

[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Archives](#)[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

[Safety](#)[Pressroom](#) (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](#)[Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)[Policies](#)[Training](#)[Help Desk](#)[Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

A roomful of cycling enthusiasts, including city and state representatives, dialogued for more than 90 minutes at Metro's first Bicycle Roundtable. *Photos: Gayle Anderson*

Metro's First Bicycle Roundtable Gets Great Turnout

- Cyclists provide list of concerns, ideas for Metro staff

By Laura Kloth

Staff Writer

(Feb. 25, 2010) Spreading the word about what's available for bicyclists who use transit and creating a list of priorities to improve Metro's countywide Bike Plan topped the list of suggestions made by bike community members during Metro's first Bicycle Roundtable.

A roomful of cycling enthusiasts, including city and state representatives, dialogued for more than 90 minutes at the Feb. 19 meeting, and produced dozens of suggestions to improve cyclists' travel on Metro's bus and rail.

"Bicycling is increasing in popularity and today there is tremendous interest in increasing bicycle usage for commuting purposes in LA," said Doug Failing, Executive Director of Highway Programs/Interim Chief Planning Officer.

By the end of the discussion, Failing who hosted the event at Metro's Gateway Plaza

headquarters, promised to serve as a “strong advocate” for cycling, and offered to meet frequently to follow up on their suggestions.

“I intend to, while I’m here, make bicycles a greater priority of Metro. That’s my commitment to you,” Failing said.

“We need to have better accommodation of bikes on transit as well as formulate policy recommendations for bus and rail planning,” he added, noting that “changes need to balance safety for both cyclists and Metro commuters.”

High marks for Metro

Overall, cyclists gave Metro high marks for its recent outreach effort and requested that frequent meetings be held not only downtown, but also throughout the city, to include input from thousands of cyclists who commute.

Failing touted improvements for cyclists by saying that recently installed signage on the rail lines will improve mobility and safety and that rail cars now have more capacity since seating was removed to accommodate more passengers with bicycles.

Glenn Bailey, who sits on L.A.’s Bicycle Advisory Committee, applauded Metro’s idea to make more room on trains for cyclists, but he said the agency should think about abandoning time restrictions for bike riders since the measure is not being enforced.

He also suggested Metro “step up



Metro Bike Planning Manager Lynne Goldsmith helps keep track of suggestions offered by attending cycling enthusiasts.



Glenn Bailey, who sits on L.A.’s Bicycle Advisory Committee, makes a point in support of commuters on bikes.



Transportation Planning Manager Tony Jusay demonstrates folding bike.

its communication efforts to the community about what's already available for cyclists."

More than a couple of attendees said sharing the road with bus operators was a huge concern for cyclists.

Jim Blisell, who volunteers at a bike kitchen, said "That's really, really important. I've been knocked off the road a couple of times by a bus," he said.

Failing noted that Metro's Operations Central Instruction (OCI) with input from the bike community, has been working toward training bus operators to navigate safely around cyclists. "These training materials raise operator awareness about how to share the road safely with cyclist," he said.

Facilitating usage and access

Metro Bike Planning Manager Lynne Goldsmith shared that Metro is working to update its 2006 Bike plan and noted that the bike map will be updated in 2010.

Goldsmith said Metro recently increased the number of bike lockers to 499 at 38 stations, while other Metro projects in the works include providing an enclosed, electronically-accessed bike rack facility at Hollywood and Vine; conducting a bike share program using Metro properties, as well as other locations; facilitating a bike rider count; and participating in a folding bike project funded by a grant from Caltrans.

"It's a good first-mile, last-mile solution. It makes for seamless transportation," Goldsmith said.

Throughout the discussion Metro staff noted ideas and concerns under various categories at the direction of Sr. Community Relations officer Bronwen Trice who said, "The intent is to get a broad, diverse set of input and ideas without having just one idea dominating the group."

Other attendees included: Michelle Mallory, City of Los Angeles Bicycle Coordinator; Ramon Martinez, LA County Bicycle Coalition Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator and Herbie Huff, a student and member of the Bicycle Coalition at UCLA.