Passing the Baton of Safety
Alert Today Florida’s Safety Baton is Getting Around to Promote Safe Biking and Walking

The Alert Today Florida Safety Baton is a symbol of EVERYONE across the state coming together with the common goal of improving the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists. The baton itself is the “communication tool” we are using to showcase the many agencies, partners, and stakeholders that have committed to improving the situation.

The passing of the baton started on February 19, 2017 when NASCAR driver Scott Lagasse, Jr. led the 3rd Annual Champions Ride for Bicycle Safety in Daytona. In a follow-up interview, Scott Lagasse, Jr. said “I had the pleasure of riding with some “hotshots” on bikes again this year. NASCAR drivers, professional athletes and other pretty important people came out. They invested their time because they want to make a difference.”

With the ultimate goal of saving lives, the baton was then passed along to Ashley Strauss. Ashley took the baton back to Orlando where she ran a half marathon on February 26, 2017 and proudly wore the number 632 with the message “she runs for those who can’t.” This number represents the number of pedestrians fatally injured in traffic crashes in 2015.

On March 1st, the baton was handed off to Becky Afonso, Executive Director of the Florida Bicycle Association to promote Florida Bicycle Month.

Becky, a cyclist and safety advocate herself, truly gave the baton a work out. With baton in hand, she met with various agencies and stakeholder groups participating in more than eighteen events across the state in March. She even took the baton to Washington, D.C. where she attended the League of American Bicyclist’s National Bike Summit.

“Carrying the baton as a symbol of safety is catching on,” Becky explained. “People working to promote bicycle and pedestrian safety are thrilled to have their photo taken with it.” She went on to say, “Carrying the baton, and all that it represents, has been both educational and fun.”

Becky passed the baton to Ernie Bradley with the Florida Department of Health for Active Transportation Week in April. Ernie proudly carried the baton to Tallahassee where it had the opportunity to “Take a Trip on Transit” and be part of a local Walkability Assessment.

The baton made it back to Becky for May – National Bike Month. The baton was part of numerous events across the state in Orlando, Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Punta Gorda, Clearwater, Naples and Tallahassee. The Florida Bicycle Association Facebook page made the most of highlighting the baton and our safety partners.

Stay tuned to see where the baton goes next, and to see which safety partner’s hands it lands in, as we highlight not only the safety program, but the unique ways pedestrian and bicycle safety is being promoted across the state.

When you hear an Alert Today Florida partner say, “Every Life Counts”, they mean it. The baton is a symbol of this team’s statewide movement towards zero fatalities. Check out the Alert Today Florida Facebook page for summer “baton” activities.

People who passed the Safety Baton include: (top) FDOT District 2 workers on US 90. (middle) Forward Pinellas staff Rodney Chatman and Susan Miller. (above) Town of Palm Beach Police Department. (left) Team Florida with Senator Nelson staff at the National Bike Summit in Washington, DC.
Join FBA Today!

Your membership makes a difference for all bicyclists in Florida.

Visit: www.fbamembership.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student/Living Lightly</td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowbird</td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle Club</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle Shop</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business/Organization</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Agency</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Higher donations are most appreciated!

Pay conveniently online or make check payable and mail to:
Florida Bicycle Association
P.O. Box 2452, Oldsmar FL 34677

**Individual/Family High Donor Memberships:**
- Lifetime (contact FBA)
- Legacy ($500+)
- Champion ($250-$499)
- Benefactor ($100-$249)
- Supporter ($50-$99)

**Business/Organization Categories**
- Premier Partner ($10,000+)
- Champion ($5,000-$9,999)
- Patron ($2,500-$4,999)
- Advocate ($500-$2,499)
- Member Clubs & Shops ($100)

Memberships include a subscription to the quarterly Messenger, access to online member forums and general sense of satisfaction for supporting bicycle education and advocacy in Florida.

**We Love Our Members!**

**Lifetime Members**
- Duke Breitenbach
- Kimberly Cooper
- William R. Hough
- Walter Long
- Dan Moser
- James Nash
- Mr. & Mrs. H. Middleton Raynal
- Earle & Laura Reynolds
- Dr. Joe Warren
- Mighk & Carol Wilson

**Individual/Family High Donors**
- **Legacy:**
  - Tom DeMarco
- **Champion:**
  - Richard & Belinda Carlson
  - David Henderson
- **Benefactor:**
  - Hugh & Laura Aaron
  - Angela Allen
  - Jason Aufdenberg
  - Donald & Sandra Brody
  - Patrick Donovan
  - Daniel Lehmann
  - Paul Magaee
  - Patrick Obrien
  - Steele & Pamela Olmstead
  - George C. Palaidis
  - Michael & Lynn Pilato
  - Lisa Portelli
  - Stephen Steck

**Supporter:**
- Mark & Phyllis Atkins
- Monique Damianu
- Mary Beth & Gerardo Garcia
- Judith Gintz
- Laura Hallam
- Richard Hammock & Lisa Cashulette
- John & Janet Komoroske
- Karen Loewen
- David & Heather Nagy
- Seth Krieger & Kathy Peres
- Diane and Zvi Manas
- Daniel McWhertor
- Dean Mimms
- Al Parker
- Stewart Parsons
- Michael Rubin

**Club/Business High Donors**
- **Premier Partners:**
  - Polk County Sports Marketing
- **Champion:**
  - Boca Raton Bicycle Club
  - Florida Freewheelers Bicycle Club
- **Advocate:**
  - Bike/Walk Central Florida
  - Jim Dodson Law
  - Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation
  - Friends of River of Grass Greenway (FROGG)
  - Gainesville Cycling Club
  - Jack the Bikeman
  - North Florida Bicycle Club

**New Businesses/Clubs/Organizations**
- Bike Walk Indian River County
- Putnam Blueways & Trails
- Recyclable Bicycle Exchange, Inc (RBX)
- Road & Trail Bicycles
- Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Law Offices of Jeffrey A. Vivo, PA

**New Members**
- Daniel Blumberg
- Barry J. Cooper, Jr.
- Peter Dowling
- Larry Davis & Mary Grovemiller
- Judith Gintz
- Sarah & David Glassner
- Lynnor Goodwin
- John Kastura
- Donald Kersting
- Eugene Kuskoski
- Erin & Patrick Lauer
- Loretta & David Leatherwood
- Thomas LeDew
- Charles Martin
- Jerry Nepon-Sixt
- Don Oster
- George C. Palaidis
- Jake & Jean Piper
- Gretel Sarmiento
- Martha Scott

**VIST**
FBA’s Website

**LOG-IN**
to the FBA Blog

**STAY UP-TO-DATE**
on bicycle issues with this statewide forum

@ www.floridabicycle.org

---

**SUPPORT EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY**

HELP MAKE FLORIDA A BICYCLE-FRIENDLY STATE WITH THE PURCHASE OF A “SHARE THE ROAD” LICENSE PLATE.

- Renew your plate with a Share the Road plate.
- Replace your old plate 90 days early with a Share the Road plate.
- Exchange your plate for a Share the Road plate at any time.

**FOR COMPLETE DETAILS VISIT:**
ShareTheRoad.org

**PROCEEDS BENEFIT BIKE FLORIDA AND THE FLORIDA BICYCLE ASSOCIATION**
Board of Directors

J. Steele Olmstead, President
14517 N. 18th Street
Tampa FL 33613
813-979-4949
floridabicycleglaw@jsteelelaw.com

John Egberts, Vice President
P.O. Box 118208
Gainesville FL 32611
352-294-1685
jegberts@hsp.ufl.edu

Jim Dodson, Secretary
310 Wildwood Way
Clearwater FL 33756
727-446-0840
jim@jwodsonlaw.com

Past Secretary, FBA
Jeff Hohlstein
Past President, FBA
Herb Hiller
david33146@aol.com
Past President, FBA
MPO
Steve Diez
, Hernando County
Education Program
danz@hsp.ufl.edu
Dan Connaughton, Director
Florida Traffic & Bicycle Safety Education Program
danc@hsp.ufl.edu

Advisory Board

Chris LeDew, Treasurer
11867 Narrow Oak Lane S.
Jacksonville FL 32232
904-613-5833
cledegw@comcast.net

Tim Bol
301 E. Pine Street, Ste. 800
Orlando FL 32801
407-393-6691
tjb482@aol.com

Patricia Huff
P.O. Box 617
Everglades City FL 34139
239-695-2397
snookcity@gmail.com

