29, and the City of Greenville and Bikeville are celebrating with many activities. They will be raffling off bicycling gear at the end of the month, and the only way to win is to participate in the city's Bike Valet. The Week will finish with Bike to Work Day and a ride with the mayor. Visit www.greenvillesc.gov/publicworks/bikeville.aspx.

To learn more about Bike to Work Week and events in your state and community, visit www.bikeleague.org/programs/bikemonth. For media inquiries contact [Meghan Cahill](#) at 202.822.1333.

The League of American Bicyclists promotes bicycling for fun, fitness and transportation, and works through advocacy and education for a bicycle-friendly America. The League represents the interests of America's 57 million bicyclists, including its 300,000 members and affiliates. For more information or to support the League, visit www.bikeleague.org.

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