



News



Portland Bureau of Transportation ■ June Issue '09

Bridge Pedal – the Ultimate Summer Time Activity

Summer is the perfect time for family bike riding. And what would be more Portland than to ride with your family over the Willamette River — six times!



Providence Bridge Pedal returns for the 14th year, on Sunday August 9th. Thousands of cyclists, young and old will replace vehicle traffic on the bridges spanning the Willamette. It's one of the largest organized bike rides in the world, in one of the country's best cycling cities — the Rose City!

Join us in this special opportunity to see Portland like you've never seen it before — on a bike from the top deck of the Fremont Bridge.

Great fun need not cost great sums of money. **New for 2009 — on the 6-Bridge Family Ride, accompanied youth, 15 years old and under, ride free!** For more "Kids Ride Free" details and to register your family for Providence Bridge Pedal, visit www.providence.org/bridgepedal.

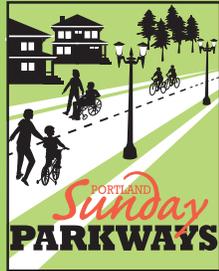
See page four for volunteer Bridge Pedal bike leader opportunities, with free registration for you.

What's Inside...

- 2 SR2S SmartTrips
- 3 Engineering Improvements for the year
- 3 Safer School Pick-up Environments
- 4 Share Bridge Pedal with Students
- 4 Are You Smarter than your 5th Grader?

Bring the Whole Family to Sunday Parkways this Summer!

Sunday Parkways is 7 to 8 miles of car-free streets where families can ride their bikes, walk or stroll, rollerblade and skate without having to watch for cars. Families can also hang out at parks along the route and enjoy free concerts, participate in fun activities, eat yummy local food and much more! Last year over 15,000 people participated in the first North Portland Sunday Parkways. This year Sunday Parkways is increasing its presence and will offer events in NE and SE Portland as well as North Portland.



New this year! Free, Rider-Ready Workshops at Sunday Parkways



hosting these free workshops to help families with children get ready to ride safely all summer long. Professional bike safety educators will teach bike skills and lead group rides. Bike maintenance and helmet fittings will be available on site.

Do you need a bike for the event?

Bikes will be available for children who need to borrow one for the skills course and ride. For information on organizing your small group, contact Carolina Iraheta Gonzalez at carolina.iraheta@trans.ci.portland.or.us or 503-823-1189.

Free bike skills training courses and rides for children are being offered at all Sunday Parkways events this year.

Safer Routes to Schools, in partnership with Providence Bridge Pedal and the Bicycle Transportation Alliance, are

2009 SUNDAY PARKWAYS

- June 21 North Portland**
- July 19 Northeast Portland**
- August 16 Southeast Portland**

For more information about Sunday Parkways, go to GettingAroundPortland.org and click on **Sunday Parkways**.

THE SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM PROVIDES 6-ES: EDUCATION, ENCOURAGEMENT, ENGINEERING, ENFORCEMENT AND EVALUATION EQUITABLY; SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN BEING SAFE, HAVING FUN, GROWING HEALTHY AND GETTING THERE.

HAVE FUN. BE SAFE.

Abernethy Elementary: Way to go with Tour de Ladd! Get students biking and fundraise for your school!

THREE E'S FORM SAFER SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS

It all started when Sergeant Tom Perkins with the Portland Police Bureau School Resource Officer program invited Gabe Graff from the Safer Routes to School (SR2S) to speak about the program with officers at Roll Call. Fifteen Officers and two Sergeants were in attendance.

Officer Dave Thoman raised concerns about safety during pick-up and drop-off at Lent K-8; he mentioned that a kindergarten student had been bumped by a car in front of the school recently. Officer Thoman was excited about working with Lent to incorporate the Stop + Walk program that encourages families to park 2-4 blocks away and walk students the rest of the way. He thinks the program can greatly reduce vehicle congestion around the school and make it safer and less frustrating for everyone.

But Officer Thoman also saw a need to improve visibility by making some changes to the parking allowed along the school front. He said that some simple sign changes could make a difference and he and Principal Linda Ralley agreed that a marked cross walk at the school entrance would help too.

Gabe came back to the SR2S office and reviewed the recommendations made by the Lent SR2S Team and found that their #1 priority for engineering improvements at Lent was to change the 97th Avenue school frontage parking by removing the Parking Restricted signs on the west side of 97th Avenue between SE Steele and a west-side utility pole.

With the support of Officer Thoman, the specific improvement identified by the Lent SR2S Team, a City work order by SR2S Engineer Scott Batson, and a quick response from the City Transportation Maintenance Operations — the parking signs should be changed and a marked crosswalk placed mid-block at the school entrance before you read this.

Enforcement, Encouragement, and Engineering came together to make Lent safer for students!



OFFICER TALLMAN DISCUSSES THE SAFE ROUTES MAP WITH STUDENTS.

SmartTrips in SR2S Schools Wraps Up First Year

If your family includes a 2nd or 5th grade student at one of the 70 schools participating in the City of Portland's Safer Routes to Schools (SR2S) program, chances are you received a SR2S SmartTrips order form. The SmartTrips order form offers families the chance to get free walk and bike maps, guides to healthy living, student activity books, and more.

After distributing 4,824 city area maps and hundreds of other transportation resources via bicycle, SR2S Smart-Trips to School has been a great success. To date, SR2S has processed **1,276 orders** from families during the 2008-2009 school year.