Dwight Kingsbury, Historian
dwightkingsbury@floridastate.com

Earl Lang, Past Vice President
earl.lang@gmail.com

Henry N. Lawrence, III,
Past President & Founding Member, FBA
hnlbicycle@gmail.com

Laura Minns, Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (LYNX)
lauran67@gmail.com

Dan Moser, Columnist
Fort Myers Florida Weekly
bikopedmoser@gmail.com

Roger Pierce, Florida Bicycle Touring Calendar
roger@piercepages.com

Paula Saracci, FBA Messenger
paula@impactgrafix.com

John Sinibaldi, Jr.
St. Petersburg Bicycle Club
john@js-insurance.com

Lisa Walker, Public Affairs
pedalpusher25@gmail.com

Randall Williams, former Messenger editor, rdubs@aol.com

Executive Director

Becky Afonso
250 Strathamore Avenue
Oldsmar FL 34677
813-748-1513
becky@floridabicycle.org

Administrative Assistant

Laura Hallam
367 Buckhorn Creek Road
Sopchoppy FL 32358
407-399-9961
laura@floridabicycle.org

Membership

Please email:
Membership@floridabicycle.org
Mailing address:
P.O. Box 2452 • Oldsmar, FL 34677

OUR MISSION:
For Florida bicycling is to network and share best practices, to educate and advocate and to build awareness as a unified voice.

OUR VISION:
For Florida is to be a state where bicycling is safe, respected and encouraged as a means of transportation and recreation.

OUR PURPOSE:
• To educate bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists about safely sharing roadways and paths
• To be a powerful, influential voice that protects and advances the interests of bicyclists
• To encourage the creation of great on-road and off-road places to ride
• To provide a statewide communications network for bicyclists
• To encourage more people to bicycle more often

Help Us Grow the Base! Give to FBA

The Florida Bicycle Association was founded by people like you who want to make Florida a better place to ride a bicycle. Our projects and programs that benefit bicyclists are made possible primarily through membership and sponsorship to our organization. Simply put, without membership, sponsorship and donations, the Florida Bicycle Association would not exist. Keep bicycle enjoyment alive in Florida and help us in the fight against bicycle fatalities, Join FBA!

Did you know your membership donation to FBA is tax-deductible?

FBA is a 501(c)(3) education and charitable nonprofit corporation. You can join FBA online or download and mail an application from our website, www.floridabicycle.org. You can request an application to be mailed to you by contacting Becky Afonso at 813-748-1513.

Does your place of employment offer matching gifts to non-profits? Think FBA!

Bicycling is one of life’s simple pleasures to enjoy, not fear. Join or donate to the Florida Bicycle Association and let’s ride together for Florida bicycling excellence. Contact Becky Afonso at becky@floridabicycle.org for more information on ways to donate to FBA.

The Florida Bicycle Association (FBA) was incorporated in 1997 for educational and charitable purposes. FBA is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations, including membership dues, are tax deductible. A copy of the current financial statements may be obtained by contacting FBA.

To become a member supporter of FBA, join online at www.fbamembership.org
The Messenger is published quarterly as a service to members and advocates for a bicycle-friendly Florida by the:
Florida Bicycle Association, P.O. Box 2452, Oldsmar, FL 34677
www.floridabicycle.org • e-mail: Becky@floridabicycle.org • Phone: 813-748-1513

Messenger Copy and Advertising Information and Deadlines:
FBA Membership includes a subscription to the Messenger. The FBA accepts and welcomes your advertising!

Please see the website for rates and specifications or e-mail: Becky@floridabicycle.org. Publishers reserve the right to review advertising content and to reject advertising that, in the opinion of the Association, is neither in the best interest of FBA’s members nor its goals and objectives. Although we carefully review articles and information submitted, FBA is not responsible for the information or opinions contained herein unless explicitly stated as official policy of FBA.

© 2015 Florida Bicycle Association. All rights reserved

A copy of the official registration and financial information (a9008) may be obtained from the division of consumer services by calling toll-free 1-800-435-7352 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state. http://www.800helpfla.com/

Deadlines:
Winter Issue – November 15
Spring Issue – February 15
Summer Issue – May 15
Autumn Issue – August 15

Message copy and advertising information and deadlines:
FBA membership includes a subscription to the messenger. The FA accepts and welcomes your advertising!

Please see the website for rates and specifications or e-mail: Becky@floridabicycle.org. Publishers reserve the right to review advertising content and to reject advertising that, in the opinion of the Association, is neither in the best interest of FBA’s members nor its goals and objectives. Although we carefully review articles and information submitted, FBA is not responsible for the information or opinions contained herein unless explicitly stated as official policy of FBA.

© 2015 Florida Bicycle Association. All rights reserved

A copy of the official registration and financial information (a9008) may be obtained from the division of consumer services by calling toll-free 1-800-435-7352 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state. http://www.800helpfla.com/
AAA Offers Free Roadside Assistance for Bicyclists

Free bicycle roadside service is now included with all AAA memberships. The announcement, made in May as part of National Bicycle Safety Month, reflects a steadily growing focus on improving the safety of cyclists sharing our roadways. It is also an excellent example of how partners are working together through the Florida Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Coalition to make our roadways safer.

“Traveling on the road requires care and courtesy - whether you are operating a car or a bicycle,” said Amy Stracke, Managing Director, AAA Traffic Safety Advocacy. This innovative service will provide an additional level of safety for motorists and bicyclists. AAA Service Technicians will be able to assist members who they can safely reach from an accessible road or parking lot. The member's bicycle will then be secured to the service vehicle, and transported to any point of safety within the member’s coverage.

Coverage & Restrictions

• Member must be present at the time of service and have a valid AAA card.
• Bicycle service applies to all 2-wheeled bicycles, including rental bicycles & tandem/trailers pulled by bicycles.
• Bicycle service is limited to transporting a bicycle. Mechanical repairs and bicycle lock services are not included.
• Service is provided only along a normally traveled road or street.
• Bicycle service is provided for the rider whose bicycle is disabled and accompanying minors.

Safety Tips for Bicyclists

Stay safe on the roads with these tips from AAA and Alert Today Florida, a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) initiative that provides a comprehensive approach to improving pedestrian and bicycle safety:

• Follow the Rules of the Road. Always ride with traffic, using the rightmost lane, obeying the same laws as motorists. Signal all turns.
• Be Visible. Ride where drivers can see you. Wear bright colors during the day, reflective gear in low light conditions, and use head and tail lights at night.
• Wear a Helmet. Helmets, when worn properly, are up to 85 percent effective in protecting the head and brain in the event of a crash.

Safety Tips for Motorists

• Stay Alert. Avoid all distractions while driving and wear your seat belt.
• Share the Road. Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists, including the right to ride in the traffic lane. Yield to bicyclists when turning.
• Slow Down. Allow at least three feet of clearance when passing a bicyclist.

To learn how you can share the road, visit AAA’s website ShareTheRoad.AAA.com. Visit AlertTodayFlorida.com for bicycle and pedestrian safety videos and other resources.

Bike Safety by Design

Alexander Barr, P.E. & Lisa Maack, AICP of the Florida Department of Transportation’s District 4 (Fort Lauderdale) Office of Modal Development host a 7-mile educational bike ride for staff every month. These bike rides allow planners, designers, and other engineering staff to experience first-hand what they are proposing on their projects. Participants encounter a wide range of bicycle facilities including shared use paths, sharrows, and designated bike lanes.

Prior to departure, Alex & Lisa educate the group on how to safely ride on the street and make sure everyone’s helmet is properly fitted. After riding along different segments, everyone would pull over and discuss what they experienced and what improvements could be made to better accommodate bicyclists. “It gave us an appreciation of how our designs are reflected in the real world and also how we can improve on them for future projects”, Brent Lee-Shue-Ling recalled from the experience.

For many, using a personal vehicle is not an option and they must rely on using transit, walking, or biking. We need to make sure that these type of commuters feel comfortable and safe getting around. The best way to do that is to experience first-hand what they experience and understand the challenges they face daily.

### President’s Message

**You- Power Broker - Lobbying 101 for Safer Bicycling**

by J. Steele Olmstead, President

Florida, like most democratic governments, has a representative system. We have a House and Senate with members in each. These members “represent” us; you, me, the people in your club, the techs at your bike shop, the other bicyclists you see on the road. ALL OF US. However, in a regular citizen showing up unexpectedly, honestly and sincerely saying please do something to stop the killing of bicyclists in the state.

