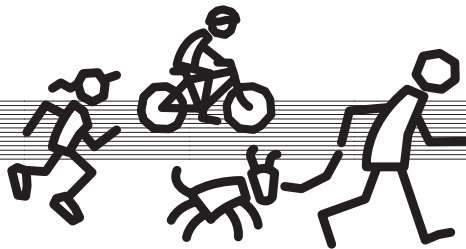


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pima county department of transportation

WALKIN' & ROLLIN'

news for pedestrians and cyclists

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2004 • Available online at www.dot.pima.gov/tpcbac/

Walkin' & Rollin' is produced by the Pima County Bicycle & Pedestrian Program, Matthew Zoll, Program Manager (740-6746)

Coming soon to a roadway near you!

By Matthew Zoll, Pima County Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager

Exciting things are in the works over the next several months in the Tucson region. Numerous bike and pedestrian projects are ready to break ground, and several of these projects are already popping up in places.

Thanks to the City of Tucson, there is now a new bike lane crossing at the Rillito River! The new bike lane is part of the City's ongoing Road Recovery 2004 Street Improvement Program approved by the Mayor and Council this summer. This particular new bike lane is on 1st Avenue from Prince Road to River Road, a distance of 1.5 miles, and connects two existing sections of bike lanes on 1st Ave. south of Prince Road and north of River Road.

Through roadway repaving projects, special bike lane striping projects, and ongoing construction projects there will be approximately 25 miles of new bike lanes and pedestrian facilities completed within the next year. Projects are underway or scheduled by nearly all jurisdictions—the City of Tucson, Marana, Oro Valley, Arizona Department of Transportation, and Pima County.

Several projects are ongoing or soon to start, such as Tangerine Road in Marana from 1/2 mile east of I-10 to Thornydale, La Cañada Drive in Oro



25 miles of new bike lanes and sidewalks will be constructed during this year. Shown here is a new bike lane over the Rillito River at 1st Avenue.

Valley and Pima County from Ina Road to Lambert Lane, Wetmore Road in Pima County and the City of Tucson from La Cholla to Oracle Road, and other locations too numerous to mention. Many of the projects include pedestrian facilities and shade landscaping and some such as Tangerine Road from 1st Avenue to La Cañada Drive, recently completed by the Town of Oro Valley, include off-street paved pathways that are shared by pedestrians, roller bladers, and cyclists.

Several of the bike lane projects were inspired by the Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC). In 2001 the BAC voluntarily conducted a "restriping study" to determine which roadways could include bike lanes through relocating the travel lane stripes and adding bike lane stripes. The BAC estimated that over 50

miles of new bike lanes could be added throughout the region through restriping while still meeting engineering standards for the travel lanes.

The City of Tucson embraced the BAC recommendations and has an ambitious program to stripe up to 20 miles of new bike lanes in upcoming months, with additional phases of restriping projects to follow. As part of the current update to the regional bike map (scheduled to be printed in October), many of the upcoming bike projects are shown in addition to the numerous projects that have been completed since the regional bike map was last printed in 2001. For more information on these projects, please call 740-6746.

Assistance with this article provided by Trace Tang, City of Tucson Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner

RULES OF THE ROAD

Light up the night!

Wear light, bright, and reflective clothing at night. Use a rear red reflector and white front headlight when riding at night (Arizona Revised Statute 28-817).

In addition to what is required by the law you should also use a red taillight.

From the 'Share the Road' pocket guide, available in most bike shops.

Riding without a headlight at night could get you a fine of \$115!



**Tucson – Pima County
Bicycle Advisory
Committee
UPDATE**



In April, 2004 the City of Tucson was recognized by the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) as a Silver Award level Bicycle Friendly City. This recognition is greatly appreciated and in the course of the past few months, the Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee has been busy and moving forward in a matter which is potentially even more beneficial to all.

The LAB presents their award in Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum levels. There are four Gold level cities in the entire United States and no city has yet achieved a Platinum rating. We feel that attaining the nation's first ever Platinum award is within realization for the Tucson region by no later than 2006.

