



NEWS RELEASE
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TWICE AS MANY BIKES AS CARS ON MARKET STREET

New Report shows 43% increase in biking; Cyclists rally to double miles of bike lanes

(SAN FRANCISCO, CA) – There were twice as many bicycles as cars headed downtown on San Francisco’s Market Street on the 15th annual Bike to Work Day which is organized by the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition (SFBC) and the City of San Francisco. Bicyclists made up 66% of the eastbound traffic at Market St. & Van Ness Ave., while motorists comprised 31% from 8am to 9am today. (The remainder was transit vehicles and taxis). Cycling advocates point to this and other notable increases to show the latent demand for projects that will double the number of bike lanes on city streets – a proposal headed to city decision-makers next month.

In fact, a 2008 State of Cycling report released this morning by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) indicates a **whopping 43% increase in the number of people bicycling on city streets since 2006. Download the report: sfmta.com/cms/bhome/homebikes.htm**

This two-wheeled trend swept the City today as hundreds of thousands of people chose a healthy and affordable commute including a record number of city leaders including Board of Supervisors’ President David Chiu and Supervisors Eric Mar, Carmen Chu, Ross Mirkarimi, Bevan Dufty, David Campos and John Avalos as well as SF MTA Director Nathaniel Ford, SF MTA Board Chairman Tom Nolan, City Attorney Dennis Herrera, Director of the Department of Public Works Ed Reiskin, Mayor Newsom’s Director of Greening Astrid Haryati and Assessor-Recorder Phil Ting.

These City leaders were joined by hundreds of cyclists and the SFBC on the steps of City Hall to rally support for an historic decision in June, as a 3-year injunction that has frozen all physical bike improvements is finally nearing an end.

“Who here wants to double the number of bike lanes in San Francisco,” Leah Shahum, Executive Director of the 10,000-member San Francisco Bicycle Coalition asked a crowd of cheering cyclists. “During the next 6 weeks, we have the opportunity to win a doubling of the City’s Bike Network - something that’s never been done before. I am asking you to set your sights high, and to make sure our City leaders do the right thing for the health and sustainability of our City by passing the Bike Plan and transforming our city into a truly bike-friendly place.”

The SF Planning Commission will be asked to certify the required Environmental Impact Report on the Bike Plan on June 25, making way for a **June 26 hearing of the SF Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Board**. **At this hearing, the Board will vote on whether to adopt the 50 plus bike projects outlined in the City’s proposed Bike Plan.** Adoption of the plan will double the City’s Bike Network by adding 34 miles of bike lanes and marking an additional 23 miles of on-street bike routes with "sharrows," or shared lane stencils, as well as thousands of new bike racks, signage, and other improvements.

“Safer, more inviting streets encourage more people to choose biking—a simple way for the City to meet its own environmental, health, and accessibility goals,” says Shahum.

Bike to Work Day activities continue through the afternoon. The SFBC will host 10 evening Bike to Work Day Energizer stations (5-7pm) across the city to reward cyclists on their healthy, no pollute commute home. See <http://www.sfbike.org/btwd2009> for locations. And the SFBC’s Bike Away From Work Party and Fashion Show at Rickshaw Stop (155 Fell Street, 6-10pm; fashion show at 8pm) will showcase the latest in urban bike fashion.

For more on Bike to Work Day and the upcoming Bike Plan decision, see [sfbike.org](http://www.sfbike.org).

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