At its most basic, lobbying is a friendship or acquaintance between you and your representative. How do you make that acquaintance? By being there: calling your representative (repeatedly) about your issue; making an appointment and going to his or her office whether in your district or in Tallahassee; writing your representative (repeatedly), but writing letters is good only if followed up by a phone call and a visit. The best strategy is multiple contacts with your representative from all the people in your group that are also his/her constituents. There is a political maxim: each constituent call to a representative is 1,000 votes to that representative. Some caveats: calling once and writing once or sending repeated emails doesn’t make you memorable. You want to have a relationship so call and write more than once.

But wait you ask? How do I know whom to call? Well, obviously your own House Representative and State Senator... and, I assume since you’re reading this, you are a faithful member of the Florida Bicycle Association. Get on our email list and get updates on who to call and when to call. Our executive director Becky Afonso has a reputation of requiring a paid representative in a fancy suit with a nice briefcase. WRONG. At its core it is nothing more than a Florida citizen assiduously calling a legislator’s members to get bills passed. Look up the “Schoolhouse Rock” episode on YouTube.com that shows how bills get passed.

You want better bicycling laws out of Tallahassee? Here’s how simple it is: 1. A constituent gets an idea. 2. Constituent calls the representative. 3. Representative writes law. 4. Representative submits to legislature (max limit 2 bills) by August 31, the year before the legislative session. 5. The bill goes to the appropriate committee (transportation committee usually, sometime judicial) that has members from parties (usually Democrat or Republican). 6. Committee members argue and vote for the bill to go to the “floor”. 7. All the representatives in that “chamber” (Senate or House) argue about it. 8. Then it gets voted on in that chamber and goes to the opposite side of the legislature. 9. There, hopefully, a member of that chamber has a “companion” bill (that matches the language of the first bill). 10. If there are enough votes in that second chamber, the bill is passed and heads toward the governor’s desk for signature. 11. He signs it and “booms” bicycle law!

Why does this matter? Because we had bills in the 2017 session that would have made cycling safer in Florida but they didn’t get the support from you. Who is it to rescue? You. Bicycling’s best lobbyist is you. In order to represent us, they need to hear from us. They have NO IDEA WHAT WE WANT THEM to do unless we call them and show up at their office. This, in essence, is lobbying. Some folks think that is for other people. No, it’s for you. Lobbying has a reputation of requiring a paid representative in a fancy suit with a nice briefcase. WRONG. At its core it is nothing more than a Florida citizen assiduously calling a legislator’s members to get bills passed. Look up the “Schoolhouse Rock” episode on YouTube.com that shows how bills get passed.

You want better bicycling laws out of Tallahassee? Here’s how simple it is: 1. A constituent gets an idea. 2. Constituent calls the representative. 3. Representative writes law. 4. Representative submits to legislature (max limit 2 bills) by August 31, the year before the legislative session. 5. The bill goes to the appropriate committee (transportation committee usually, sometime judicial) that has members from parties (usually Democrat or Republican). 6. Committee members argue and vote for the bill to go to the “floor”. 7. All the representatives in that “chamber” (Senate or House) argue about it. 8. Then it gets voted on in that chamber and goes to the opposite side of the legislature. 9. There, hopefully, a member of that chamber has a “companion” bill (that matches the language of the first bill). 10. If there are enough votes in that second chamber, the bill is passed and heads toward the governor’s desk for signature. 11. He signs it and “booms” bicycle law!

Why does this matter? Because we had bills in the 2017 session that would have made cycling safer in Florida but they didn’t get the support from you. Who is it to rescue? You. Bicycling’s best lobbyist is you.

Editor’s note: Florida Bicycle Association currently lists its legislative platform online at www.floridabicycle.org/fba-legislative-platform. Contact becky@floridabicycle.org for more information on the “Educate your Delegate” initiative.
Executive Director's Corner...

Primary Offense

by Becky Afonso, Director

I’ll admit I’m not overly thrilled that automated vehicles are being touted as the ‘answer’ to distracted driving. To me, it confirms that as drivers we have given up on being responsible for our actions on public roads. The smartphone has taken over and it is all any of us can see or care to see. There is simply no time to look through the windshield or beyond the handlebars to what’s ahead. The phone in our hand is the here and now. Moving through traffic is, wait there’s a Facebook notification – CRASH!!

Seriously, what will it take for drivers to pay attention? And by drivers I am referring to motor vehicle and bicycle drivers. The matter at hand is not the smartphone in your hand, it’s your hands, yes, that’s hands plural, wrapped around a steering wheel or on the handlebars. The common sense of paying attention and DRIVING doesn’t seem to apply anymore. There’s no time to wait for autonomous vehicles. We need pay attention NOW!

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety 2016, the prevalence of cellular phones, new research, and publicized crashes has started many debates related to the role cell phones play in driver distraction. This information summarizes state cellular phone use and texting while driving laws:

- **Hand-held Cell Phone Use**: 14 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands prohibit all drivers from using hand-held cell phones while driving. All are primary enforcement laws—an officer may cite a driver for using a hand-held cell phone without any other traffic offense taking place.
- **All Cell Phone Use**: No state bans all cell phone use for all drivers, but 38 states and D.C. ban all cell phone use by novice drivers, and 20 states and D.C. prohibit it for school bus drivers.
- **Text Messaging**: Washington was the first state to pass a texting ban in 2007. Currently, 46 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands ban text messaging for all drivers. All but 4 have primary enforcement. Of the 4 states without an all driver texting ban:
  - 3 prohibit text messaging by novice drivers.
  - 1 restricts school bus drivers from texting.
- **Crash Data Collection**: All states except 2 include at least one category for distraction on police crash report forms, although the specific data collected varies. The Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC) guideline provides best practices on distraction data collection.
- **Preemption Laws**: Some states have preemption laws that prohibit local jurisdictions from enacting their own distracted driving bans. States with such laws include – but may not be limited to – Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Oregon and South Carolina.

Florida does not have a hand-held ban or an all cell phone ban. What we do have is a texting ban for all drivers, but only as a secondary offense. Isn’t it about time, Florida, to face the facts that distracted driving is a primary concern and should therefore be a primary offense?

According to Linda Robertson’s Miami Herald article, “Texting junkies: Florida’s distracted drivers rank second-worst in U.S.” (April 19, 2017):

“Florida drivers are among the most dangerous menaces on the road, ranking second-worst in the nation for being distracted while behind the wheel, according to a study of driving habits.

Florida’s score was 49th, ahead of only Louisiana in a state-by-state analysis that indicated that 92 percent of U.S. drivers with cellphones use them while moving in a car.”

Isn’t it about time, Florida, to face the facts that distracted driving is a primary concern and should therefore be a primary offense? Recently, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration released the latest data available (2015) for bicyclists and cyclists involved in traffic related crashes with motorized vehicles on U.S. public roadways. Care to guess where Florida ranks in fatalities?

“The highest fatality rate per million population was in Florida (7.4 fatalities per million residents) followed by Louisiana (7.3 fatalities per million residents), compared to the national rate of 2.5.”

Is it me, or do we need to distance ourselves from Louisiana? All kidding aside, what we need is to take distracted driving seriously and pass legislation to reflect what we as a society will not tolerate. We need this NOW!

Suffice to say, legislative bills that were filed last session that addressed the crash scene, students were taken inside the school auditorium for a presentation from an emergency room doctor, a lawyer from State Attorney’s Office, and actual DUI offenders whose crashes took the lives of innocent victims. Prom Promise has been showcased nationwide as one of the premier Mock DUI events and continues to be a popular presentation with students and the community. The agencies involved with Prom Promise have volunteered their time for the event to help spread the word about sharing our Florida roadways safely for all modes of transportation. Crash scene victims were provided by the local high school SADD/DARE group. All groups and agencies involved have been committed each year to help make the Prom Night a memorable experience for all the students’ crash free.

Complete Streets Savvy

Our Complete Streets Savvy (CSS) presentation recently went coast-to-coast during National Bike Month. Our first stop was at the Broward County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting on May 10. The next day FBA headed west at the request of the Peace River Riders Bicycle Club and Team Punta Gorda. Our hosts were honored to hold the Alert Today Florida safety baton as they continue to educate and advocate for Florida cyclists.