The Platinum Challenge started life as a vision by Bill Katzel, who is a member of the BAC. The intent of this concept is to obtain a Platinum level award from the LAB and also to credit the entire eastern Pima County region as a bicycle friendly community. Resolutions of support were passed by the County Board of Supervisors and the City of Tucson's Mayor & Council, and an "ad hoc" Platinum Challenge Committee was established.

The Platinum award is attainable and I want to thank all involved persons and groups in advance. Their hard work will not only further promote our community, but also encourage a healthy lifestyle and an alternate mode of transportation that has a positive impact on our environment.

The Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month. The BAC invites you to attend and express your views and concerns at one of the meetings. Meetings start at 6:00 P.M. at the Himmel Park Library, 1035 N. Treat Ave. (one block south of Speedway).

To learn more about the Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee, please visit the web site at www.pima.gov/tpcbac/ or call 740-6746 or 791-4372.

*Jesse Morales
Chair, Tucson – Pima County
Bicycle Advisory Committee*



Dan Yersavich Bikeway dedicated on Tucson's eastside

*By Matthew Zoll
Pima County Bicycle and Pedestrian
Program Manager*

On August 16th, the Pima County Board of Supervisor's officially dedicated the Dan Yersavich Memorial Bikeway, which is located on Old Spanish Trail from Melpomene Road to Colossal Cave Park. The Tucson-Pima County Bicycle Advisory Committee, for whom Dan had served as a liaison from the Pima County Department of Transportation from 1992 to 2002, requested the Board to officially name the bikeway. The Board enthusiastically supported the request and the memorial signs should be placed as this newsletter goes to press.

Dan worked with Pima County for 16 years until 2003 when he passed away after a brave fight with cancer. He was an engineer who worked on roadway, bikeway, and pedestrian projects. He was always there for the Bicycle Advisory Committee and actively supported improvements for bicyclist safety. One of Dan's last

projects with the County was to design the Old Spanish Trail bike lanes from Houghton Road to Saguaro National Park, which completed a missing link in this eastside bikeway system that now provides over 12 miles of continuous bikeway from Tucson to Colossal Cave Park.

The project was inspired and requested by the BAC in 1992, and Dan worked diligently for several years to secure the necessary funds. Finally in the late 1990's the County was awarded a Federal Transportation Enhancement grant to construct the project and it was completed in 2003. The bike lanes have improved safety and capacity both for cyclists and drivers on the eastside.

As part of the dedication, nearly all of Dan's seven brothers and sisters were able to come into town, and along with his wife and two children, his parents, cousins, and about 40 supporters and friends, a celebratory memorial bike ride was held from Broadway Blvd. to Saguaro National Park along the new Dan Yersavich Memorial Bikeway.

Dan will be greatly missed. Many thanks to him and his supportive family for his strong contributions in support of bicyclist and pedestrian safety in our region.

**Does your life lack direction?
Find your way with the new**

TUCSON METRO Bike Map

Including Tucson, South Tucson, Oro Valley,
Marana, Sahuarita and Pima County

Coming this Fall to a bike shop near you!





Children see traffic hazards differently than adults

By Donna Lewandowski
Pima County Safe Routes Coordinator

Children aren't mini-adults. They lack skills and experience that most adults simply take for granted. Additionally, their senses are not as fully developed as adults', making many traffic-safety skills difficult for them to execute. For example:

- Children's hearing is less acute, and it is often difficult for them to discern quickly exactly where a noise, like an approaching siren or vehicle, is coming from.

- Children's peripheral vision is less developed, making it less likely for them to see a car approaching from the side.
- Children's ability to judge the speed of moving objects, particularly those moving toward or away from them, is not well developed.
- Children are easily distracted and tend to act impulsively.
- Children may simply believe that grown-ups will look after them.

