

NEABC

NORTHEAST
ARKANSAS
BICYCLE
COALITION



Just a few of the Women Can Ride graduates looking good at the Ride the Ridge Poker Run.

And now a word from the president...

During the past week, there's been a flurry of activity in the bike advocacy world. Rep. Mica (FL), the chairman of the Transportation of Infrastructure Committee in the House announced his proposal to eliminate funding for Transportation Enhancements, Safe Routes to School, and the Recreational Trails Program - all important funding programs for bike and pedestrian projects.

Certainly, we're in tough financial times and making hard decisions and cutting back is the name of the game, but I think League of American Bicyclist president Andy Clark put it best, "Even with a 'small'

bill, returning to a 1950's highways-only mentality flies in the face of fiscal responsibility by guaranteeing more single occupant vehicle travel on ever more congested and dangerous highways that we can't even afford to maintain, let alone build... In addition to being healthy activities, bicycling and walking are valid transportation options, with more than four billion bike trips made annually for trips to work, school, and tourism. Furthermore bicycling and walking projects have the potential to create 46 percent more jobs per million dollars spent than auto-only projects; and bicycling and walking are critical generators of

economic activity in communities across this country. Now is the time to be investing in these modes, not cutting them off just as 20 years of investment is starting to bear fruit."

The plan can be read in full online here:

[http://
republicans.transportation.house.gov/
/Media/file/112th/Highways/
Reauthorization_document.pdf](http://republicans.transportation.house.gov/Media/file/112th/Highways/Reauthorization_document.pdf)

Rep. Crawford has not to my knowledge given a firm position on this proposal. For more info:

<http://www.bikeleague.org/>

~tailwinds,
Sally Broadaway

Northeast Arkansas Bicycle
Coalition

July 2011

The Northeast Arkansas Bicycle Coalition is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to:

-Promoting the use of bicycles as a means of transportation and recreation

-Making Northeast Arkansas A safer place for cyclists of all types through encouraging the development and utilization of facilities (bike paths, routes, lanes and trails)

-And providing education and information to motorists and cyclists about safety and

Bike to Work

Reasons to bike your drive:

1. Fight Pollution.

Driving contributes to air, noise, soil, and water, pollution. Bicycles are pretty darn clean transportation - and save a ton in fuel costs.

2. Stay Fit.

Commuting by bike allows you to include your workout into your daily schedule.

Riding instead of sitting in traffic is way less stressful.

Staying in shape leads to fewer sick days.

3. Avoid traffic delays.

Going by bike takes less time when you figure in parking and traffic - trust me on this one!

4. Enjoy your commute.

Get to work refreshed and full of energy.

Ride off stress after work!!

Avoid the Yellow Line

It only takes just a second for an oncoming driver to get distracted and cross the yellow line. That's reason enough to avoid riding next to it!



Jim Gann December 2, 1949 - June 23, 2011

Our Dear Friend and Board Member Jim Gan

On June 23rd, we lost a beloved member of the cycling and running community. Jimmy was an active member of the Ridge Riders Athletic Club. He had a special interest in development of the Greenway for cyclists, runners, pedestrians and family. He was a member of the World Wildlife Fund and was an environmental and conservation enthusiast. Jimmy participated in Ultra Marathons and was preceded in death by his parents, Buren and Melba Bowerman Gann.

Survivors include his life partner, Jolene Wolf of Jonesboro; One daughter and her spouse, Kimberly and Dane King of Tuckerman; One son and his significant other, Jason Gann and Annie Svolto of Chattanooga, Tennessee; One sister, Serine Gann of Bloomington, Minnesota; Three grandchildren: twins Evelyn and Violet Gann, and Evan King; and Jimmy's loving canine companion, "Sheena."

His family has asked that those who would like to honor his memory do so by making contributions to causes that meant a lot to Jim including the Jonesboro greenway, World Wildlife Fund, and the NEA Humane Society. If anyone would like to make a donation in Jim's memory to NEABC, we will be happy to accept them and put them aside for greenway improvement.



Example of a Complete Street - Image borrowed from <http://www.completestreets.org/>

Intro to Complete Streets

The term Complete Streets gets thrown around a lot by bike and pedestrian advocates, and I get asked quite a lot what exactly it means.

So what is a complete street?

The short answer is that a complete street is one that is designed with all users in mind - cyclists, pedestrians, motorists, transit users, everyone of all ages and abilities. Complete streets not only function, but welcome use. They provide connections between the places where we work, live, and play.

Some of the elements included in a complete street may be bike lanes, crosswalks, sidewalks, wide shoulders, roundabouts, landscaping, or transit shelters. Not every complete street looks the same. Community context is important.

Why are they important?

Everyone deserves to be able to travel and have transportation options, right? Design standards that only account for automobiles limit the transportation options for many of our community members. Our youth, elderly, and neighbors unable to drive are limited and somewhat isolated by car-centric design.

Benefits

- Safety! Complete streets by design are safer for all users.
- They encourage people to walk and bike more, which has its own benefits (increased health, reduced pollution, etc.).
- Increased access to jobs, shopping, schools, recreation by more people - more people can get to work and/or have access to our community's amenities.
- Decreased transportation costs. Families and individuals can save money by walking and biking more!

How do you get Complete Streets?

Generally, communities, MPOs, counties, or states will enact a complete streets ordinance. These take many different forms and take into account community needs and contexts, but generally state that new road construction and reconstructions will conform to complete streets standards.

Currently, North Little Rock is the only city in Arkansas to officially adopt a complete streets ordinance.

Where Can I Learn More?

<http://www.completestreets.org/>

Did you know?

Some of the ways NEABC is working for you:

A Voice in Regional Planning

NEABC is represented with a seat on Jonesboro's Transportation Management Board. There is an NEABC board member at every Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting and very often at Jonesboro City Council meetings and other community planning meetings.

Share the Road Signage

Thanks to generous donors, there are now 65 Share the Road signs throughout Jonesboro and Craighead County

Infrastructure

Through a grant from New Belgium Brewery, we were able to create a pump track/mt. bike training park inside of Craighead Forest Park. We also partnered with Jonesboro Parks and Recreation to provide a grant worth \$5k to assist in funding the Greenway. With the students of the NEA Technical Center, we provided 21 bicycle racks for downtown Jonesboro.

Partnerships

NEABC partners with national organizations such as the League of American Bicyclists, the Alliance for Biking and Walking, and Safe Routes to School. We are also a part of the Arkansas Safe Routes to School State Network.

Community Outreach

NEABC provides safety and encouragement information during community events and as requested from other organizations .

Join NEABC Today!

Individual Membership: \$30

Family Membership: \$50

Corporate Sponsor: \$150

Membership Benefits Include:

- 10% Discount -Gearhead Outfitters Bikeshop
- Monthly newsletter packed with information
- A voice in local and regional planning
- Updates and alerts about important issues and events locally and nationally
- Discounts to NEABC events
- Having a hand in creating a healthy, bike friendly NEA!!

NEABC Membership

Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address Line 2: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

I do not wish to receive occasional email

Referred by: _____

Membership Type

Family - \$50

Individual - \$30

I'd also like to sponsor a Share the

Road sign - \$50

Corporate Sponsor - \$150

Additional Donation - \$_____

Total contribution - \$_____

Checks Payable to: Northeast Arkansas Bicycle Coalition
PO Box 892
Jonesboro, AR 72403

Kid's Corner

If your kid is struggling with riding without training wheels, try taking off the pedals, lowering their seat and letting them "walk" their bike. This helps them learn balance. Then, put the pedals back on once they learn to balance and send them on their way!

Board of Directors

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Contact Us:

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