Bicycle added to Prom Promise

by Cory S. Richter, BA NREMTP

This year marked the 22nd annual high school Prom Promise Event by Indian River County Fire Rescue. Prom Promise is a mock DUI crash event for high school students displaying damaged vehicles, crash scene actors, and real-life crash responders from various agencies. The mock crash display provides students an opportunity to see first-hand what a DUI crash scene would be like in a live action sequence just seconds after the crash. This realistic simulation presents DUI crash victims and local responders as they arrive to the scene by helicopter, ambulance, and fire trucks to save the victims. This year, Indian River County Fire Rescue incorporated a bicyclist in the crash scene to simulate another vulnerable road user falling victim to a driver under the influence of alcohol. After all the victims were transported from

Peace River Riders Bicycle Club and Team Punta Gorda proudly pass the baton.

Nicholas Sofoul of Broward County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee hold the baton.

Make your CSS request online at: floridabicycle.org/complete-streets-savvy/ or email becky@floridabicycle.org
The St. Petersburg Bicycle Club conferred on Mayor Rick Kriseman an honorary club membership at the city’s celebration of Bike to Work Day, May 19.

SPBC President Bob Griendling presented the mayor with a club jersey and thanked the city for its cycling initiatives, including its bike share and impending Complete Streets programs. The club joined riders from throughout the city in downtown Williams Park where the mayor announced the city’s first Bicycle Friendly Business, Black Crow Coffee shop and roaster.

Griendling urged club members to be ambassadors for the sport with the motoring public and announced for its cycling initiatives, including its bike share and impending Complete Streets programs. The club joined riders from throughout the city in downtown Williams Park where the mayor announced the city’s first Bicycle Friendly Business, Black Crow Coffee shop and roaster.

Griendling urged club members to be ambassadors for the sport with the motoring public and announced the city’s first Bicycle Friendly Business, Black Crow Coffee shop and roaster.

The club joined riders from throughout the city in downtown Williams Park where the mayor announced its first Bicycle Friendly Business, Black Crow Coffee shop and roaster. Griendling urged club members to be ambassadors for the sport with the motoring public and announced the city’s first Bicycle Friendly Business, Black Crow Coffee shop and roaster.

SPBC President Bob Griendling presented the mayor with a club jersey and thanked the city for its cycling initiatives, including its bike share and impending Complete Streets programs. The club joined riders from throughout the city in downtown Williams Park where the mayor announced the city’s first Bicycle Friendly Business, Black Crow Coffee shop and roaster. Griendling urged club members to be ambassadors for the sport with the motoring public and announced the city’s first Bicycle Friendly Business, Black Crow Coffee shop and roaster. The club joined riders from throughout the city in downtown Williams Park where the mayor announced the city’s first Bicycle Friendly Business, Black Crow Coffee shop and roaster. Griendling urged club members to be ambassadors for the sport with the motoring public and announced the city’s first Bicycle Friendly Business, Black Crow Coffee shop and roaster. The club joined riders from throughout the city in downtown Williams Park where the mayor announced the city’s first Bicycle Friendly Business, Black Crow Coffee shop and roaster. Griendling urged club members to be ambassadors for the sport with the motoring public and announced the city’s first Bicycle Friendly Business, Black Crow Coffee shop and roaster.
FBA Anniversary History Highlight

Part two of four-part series

Editor’s note: For the last two Florida legislative sessions, Representative Halsey Beshears, District 7, has proposed amendments to Specialty License Plate bills that would reallocate distribution of the Share the Road specialty license plate proceeds. Neither Bike Florida nor Florida Bicycle Association, the recipients of the proceeds since the plate’s inception, have been contacted by Representative Beshears regarding his amendments. Efforts to contact Representative Beshears have been made to no avail.

Long story short, thanks to members of FBA, Bike Florida and our advocacy partners across the state who contacted lawmakers, the initial purpose and integrity of the Share the Road plate remains intact. For our second installment of FBA Anniversary History Highlights, we felt it appropriate to share the Share the Road specialty license plate story and then some, using the “How the Share the Road Specialty License Plate Came to Be” article on SharetheRoad.org website, research provided by Bike Florida Board Director Leigh Matusick and the online collection of FBA History.

In 1991, FBA began a drive for a “Share the Road” specialty license plate to raise funds for bicycle education and safety projects. Over 3,000 signatures were collected; this according to FBA online history timeline. Henry Lawrence shares this additional perspective on the SharetheRoad.org website:

In 1992, Michael Koenig, then vice president of the first FBA, had a revelation. The idea of a bumper sticker to encourage drivers to share the road turned into thoughts of producing a specialty license plate—something more permanent and purposeful to raise money and spread the word to share the road with bicyclists. The tag initiative got off to an enthusiastic start, but soon went into hibernation.

The ‘hibernation’ occurred in 1995, when FBA disbanded. In 1996, on the day after Christmas, an inattentive truck driver in Clay County drove into six cyclists, killing Margaret Raynal and Doug Hill of Gainesville. Outraged cyclists conferred by e-mail and resolved to reestablish the FBA. An e-mail list was started to facilitate communications.

In 1997, FBA organizers Henry Lawrence, Linda Crider, Kathy Oates, Lys Burden and Carol Wilson formed a new board of directors and started a brand new not-for-profit corporation. Like its predecessor, they named it Florida Bicycle Association, Inc. An organizational meeting was held at the Disney Coronado Springs resort in September; those meeting participants formed the nucleus of the new organization. Not long thereafter, Dwight Kingsbury joined the board of directors. One of FBA’s first projects was to revive the “Share the Road” campaign.

Henry Lawrence took the job as chairman of the Share the Road campaign. ‘There would be hurdles: 10,000 signatures, $30,000 up front, a marketing plan, and state’s blessing in the form of a new law. Artwork was designed, petitions were drawn up and the campaign began.

In 1998, The “Share the Road” tag campaign headed by Henry Lawrence, which began to lose steam over the summer, was reinvigorated by Jimmy Carnes, executive director of the Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. Jimmy worked with Bike Florida, Inc., FBA and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to secure the $30,000 initial funding, to finish collection of the 10,000 petition signatures, and to help find sponsorship in the Florida House and Senate for the necessary legislative bills to authorize the tag.

(continued on page 10)
Be reckoned with for off-road bicycle trails

Road Cycling Enthusiasts (FORCE)

state of Florida with this designation. The Villages is the first Bicycle Friendly Community in the county. This designation was awarded a Silver Bicycle Friendly Community designation from the League.

Eduardo: Tiffany Sahloj, John Hopkins All Children’s Hospital

Tiffany Sahloj began providing Safe Routes to School services to elementary and middle schools. This program helps students in Pinellas County to thousands of children through schools and community events – a total of 50 schools and 18,117 children in 2013-2014 alone.

Due to Tiffany’s experience and success with the program, the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Transportation and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Transportation and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The Florida Greenways & Trails Project is a community effort with a wide range of partners that are committed to creating quality greenways and trails. The project is supported by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Transportation.

Bike Club: Sumter Landing

Bicycling Club, John Kornoske

In 2014, the Village, home to the Sumter Landing Bicycle Club (SLBC), was awarded a Silver Bicycle Friendly Community designation from the League of American Bicyclists. There are only two other Florida Bicycle Friendly Communities that have received this designation, the highest level currently held in Florida. The Sumter Landing Bicycle Club decided to work with The Village community to go for the gold, taking the steps outlined by the League to improve their rankings.

The club hosted the first “Dual at Dyer” duathlon last spring and continues to ensure members are supported to participate in all events. To support FORCE, the club hosts the first “Dual at Dyer” duathlon last spring and continues to ensure members are supported to participate in all events. The club hosted the first “Dual at Dyer” duathlon last spring and continues to ensure members are supported to participate in all events.

Bike Rehab Project

Program: Bike Rehab Project

Bubba, Where to start? How about 1993 when Bubba attended his first weeklong cycling camp with the Bubba Foundation? For the next eight years, attending four to five weeklong camps every year, Bubba gained an understanding of what it felt like to be a leader. The training taught him how to take responsibility for his own actions.

Vero Cycling Community

Supporting Agency: Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation

The Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation (FGTF) has mobilized a broad community to support and encourage the development of off-road trails into a functioning network of safe, scenic and “sun-sational” trails for residents and global visitors. FGTF focuses on making recreational trails a state priority and recreation priority in partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation and the Department of Environmental Protection.

Some pathways will continue to connect residents to schools and to state parks, win schools, safe and healthy transportation alternative connecting local communities to Florida state parks, win schools, safe and healthy transportation alternative connecting local communities to Florida state parks, win schools, safe and healthy transportation alternative connecting local communities to Florida state parks.