While it is important to teach age-appropriate traffic safety skills to children, and to model good safety skills in front of them at all times, this is not enough to ensure their safety. Safety messages like "look both ways" or "stop, look and listen" are helpful but not sufficient. The real message is "look both ways and see if any cars are coming, if they are, figure out how fast they are going and if there's enough time to cross, if not, wait until they pass and start again." No wonder it confuses children! This is a complicated, multistep process that requires skills beyond most children's physical development.

A major part of the solution is for drivers to behave differently and to slow down when driving through areas where children live, play, and go to school. The safety of children is everyone's responsibility.

PROJECT TALK



Laguna Middle School Pedestrian Enhancement Project



Oracle Highway Bike Lanes and Sidewalk Project

Recently, the Pima County Bicycle and Pedestrian Program submitted grant applications for over \$2.6 million in Federal Transportation Enhancement funds. Some of the proposals were done in conjunction with the Arizona Department of Transportation and the City of Tucson.

T.E. grants come from the Federal government to fund bicycle, pedestrian, neighborhood improvement, and other projects throughout the state. Each year, local governments submit applications for their own projects. By November we should know which projects will be funded.

Here's a brief listing of the projects.

Laguna School Sidewalks and Landscaping - \$549,900

Oracle Highway Bike Lanes and Sidewalk Project - Roger to River Road. \$679,000

Hohokam Middle School Pathway & Bike Lanes Project - \$593,500

Kolb Road & Valencia Road Bike Lane Restriping Project - \$102,300

Continental Road Bike Lanes and Landscaping \$418,400

Continental Road/I-19 Bicycle and Pedestrian Enhancement \$259,700

LOCAL EVENTS, CLUBS & WEBSITES



America's Walk for Diabetes, October 3rd www.diabetes.org/walk
 International Walk to School Day, Wednesday, October 6 www.deq.pima.gov
 MS Corona de Marana Bike Tour, October 9 www.nationalmssociety.org/aza
 Light the Night Walk, Friday, October 15th www.lightthenight.org
 Aids Walk 2004, Sunday, October 17th www.aidswalktucson.com
 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk, Sun., Oct. 24th www.cancer.org/stridesonline
 Tucson Police Foundation Run Down Crime, Sun., Nov. 7th www.tucsonpolicefoundation.org
 GABA Swap Meet, Sat, Nov. 13, 8 A.M. - 2 P.M., 4th Ave, 6th St. to 9th St. ... www.bikegaba.org
 El Tour de Tucson XXII, Saturday, November 20th www.perimeterbicycling.com

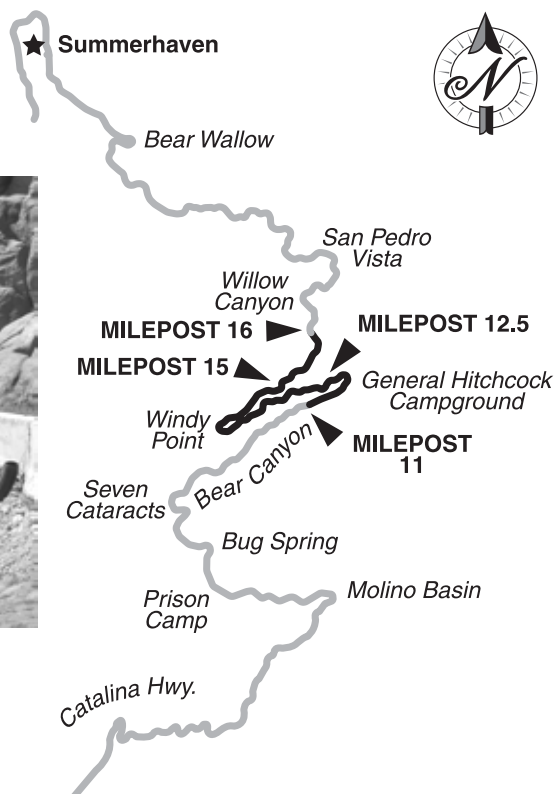
BICAS homepage www.consensus.net/bicas.html
 Doo Dah Road Club www.doodahroadclub.org
 Greater Arizona Bicycling Association www.bikegaba.org
 Green Valley Hiking Club Calendar of Events www.gvhrc.org
 Perimeter Bicycling Association of America www.pbaa.com
 Pima Trails Association Calendar of Events www.pimatrails.org/calendar.htm
 Skate Tucson (In-Line Skating) www.skateatucson.org/ClubMain.html
 Southern Arizona Roadrunners www.azroadrunners.org
 Southern Arizona Hiking Club www.sahcinfo.org

