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Home

Classified Ads

Archives

Viewpoint



Metro.net (web)

Resources

- ▶ Safety
- ▶ <u>Pressroom</u> (web)
- ▶ Ask the CEO
- ▶ CEO Forum
- Employee Recognition
- ▶ Employee Activities
- ▶ Metro Projects
- ► Facts at a Glance (web)
- ▶ Archives
- ▶ Events Calendar
- Research Center/ Library
- ▶ Metro Classifieds
- ▶ <u>Bazaar</u>

Metro Info

- ▶ 30/10 Initiative
- ▶ Policies
- ▶ Training
- ▶ Help Desk
- ▶ Intranet Policy

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New Metro Bike Map Details LA County's 1,252 Miles of Bikeways

· Map locates bike racks, lockers and bike path access points

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(April 20, 2006) Bicycle commuters and recreational bikers now have a new Metro Bike Map to guide them through LA County's 1,252 miles of bike paths, on-street lanes and designated bike routes.

The 34-inch by 24 1/2-inch fold-out map details the bikeways in bold colors and includes key symbols showing bike path access points and the location of bicycle lockers and racks.

"This map, the first new countywide bike map we've published since 1993, has much more detailed information," Bike map: metro,net | (pdf)



Publication of the Metro Bike Map was a team effort by Cosette Stark, Yvonne Price, Paula Carvajal and Neil Sadler of Metro Communications; Metro Bike Program Manager Lynn Goldsmith; and Alta Consulting.

says Cosette Stark, director, Research and Development. "We've had really positive feedback and we hope that it will encourage bicycle commuting by providing better information on the bike facilities available."

Metro Rail and Metrolink lines are laid out on the Bike Map, along with the Metro Orange Line and Metro Rapid routes. There are insets showing bikeways in the western and northern sections of LA County, as well as on Santa Catalina Island.

Side panels also provide information about rules for bicycles on Metro buses and trains, tips for successful bicycle commuting and addresses and phone numbers for Metro, LADOT, the LA County Bicycle Coalition and Bikestation Long Beach.

Bike to Work Week

The new bike map is being distributed to commuters through Metro Commuter Services Employer Programs and by Metro Customer Relations in time for <u>Bike to Work Week</u>, May 15 – 19. Some 65,000 will be printed.

"We're hoping that, between our new bike map and the new Metro bus and rail system map, people will be able to plan a route to get from one end of the county to the other using their bicycles and transit," says Lynn Goldsmith, Metro Bike Program manager, noting that the map will be updated again next year.

LA County currently has 251 miles of off-street, exclusive bike paths, but "our goal is to increase that to 500 miles," says Goldsmith. There are 481 miles of designated on-street bike lanes – which Metro's strategic bike plans propose to triple – and 520 miles of bike routes marked by signage.

Metro has placed 285 bike lockers and 400 racks capable of holding a total of 800 bicycles at Metro Rail and Metrolink stations.

Goldsmith points out that 20 million bicycles were sold in the United States last year and that 80 million Americans own bikes.

"That's an untapped potential," she says. "If someone is riding a bike for recreation on the weekends and also using transit, they are more inclined to use transit to commute and eliminate the use of their car."

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