In the last nine months of 2016 more than 100,000 students this year. Last year the Florida Greenways & Trails Foundation (FGTF) has mobilized a broad community to support and encourage the development of off-road trails into a functioning network of safe, scenic and “sun-sational” trails for residents and global visitors.

The Indian River County Sheriff’s Office

Early last year, Sheriff Lori met with Bike Walk Indian River County and Vero Cycling Board members to discuss bicycle and pedestrian safety. From this meeting, a training tool called Florida Bicycle Law for the Law Enforcement Professional was developed to ensure the deputies understood current bicycle laws.

Bubba began his journey to make a difference in the lives of children in need. The Indian River County Sheriff’s Office

In early 2016, Julianne Price with the Indian River County Sheriff’s Office developed a network of seven dedicated bike routes and projects.

For Broward and Palm Beach County parks. The Indian River County Sheriff’s Office

In the last nine months of 2016 more than 100,000 students attended the Sheriff’s Office Bicycle Safety program, three times over 9,000 students in 262 schools last year, and are on track to reach over 100,000 students this year.

In 2016, Tiffany became a certified League Cycling Instructor by the League of American Bicyclists, and is also a statewide Regional Trainer for the “You the Tree” program that educates adults on how to teach pedestrian and bicycle safety to others.

In 2013, the 5 E’s: Engineering, Education, Enforcement, Encouragement, and Evaluation project, was developed to ensure the deputies understood current bicycle laws.

Florida Bicycle Association

During the 2017 legislative session, the Florida Department of Transportation and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The program has rehabbed and distributed approximately 214 bikes, serviced another 214 bikes and installed light sets on 218 bikes.

Bike Rehab Project

For Broward and Palm Beach County parks. The Indian River County Sheriff’s Office

In the last nine months of 2016 more than 100,000 students attended the Sheriff’s Office Bicycle Safety program, three times over 9,000 students in 262 schools last year, and are on track to reach over 100,000 students this year.

Indian River County Sheriff’s Office

Early last year, Sheriff Lori met with Bike Walk Indian River County and Vero Cycling Board members to discuss bicycle and pedestrian safety. From this meeting, a training tool called Florida Bicycle Law for the Law Enforcement Professional was developed to ensure the deputies understood current bicycle laws.

Bubba began his journey to make a difference in the lives of children in need. The Indian River County Sheriff’s Office developed a network of seven dedicated bike routes and projects.

For Broward and Palm Beach County parks. The Indian River County Sheriff’s Office

In the last nine months of 2016 more than 100,000 students attended the Sheriff’s Office Bicycle Safety program, three times over 9,000 students in 262 schools last year, and are on track to reach over 100,000 students this year.

In 2016, Tiffany became a certified League Cycling Instructor by the League of American Bicyclists, and is also a statewide Regional Trainer for the “You the Tree” program that educates adults on how to teach pedestrian and bicycle safety to others.
FBA Anniversary History Highlight
Part two of four-part series (continued from page 7)

The Florida Share the Road specialty license plate was the first of its kind in the nation. This was not an easy task, nor was it the work of one person. The statute and that thin rectangle piece of metal may say ‘Share the Road,’ but for the founders and the framers, the mission was and always will be ‘Saving Lives.’

Fast forward to today and 17 years of Share the Road proceeds being shared by Bike Florida and Florida Bicycle Association. To this day, it baffles both organizations and their supporters how one Florida House Rep can change the course of history with an amendment to give up to 50% of the Share the Road plate proceeds to a for profit company formed only one day before the amendment was attached to HB 1375. Thankfully, the amendment was removed, but the bill died in committee and so there’s always next year. For those who question how the money is spent, it may be worth your time to review FBA history on the FBA website. Although Bike Florida doesn’t list their history in the same manner as FBA on their website, the following is worth noting:

Since 1994, Bike Florida has had overnight stays in 36 of Florida’s 67 counties. That’s over half of the counties in Florida being exposed in some manner to cycling safety. Each year since 1994, Bike Florida has hosted at least one multi-day bicycle tour of over 300 cyclists. These tours have consistently fulfilled the statutory obligations of education and awareness of sharing roadways for all users, promotion of safe bicycling and have always included at least one if not more media events.

In recent years, from 2011 – 2016, the TOTAL economic impact from Bike Florida tours is $3,402,380.00. The tours clearly showcase not only safe cycling, but dollars coming in for communities across the state that embrace our Share the Road mission.

Bike Florida and Florida Bicycle Association share one other item worth mentioning – the executive directors of each organization, Joy Hancock and Becky Afonso, live in Pinellas County. The Tampa Bay region may not be at the heart of Florida, but the soul of Share the Road is now in Florida’s most densely populated county. Coincidence? We pulled a quote from Jeffrey, published in our Winter 2006 Messenger, "I've enjoyed biking my whole life," winning designer, Jeffrey Beegle, says, "but wasn’t real serious 'til about five years ago. My love is mountain biking, but it’s probably more often that I'm on the road bike.” Jeffrey is from the Ocala area. Great to see you out on the trails, Jeffrey; keep pedaling!
BICYCLING OFF-ROAD in Wonderful Wild Florida

Patty Huff has lived in the Everglades for over 20 years and is a board member of the Friends of the River of Grass Greenway as well as the Florida Bicycle Association.

Big Cypress National Preserve

Just north and east of Everglades City is the Big Cypress National Preserve. With the completion of the Tamiami Trail in 1928 anyone who could afford a Model-T would travel across the swamp between Naples and Miami. Today, over one million people explore the Preserve each year. Cycling the Everglades is the best way to truly enjoy the beauty, the wildlife, and the serenity of this area – both on and off road.

In April my husband and I decided to ride our hybrid bikes from our home in Everglades City to venture out into the swamp. We cycled four miles on SR29 to Carnestown (named for Barron Collier’s wife Juliet Gordon Carnes and son Samuel Carnes Collier). We continued past the intersection at US41 for approximately another four miles on SR29 alongside a canal. Turning right onto Wagon Wheel, we started our off-road journey on a hard packed dirt and gravel road through Big Cypress.

With little rain this year the road was very dusty and a little too sandy for our hybrids; it would have been a lot easier with fat tires (highly recommended on many of the spur roads off of the Tamiami Trail). Along this section there are many cabbage palm and cypress trees with only a few open spaces. After 2.7 miles at the end of Wagon Wheel you have the option of turning left and ride another 18 miles off-road to Bear Island (see article on page 9 in the Winter 2017 issue of The Messenger) or turning right onto Birdon Road to cycle just four and a half miles back to the Tamiami Trail (US41) which is what we did. The view along this section is beautiful with wide-open prairies, gators in the canal and pine forests.

When you reach US41, you may wish to continue across the street to ride on the paved Dona Drive with little or no traffic. We cycled the one half mile paved road to the boat launch at the end before circling back; on the west side of the road look up to observe the purple martin houses (purple martins in the east are almost entirely dependent upon people providing structures for them to nest).

Back on the Tamiami Trail (US41), take a right for one half mile to the oldest post office in the United States. In bygone days this building in Ochopee was just a tiny shed until 1953 when a fire destroyed the general store and post office; it was then converted into a post office which is still in use today. Along the Tamiami Trail, you will be traveling on shoulders but be cautious around the narrow bridges.

Another one half mile down the road you’ll discover the Skunk Ape Headquarters (http://www.skunkape.biz/) located at the Trail Lakes Campgrounds. You can’t miss it with the large likeness of a panther and a skunk ape in front. You may want to pick up a few Everglades and Native American souvenirs in the gift shop and see their wild animal exhibit with its 35-foot python and talkative parrots. If you’re in the Everglades overnight, check out their chickie cottages and campsites (http://www.evergladescamping.net/).

Continuing east on US41 for two miles the next stop (and our turn around area) is the H.P. Williams Roadside Park (on the north side) which has a boardwalk along a canal to spot the alligators and wildlife as well as picnic tables and restrooms. This small roadside rest area is named for Homer P. Williams, an engineer who worked for Barron Collier during the construction of Tamiami Trail in the 1920s. After 20 miles you’ll be ready to treat yourself to a cold drink and lunch. Two and a half miles back on the north side of the Trail is the renowned Joanie’s Blue Crab Cafe offering a “Swamp Combo”: 2 frog legs, gator nuggets, crab cake, Indian fry bread with Joanie’s famous salsa with a side of coleslaw. If you’re lucky, you’ll find Raiford Starke playing his guitar and singing his Everglades country music. Call 1-239-695-2682 before you go; currently the Cafe is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Visit website http://joaniesbluecrabcote.com for more information.