The results? **Trillium Charter School** had the highest return rate (41%); and with 56 orders, and **Alameda Elementary School** returned the most order forms. Of the orders received:

- 131 were from school faculty and staff members, including Principals, Secretaries, SUN Coordinators, and Teachers
- 142 parents offered to volunteer in their child's school
- Family Adventures in Safe Transportation workbooks (991 orders) and the City Bike Map (696 orders) were the most popular items ordered

If you missed out on this opportunity, the order forms will be going out again for the 2009-2010 School year to 2nd and 5th grade families at participating SR2S schools.

To order walk and bike maps online go to www.portlandonline.com/transportation/index.cfm?c=34783&

For copies of your school's family-friendly map, visit the SR2S website at: www.SafeRoutesPortland.org or contact Taylor Sutton at taylor.sutton@trans.ci.portland.or.us or **503-823-4533**.

Happy travels!

SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL SPONSORING PARTNERS



GROW HEALTHY. GET THERE.

Portland Safer Routes to School— How to Report a School Safety Problem

To help guide the public to real solutions to traffic safety problems, the Portland Office of Transportation created a *Transportation Safety and Neighborhood Livability Hot Line*, **823-SAFE** (503-823-7233).

Requests are phoned in or emailed to safe@pdxtrans.org. Calls are answered within one working day whenever possible, Monday through Friday. Emails are generally responded to within 10 days.

When concerned about school safety, parents and caretakers should first be directed to the school principal. Any requests for changes to traffic control or school zones must be initiated by the school principal in writing either by US Mail or email.

Requests from school principals normally receive a higher priority. Generally, traffic investigations require 10-16 weeks depending on the backlog. Every attempt is made to put schools in a 6-12 week range.

Some concerns may not necessarily be school-related, even though the issue is within close proximity to a school. Those requests should be directed to 823-SAFE.

RECENT ENGINEERING IMPROVEMENTS, FROM TOP: NEW BIKE RACK AT LENT; NEW CROSSWALK ON NE BRAZEE AT RUSSELL ACADEMY; INTERSECTION ALIGNMENT CHANGE ON SW CHESTNUT BY REIKE SCHOOL; NEW BIKE RACKS AT MILL PARK, AND A RE-MARKED CROSSWALK AT PORTSMOUTH.



*“El Bus Caminante”—
Clarendon at Portsmouth had
their students taking the
Walking School Bus,
Spanish style*

COOL SUMMER DAY CAMP FOR STUDENTS ENTERING 6TH-8TH GRADE

Check out the new **Eco Explorers** summer camp offered through a partnership between the Bicycle Transportation Alliance (BTA) and the Community Cycling Center (CCC).

Participants will have the opportunity to learn safe biking skills from expert BTA and CCC staff and learn about their environment by visiting sites like Zenger Farm, the St. John's Landfill, and the Johnson Creek Natural Area.

Eco Explorers is offered as two different, one-week sessions:

July 20-24, 9-3pm at Marshall High School
(3905 SE 91st Ave)

July 27-31, 9-3pm at Faubion School
(3039 NE Portland Blvd)

Registration: \$250; scholarships available.

Information: contact Joel Holly at joelh@bta4bikes.org or 503-226-0676 x29.

NATIONAL SAFE ROUTES CONFERENCE COMES TO PORTLAND IN AUGUST

The Bicycle Transportation Alliance and Portland is host to the 2nd Safe Routes to School National Conference August 19-21, 2009 at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower. The conference is co-presented by the **National Center for Safe Routes to School** and the **Safe Routes to School National Partnership**.

For more conference information, go to saferoutesconference.org or call Scott Yelton at 503-226-0676 x27.

SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL SPONSORING PARTNERS





News

Innovative ways to get kids walking and biking. Kelly Elementary had students Walk Across America

Share the Experience of Bridge Pedal with Portland Youth!

Love the idea of Providence Bridge Pedal? Want to share it with others? Help Safer Routes to Schools bring Portland youth to this unique event.

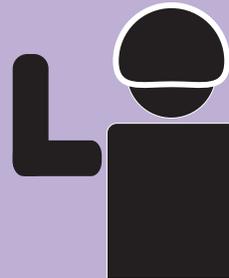
We're looking for some trusty volunteers to organize small groups of students to participate in this summer's Providence Bridge Pedal. We'll even provide the bikes and helmets for use free of charge — you provide the young riders! As a volunteer you will organize and supervise a group of 5 students or less to participate in the 6-Bridge, 14-mile ride. We offer free registration for you to ride the event with your group.

For more information on organizing your small group, contact **Gabriel Graff** at gabriel.graff@trans.ci.or.us OR 503-481-4877.

Congratulations Llewellyn 4th graders (and their teachers!) who used pedometers and Family Friendly maps to track walking trips and learn about the Oregon Trail.

Are You Smarter Than Your 5th Grader?

Many 5th grade students across the city have successfully completed a Bike Safety course, complete with hands-on riding practice. With all their newfound knowledge, the obvious question is: who knows more about the rules of the road? Answer the questions yourself, and then ask your student for the answers (if there is debate, the official answers are listed below).



{Answers: 1: a; 2: c; 3: a}

1. When riding your bike you must stop at all stop signs and red lights.

- a. True
- b. False

2. It is safer to ride your bike...

- a. on the left side of the street (against traffic).
- b. in the middle of the street.
- c. on the right side of the street (with traffic)

3. The cyclist at left is signaling...

- a. a right hand turn.
- b. a left hand turn.
- c. an upcoming stop.

Our Mission—

SR2S is a program bringing transportation together in partnership with our schools, neighborhoods, and community organizations to encourage students and families to get to and from school in ways that reduce traffic, increase safety, build strong bodies and clear minds, plus provide a cleaner environment.