This is a partial listing of bicycling & walking events coming up in the near future. If you would like your event or website listed, please contact us. Pima County provides this listing as a public service. This listing does not constitute official endorsement of these events or websites by Pima County.

CATALINA HIGHWAY Fall 2004



Construction along Catalina Highway between Milepost 12 and Windy Point during Summer 2004



Catalina Highway rolls towards completion

By Shari Brandt,
Federal Highway Administration

Substantial progress has been made on the reconstruction of the Mt. Lemmon Highway from milepost 11 to milepost 16. The contractor, Hunter Construction Company, is on schedule for project completion by the end of May 2005—well before the November 2005 original contract completion date. The anticipated early project completion can be attributed to the Tuesday through Thursday road closure schedule that has been in place since last fall, and to Hunter's ingenuity in developing some value-engineering proposals that have saved both construction time and cost. Hunter has recently completed paving the upper 0.9 miles of the project, and is on track to complete paving the lower 1.4 miles of the project by the end of October. Weather per-


mitting, Hunter plans to continue finishing subgrade, placing base rock, and paving until only the Windy Point Vista area remains unfinished. The importance of weather and temperature on the extent of pavement actually placed this year cannot be overstated. In addition to the weather and temperatures, significant challenges include completing the three retaining walls that support the road, completing the drainage features, and finishing the rock slopes and road to grade.

Weekend access

As segments of the road are paved, they will be opened to bicyclists for use on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. These areas must remain closed during work hours due to the location of Hunter's storage and staging areas and the need to complete off-road work.

It is expected that the lower end of the project will be opened to weekend bicyclists to approximately milepost 12.5 (about a half a mile past the General Hitchcock Campground) by early November. Please note that the Gen-

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS



Report polluting vehicles to the Smoking Vehicle Hotline, 622-5700

Report road maintenance needs within Pima County to Pima County Street Maintenance, 740-2639

Report roadway maintenance needs within Tucson to City of Tucson Street Maintenance, 791-3154

Report roadway maintenance needs on state highways to Arizona Department of Transportation, 628-5705

Report aggressive drivers to the Tucson Police Department's Road Rage Hotline, 235-RAGE (7243)

eral Hitchcock Campground will not be available for public use as it is a contractor staging area.

The road from milepost 15 and above should also be opened to weekend bicyclists by early November. Whether or not bicyclists will be permitted to pass completely through the project this year will depend on the extent of pavement that ultimately gets placed.

Wider shoulders planned

The final roadway will be striped to allow for a 2 foot, 9-inch paved shoulder. Additional paved shoulder width will be available at guardrail locations and at paved ditches. The Windy Point Vista area will consist of colored, stamped concrete pavement for the mainline travel way, and exposed aggregate concrete for the parking areas.

There will be revegetation work and some repair work to other portions of the highway that will occur after May 2005; however, any traffic delays should be minor in nature.



Kurt Weinrich, P.E. Director, Pima County Department of Transportation

Pima County Board of Supervisors
Ann Day, District 1; Ramón Valadez, District 2;
Sharon Bronson, Chair, District 3;
Raymond J. Carroll, District 4; Richard Elías, District 5
County Administrator: C.H. Huckelberry

For more information, please contact the Pima County Bicycle & Pedestrian Program at 740-6746 or Matt.Zoll@dot.pima.gov