Continuing west just a little over one and a half miles stop by the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center on the south side (be careful of traffic crossing the Tamiami Trail). Here you will learn about the natural and cultural history of the area. Facilities include a bookstore, gift shop, and public restrooms. Park rangers will provide information about the Preserve; also visit website https://www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/big-cypress-swamp-welcome-center.htm.

Back on US41 for another .7 miles you’ll find one of Florida’s oldest tourist attractions. Wooten’s has a live alligator show and animal sanctuary housing panthers, a tiger, otters, snakes, and over 100 alligators (www.wootenseverglades.com).

As you ride back to the Welcome Center in Carnestown, look for more gators along the canal; the muddy grass is beautiful during the wet season. In two miles you’ll arrive back at the corner of US41 and SR29, turn left for another four miles back to Everglades.

CYCLE TOURS in the Everglades

Ecotourism has continued to increase significantly in the Everglades. In 2016 Big Cypress National Preserve in the heart of the Everglades recorded 1,102,148 visitors, a 30% increase over 2003. A new National Park Service report shows that 2.6 million visitors to South Florida National Parks spent $216.7 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 3,100 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of $313,258,300.

The six state and national parks located along the Tamiami Trail are Collier-Seminole State Park, Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park, Picayune Strand State Forest, Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park (Gulf Coast Center and Shark Valley).

Over the past 23 years that I have lived in Everglades City, I have noticed that tourists are looking for more recreational opportunities in the area. We have a wide range of airboat ride operators, kayak and hiking tours, boating excursions, and fishing adventures; more recently, however, there has been a growth in bicycle tours, both on and off-road. At this year’s 10th annual Everglades Bike Ride there were a record number of 177 participants for the three route options: 70 cyclists on the long-distance 62-mile ride, 50 cyclists who enjoyed the “bumpy” off-road through the Fakahatchee Strand, and 37 recreational cyclists who toured Everglades City and Chokoloskee. This trend is also true for the individual cyclists coming to the area.

In response to the demand for more information about cycling opportunities, new brochures for cycle tours in the Everglades have recently been developed for both on and off-road riding. Most of the tours start at McLeod Park in Everglades City but some begin within the parks or at the visitor centers. These tours can be taken on your own or with organized group rides that will start in September. These brochures highlight cycle tours for trips to Fakahatchee Strand, Big Cypress National Preserve, Loop Road, Oasis Center to Shark Valley, Bear Island, Fire Prairie Trail, Port of the Islands, Ave Maria / Immokalee, and historic Everglades City / Chokoloskee.

The Friends of the River of Grass Greenway has published these brochures and will be organizing free monthly cycle tours as part of their mission to focus on safety and environmental education and stewardship for those hiking, walking, or cycling through south Florida and the Everglades. Also available online is the recently revised map/brochure listing the amenities along the Tamiami Trail, including a column dedicated specifically to safety and the road conditions for different segments of US41. Printed copies are available on request. For more information, visit website https://evergladesrogg.tamiami-trail/.
Jamaica by Bike

A family heirloom, I have long enjoyed my condo in Plantation, in Broward County. Its original appeal to me as a teenager was its excellent bird watching. But over the years, I grew to appreciate its location even more for road riding. In all my travels up and down the Western Hemisphere, I have not found another area as well suited for cycling during the long northern winter. Almost every day, the weather was perfect for pedaling to the beach, yoga on the sand and a swim in the ocean. I take advantage of bike-friendly rail and bus transit to explore all three counties of South Florida from West Palm Beach to Miami. On weekends, I join the local cycling club to ride in a tight peloton, effortlessly maintaining 22mph, wheel-to-wheel, on smooth, flat asphalt. It is a pleasant contrast from struggling uphill and down through the slush, snow, ice, rain, and darkness that are inevitable elements of daily utilitarian cycling in a Canadian ski resort winter.

One more appeal of Fort Lauderdale is that it is also a very good place to leave, with short direct flights to many exotic places in Latin America and the Caribbean. They are all good for bird watching, so I have visited many of them over the years, with or without the bike.

This winter, the destination for my “vacation from my vacation in Plantation” is just 95 minutes away by air. It is home to 30 endemic bird species (i.e. found nowhere else), more than any other Caribbean island. (Canada has zero!) I am accompanied by my long-time travel companion, the Unflappable Miss Hisano. Like Sherlock Holmes’ Dr. Watson, she is always up for an adventure to break her daily routine, even if that routine is bicycling to a beach. I had not heard nor read anything good about cycling the island, so we hiked our bikes and bring compact folding bikes. They can be easily loaded into bus or taxi if unfavorable weather permits. They can be stored in a car if that is available.

The Buff Bay Road would make a good training run for the Jamaican Islands. It is the weather hotter. by tropical standards. I was expecting the cycling conditions to prevail. Except for Montego Bay (we did not dare try Kingston), the cycling conditions are easy. I am accompanied by my long-time travel companion, the Unflappable Miss Hisano. Like Sherlock Holmes’ Dr. Watson, she is always up for an adventure to break her daily routine, even if that routine is bicycling to a beach. I had not heard nor read anything good about cycling the island, so we hiked our bikes and bring compact folding bikes. They can be easily loaded into bus or taxi if unfavorable weather permits. They can be stored in a car if that is available.

This winter, the destination for my “vacation from my vacation in Plantation” is just 95 minutes away by air. It is home to 30 endemic bird species (i.e. found nowhere else), more than any other Caribbean island. (Canada has zero!) I am accompanied by my long-time travel companion, the Unflappable Miss Hisano. Like Sherlock Holmes’ Dr. Watson, she is always up for an adventure to break her daily routine, even if that routine is bicycling to a beach. I had not heard nor read anything good about cycling the island, so we hiked our bikes and bring compact folding bikes. They can be easily loaded into bus or taxi if unfavorable weather permits. They can be stored in a car if that is available.

This winter, the destination for my “vacation from my vacation in Plantation” is just 95 minutes away by air. It is home to 30 endemic bird species (i.e. found nowhere else), more than any other Caribbean island. (Canada has zero!) I am accompanied by my long-time travel companion, the Unflappable Miss Hisano. Like Sherlock Holmes’ Dr. Watson, she is always up for an adventure to break her daily routine, even if that routine is bicycling to a beach. I had not heard nor read anything good about cycling the island, so we hiked our bikes and bring compact folding bikes. They can be easily loaded into bus or taxi if unfavorable weather permits. They can be stored in a car if that is available.

This winter, the destination for my “vacation from my vacation in Plantation” is just 95 minutes away by air. It is home to 30 endemic bird species (i.e. found nowhere else), more than any other Caribbean island. (Canada has zero!) I am accompanied by my long-time travel companion, the Unflappable Miss Hisano. Like Sherlock Holmes’ Dr. Watson, she is always up for an adventure to break her daily routine, even if that routine is bicycling to a beach. I had not heard nor read anything good about cycling the island, so we hiked our bikes and bring compact folding bikes. They can be easily loaded into bus or taxi if unfavorable weather permits. They can be stored in a car if that is available.
Questions about the laws related to bicycling?
Ask Geo @ FLBikeLaw.org*  
by George Martin

As part of the Bicycle Law Enforcement Program, FBA maintains FLBikeLaw.org to provide a place to ask questions about the laws. Questions come direct to FBA via the “Contact FBA” form from floridabicycle.org as well as other sources. Herein is a very limited sample of questions and answers found on the site. Go online for more.

**Headsets**

Q: Does it matter if I'm wearing a headset while bicycling, other than police officers?

A: My answer must be that it is illegal. Surrounding sounds are cues we can use for our safety. The statute that applies is not specific to bicyclists, but includes all vehicle operators.

s. 316.304 – Wearing of Headsets

(1) No person shall operate a vehicle while wearing a headset, headphone, or other listening device, other than a hearing aid or instrument for the improvement of defective human hearing.

(2) This section does not apply to:

(d) Any person using a headset in conjunction with a cellular telephone that only provides sound through one ear and allows surrounding sounds to be heard with the other ear.

(There are other exceptions that do not apply to bicyclists, other than police officers on bicycles.)

**Keep Right and Stop Signs**

Q: Beth asked: A few situations have happened and I am questioning if the police officer is correct. Riding bike down a 2-lane road with no available shoulder. How much lane usage can I take up? I got stopped for being too far over in the lane of the car but that was because there was no shoulder to ride one. Another situation, I like riding early morning 3:00 am because no cars are on the road, trying to get a good workout riding 20 miles per hour, and got stopped for going through a stop sign even though I slowed down and made sure no cars were coming. Why should that matter at 3:00 in the morning when no one is on the road (except the police officer of course).

A: Concerning your second question, the law is clear, even at 3:00 AM with no traffic. It may not seem to make sense and Idaho has taken a common sense approach to bicycling laws, as follows:

**Idaho Statutes**

**Title 49 — Motor Vehicles**

**Chapter 7 – Pedestrians And Bicycles**

49-720. Stopping — Turn And Stop Signs

(1) A person operating a bicycle or human-powered vehicle approaching a stop sign shall slow down and, if required for safety, stop before entering the intersection. After slowing to a reasonable speed or stopping, the person shall yield the right-of-way to any vehicle in the intersection or approaching on another highway so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time the person is moving across or within the intersection or junction of highways, except that a person after slowing to a reasonable speed and yielding the right-of-way if required, may cautiously make a turn or proceed through the intersection without stopping.

(2) A person operating a bicycle or human-powered vehicle approaching a steady red traffic control light shall stop before entering the intersection and shall yield to all other traffic. Once the person has yielded, he may proceed through the steady red light with caution. Provided however, that a person after slowing to a reasonable speed and yielding the right-of-way if required, may cautiously make a right-hand turn. A left-hand turn onto a one-way highway may be made on a red light after stopping and yielding to other traffic.

The Florida Bicycle Association is presently considering a number of possible legislative initiatives. The rolling stop law is not on the list at this time.

Regarding your question about “keep right”, the answer depends on the width of the lane. If the lane is 14 feet or greater in width, we must keep as far right as is practicable to allow for efficient traffic flow. If the lane is less than 14 feet wide, which is about 95 % of roadways in Florida, it is considered a substandard-width lane and one of the exceptions to the keep right rule. One of the most dangerous things a cyclists can do is keep right in a narrow lane and encourage an overtaking motorist to try to squeeze by. For a full discussion of this issue, please see this post: http://flbikelaw.org/2010/01/substandard-width-lanes-updated/

**Big Cypress National Preserve**

(continued from page 11)

Everglades City is only a half hour drive from East Naples or Marco Island; it is an old Florida town purchased from the Storter family by Barron Collier in the 1920s. We have a wide range of accommodations and restaurants (however, during the summer months many cafes close so check online at www.evergladesmulletrapper.com for a complete list).

Visitors to the area enjoy visiting the original Collier County Court House (now City Hall), the Museum of the Everglades, the famous Rod & Gun Club, and the Smallwood Store & Museum in Chokoloskee as well as participating in the many outdoor recreational activities.

The on and off-road opportunities for hiking or cycling in the Everglades is extensive and a great way to experience the “real” Florida. The distinctiveness of the Tamiami Trail is that it is not only a regional corridor connecting the two coasts in south Florida but also traverses six of our state and national parks with a variety of off-road spur to enjoy the wilderness. For more information about hiking and cycling in the Everglades, download a map at https://evergladesrogg.org/tamiami-trail/.

In the event that your situation involves a substandard-width lane, a number of similar citations have been successfully challenged. The recommended method of challenge is a pretrial motion to dismiss. An attorney is not required to file such a challenge, but using one is recommended. Separately, I will forward a boilerplate pretrial motion to dismiss that has been used successfully in a number of jurisdictions.

**Bus Stopped in Bike Lane**

Q: Steven asked: What are Florida’s rules and regulations on transit buses crossing and stopping in designated bike lanes to pick up and drop off passengers?

A: Stopping momentarily to discharge or embark passengers is permitted.

s. 316.1945 – Stopping, Standing, or Parking Prohibited in Specified Places

(1) Except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic, or in compliance with laws or the directions of a police officer or official traffic control device, no person shall:

(b) Stand or park a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except momentarily to pick up or discharge a passenger or passengers: 6. On an exclusive bicycle lane.

Assuming the bus is passing and moving right legally, the actions of the bus driver appear to be in compliance with the law. Discharging passengers onto a bike lane could endanger the persons exiting the bus and passing cyclists.

I recommend that you treat these situations the same as if you were driving a car in the right lane of a multi-lane roadway and a bus stopped in front of you. Wait until a safe and legal opportunity to move into the adjacent lane to pass.

---

*DISCLAIMER: The purpose of this column is to inform about bicycling laws. The material provided here and through other means is for general informational purposes only and shall in no way constitute or be construed as legal advice by the officers, directors, agents or employees of the Florida Bicycle Association. If your experience in a court of law or on the streets differs from that presented, we want to know about it, but George Martin and FBA are not accountable for a ruling contrary to our interpretation of Florida Law or other consequences of cycling. You should seek legal advice on a particular situation.
### Upcoming Bicycle Touring Events in Florida

This printed version is ABRIDGED from promotional material provided by tour organizers. We’re not responsible for accuracy of information or quality of these rides. Use the contact information for more details about each ride. Data are gleaned and summarized from an online calendar database maintained by Roger Pierce and published on the FBA web site. To add an event to his (and our) calendar, e-mail to fbtc@piercepages.com or go online to post your own entry. See complete calendar; including many out-of-state rides we don’t have room to print here, at www.floridabicycle.org/touring.

#### JUNE

- **June 17 (Sat)** Spring Hill, FL
  - **Crankin’ Out Cancer**
  - Start 7a.m. at Evom Lounge, 14251 Powell Rd, 34609. Four scenic routes. Family-friendly day of riding while helping find a cure for Invasive Sinonasal Undifferentiated Carcinoma, an uncommon and highly aggressive form of cancer. Light lunch after ride. (Only paid registrants, within a week of the event are guaranteed lunch.)

- **June 24 (Sat)** Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
  - **Bike MS: PGA TOUR Cycle to the Shore**
  - Kick-off Ride 40/20/10 miles. Check-in 6:30a.m. Start 7:30a.m. at TPC Sawgrass, 5430 Palm Valley Rd, 32082. He new to most Multiple Sclerosis Society. Open to all cyclists ages 12 and up. Reg. fee: $5 through 6/16, $10 after. Contact Elli Miles at (Elli.Miles@nnms.org). Volunteering contact Jessica Braddock at (Jessica.Braddock@nnms.org). Fully supported ride with food and Left Hand beer.

---

### JULY

- **July 9 (Sun)** Punta Gorda FL
  - **Wheel and Wings VIII**
  - Starts and finishes at club’s favorite spot, Beef O’Brady’s. Event features ten wings, two Beeveridge glass. Five different rides: 15 mile 32/scenic 50/62 and a 40 mile Gravel Grinder. Speed Trap Alley hosted by Punta Gorda Police Department; break the posted speed limit through radar and receive a Speed Warning Ticket. Breakfast (juice, coffee and pastry), sag stops and more! Reg. 7:30a.m. http://www.facebook.com/wheelsandwingsflorida. List of hotels offering special rates at peaceriderriersbycycliclub.com: https://www.eventbrite.com/wheels-and-wings-viii-tickets-31651097284

- **July 16 (Sun)** Boca Raton FL
  - **The 28th Frank Stark Celebration Ride**
  - Start 7a.m. at City Hall, 201 W. Palmetto Park Rd, 33432. http://frankstarkride.com. Scenic ride along the Atlantic coast with 62 & 30 mile options. Well stocked rest stops with marked routes, SAG service, & Free Club hats (to the first 500 registrants). There will also be free lunch after the ride. Non-Profit ride presented by the Boca Raton Bicycle Club. Proceeds go to club programs that promote bike safety, bike giveaways to needy kids & local charity events.

#### AUGUST

- **August 26 (Sat)** Fleming Island, FL
  - **Rotary Bike Ride**
  - Start: 7:30a.m. at Hibernia Baptist Church, 7301 US-17, 32003

#### SEPTEMBER

- **September 10 (Sun)** Fernandina Beach FL
  - **28th Annual Endless Summer Watermelon Ride**
  - Enjoy a wonderful bike ride on Amelia Island through Fort Clinch State Park and points along coastal roads and marshes. Check out League of American Bicyclists’ 2013 Bronze Level award winner, Fernandina Beach. Pre-ride snacks, rest stops, a post-ride lunch, mechanical support, motorcycle escorts, and moving SAGs. Make your ride a vacation destination. Check our www.registereswr.com for details and prices for hotel packages. Five routes: 19:30/55/75/100 miles.

---

### From my Heart and the Seat of my Bike

By Lisa Portelli, Winter Park Health Foundation program director

Bike/Walk Central Florida board member and Bike 5 Cities visionary

I seemed like a good idea: show people where they can ride bicycles on bike-friendly roads.

So many people ask, “Where do you ride?” To answer, our goal was to create a regional bike-friendly map and then have a ride to guide people looking for comfortable routes along these roads and trails. We knew the map would have gaps, but it would also be a valuable advocacy tool to continue our push for more bike-friendly infrastructure.

We couldn’t have predicted the demand for this ride assistance... Bike 5 Cities “sold out” in one week! On Saturday, May 6, 2017, we accomplished the goal with 250-plus riders who inspired us to do even more. Most of our riders were beginners, and many had never ridden 28 miles before rolling out of Mead Gardens. They were brave. A big group ride was not new to most of them too, making it an incredibly risky adventure because group rides require skill. We were happy to take on the challenge with these new riders in the interest of sharing our love of the sport. At the Family-Friendly rides and events hosted in each city, there were dozens of children looking to have fun out on their bikes. They rode trails or had police escorts through the neighborhood streets.

The 5 Cities Ride, the bike-friendly route map and the push for awareness of the effort was all to further a loftier goal of encouraging our decision-makers to build more bike-friendly roads with slow speeds and special infrastructure like cycle tracks and trails. It’s a great cause, and Bike 5 Cities proved it is what people want. It took a team; we had the best one.

The “Team” - Host cities, volunteers, staff and all friends

Our Host City staff in Winter Park, Casselberry, Maitland and Eatonville were incredibly supportive of the cause. We stopped to visit these cities along the route at events organized and hosted by local city staff and volunteers. The elected officials in many cities came out to greet us! What a win to be able to show them the demand for comfortable cycling roads and trails as more than 200 people rolled into their towns.

Each community had a distinction. Winter Park offered a great location with a party spot right off their Cady Way trail (which now connects to a much larger trail system in central Florida). Casselberry has a beautiful trail in a small “hometown baseball park” with a tranquil loop course thru the woods. Maitland’s Mayor and elected officials/staff welcomed us as we rode in on the city’s marked bike routes to a blow-out party in the stunning tree canopyed Maitland Community Park. Eatonville celebrated the short life of a young boy, Camari Dennison, by spending the day teaching children how to ride bikes safely and to always wear helmets. (Thanks to Orange County’s Walk-Ride-Thrive and FDOT’s Safe Routes to School programs for providing support in Eatonville). Casselberry, Maitland and Eatonville offered police support to get our large group through busier intersections, and Eatonville Police even escorted us through town. Thanks to all the towns who made riders feel so welcome with festive events as rest stops along the way!

To our ride volunteers, all of whom are experienced cyclists and many who are close personal friends, there are no words. We could not have done it without you. All of you clearly understood how risky this was because you ride and yet you were willing to come along and help coach so we could reduce that risk. Most of you gave up your normal Saturday ride to join us in pursuit of a goal for a better cycling community. You believed in this crazy idea and we will never ever be able to express how much your support mattered to the safety of all of our riders and to this writer personally. I admire you. Thank you.

Who are “we”? Healthy Central Florida’s Jill Hamilton Buss whose magic touch inspires hundreds of people to care about their health and the health of our community. Peloton Cyclist Club team, experienced group ride managers who provided professional ride support, SAG service and mechanical help. A special shout out to their mechanic, ‘Santa Claus’, who stayed behind in Eatonville to do some repairs on the bikes owned by the Eatonville Police!

Finally, the dedicated Board and small but powerful staff at Bike/Walk Central Florida who put dozens of hours into preparing for and coordinating the event. We are inspired by the professional leadership of Amanda Day, our executive director and a passionate advocate for safety on the roads.

Some say the best indicator of success is when your idea is copied. On the day after our ride, the Florida Freewheelers, a local highly respected cycling club, conducted the ride on the same route again. A simple FB post on their website bought out a dozen or so riders to try this beautiful route on central Florida’s bike-friendly roads. The power of a good idea...
FDOT Districts

District 1
Cities: Bradenton, Fort Myers, Naples, Sarasota
Counties: Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Lee, Manatee, Okeechobee, Polk, Sarasota
FDOT Bike/Ped coordinator: David Agacinski, 239-225-1959; Bike/Ped Safety Specialist: John Kubicki, 863-519-2447; SUN Trail Coordinator: David Agacinski, 239-225-1959; Bike/Ped Safety Specialist: Chad Lingenfelter, 386-943-5336; FDOT SUN Trail Coordinator: Heather Garcia, 386-943-5077
FBA Member Bicycle Clubs: Bonita Bay Bicycle Club, Caloosa Riders Bicycle Club, Coastal Cruisers Bicycle Club, Peace River Riders Bicycle Club, Polk Area Cycling Association, Sanibel Bicycle Club, Sarasota-Manatee Bicycle Club, Naples Velo Community
FBA Member Bicycle Shops: Acme Bicycle Shop, Bicycle Center of Port Charlotte, Bike Route (Fort Myers), Naples Cyclery, The Bike Route (Naples), Billy’s Bike Shop, Fort Myers Schwinn Cyclery, Ringling Bicycles, Pedelec SQB LLC Electric Bicycles, Island Bike Shop, Bicycles International, Bent’s Cycling & Fitness, Road & Trail Bicycles

District 2
Cities: Gainesville, Jacksonville, Lake City, St. Augustine
FDOT Bike/Ped Coordinator: Derek Dixon, 904-360-5653; FDOT Bike/Ped Safety Specialist: Jennifer Graham, 904-360-5636; FDOT SUN Trail Coordinator: Barney Bennett, 386-961-7878
FBA Member Bicycle Clubs: Gainesville Cycling Club, North Florida Bicycle Club, Suwannee Bicycle Association
FBF Member Bicycle Shops: Champion Cyclist, Chipley, Florida Randonneurs, Florida Panthers

District 3
Cities: Destin, Panama City, Pensacola, Tallahassee
Counties: Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla, Walton, Washington
FDOT Bike/Ped Coordinator: Olen Pettis, 850-330-1543; FDOT Bike/Ped Safety Specialist: Andrew White, 850-330-1653; FDOT SUN Trail Coordinator: Olen Pettis, 850-330-1543
FBA Member Bicycle Clubs: Capital City Cyclists, Emerald Coast Cyclists
FBA Member Bicycle Shops: The Great Bike Shop, Cycle Sports of Pensacola, Coast Bikes, Cycleweird, Elite Cycling & Fitness, Cycleweird (2 locations)

FBA Member Bicycle Shops: The Cycling Hub, Village Cycles (2 locations), Greenway Bicycles, Orange Cycle, Full Circle Cycle, Retro City Cycles, Brick City Bicycles, Winter Garden Wheel Works, Fox Firestone Bicycle Shop, The Bike Experience

FDOT Statewide Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator:
Mary O’Brien, 850-414-4283
Visit floridabicycle.org, for more FBA Member club and shop information

Georgia

Member Resources
Did you know members have access to a variety of materials through the membership website at www.fbamembership.org? Some materials are available to the public, but members also have access to the following:
• FBA 5-year Business Plan
• 2017-2011 Legislative Plan
• Board meeting minutes and agendas

To gain access, go to www.fbamembership.org, log into your account, click on Documents in the left column, and then select the documents of your choice.
Scearce, Satcher & Jung, P.A.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Appaulds the Florida Bicycle Association for its efforts in making our community a healthier one by providing education and inspiration of cycling.

Kenneth L. Scearce, CPA
David A. Satcher, CPA
Carla M. Hansen, CPA

(407) 647-6441 Office
(407) 645-0099 Fax
1030 W. Canton Avenue, Suite 210
Winter Park, FL 32789

See you on the road!

ARE YOUR Wheels Turning?

If so, spin down to Central Florida's Polk County—your hub for some of the best and most diverse cycling experiences in Florida. Road, mountain, single track, rails-to-trails, bikepacking—with some surprisingly heart-thumping elevation changes.

Why not stay here and ride them all?
Plan your velo-escape at ChooseEverything.com

Choose Everything in Central Florida
800-828-7655
Twitter.com/VisitCentralFL
Facebook.com/VisitCentralFlorida