

## December 2009 Newsletter

Christmas Greetings from the Nampa Bicycle & Pedestrian Citizens Advisory!

**There will be NO meeting this month.** This newsletter will serve to help us stay in touch, keep you informed, and help out our schedules during this busy time of year.

Our next meeting will be January 12, 2010, 7:00 p.m. at the Flying M. **Beginning in 2010 we will be meeting on the SECOND Tuesday of each month.** We know it's impossible to find a time that works for every schedule, but we're hoping this change will eliminate some of the conflicts and allow some new faces to be involved.

### **Christmas Lights Cruise This Sunday Eve, Dec. 13, 6:00 p.m.**

#### **Meet at the Arctic Circle (how appropriate) at 3rd and 10th**

don your woolies or other "gay apparel", dig out your knobby tire bicycle and join us for a 4-5 mile cruise through Nampa's finest neighborhoods that are looking extra festive! Not sure you want to brave the cold? Come anyway and enjoy some food and conversation while you wait for the crazies to return and thaw out!

Front and rear lights required, helmet recommended

### **Nampa Bike & Walk Week Planning**

A cross-community planning committee is being formed to prepare for Nampa's 4th annual City Bike & Walk Week. The committee will meet 5 times (1-1/2 hour each time) between January and May. We are looking forward to having representatives from a wide range of interests in the community. If you would like to participate or know someone who would, please contact LaRita Schandorff.

### **Online Nampa Cycling Group Created**

A Yahoo Group aimed at the Nampa area cycling community has been created by Bruce Wiley. To learn about rides, share photos, and swap comments sign up at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nampacycling>

### **Nampa City Council votes to increase impact fees**

At their meeting on Dec. 7 the Nampa City Council heard the results of a study conducted to review developer impact fees. These fees are assessed when developers build and sell homes and other property and are designed to share the cost of police, fire, and parks that will be impacted by the increased growth. They are currently one of the city's few dedicated sources of funding for trails, greenways, and parks. Ideally these fees should cover half of the amount that existing homeowners are paying. The study revealed that the fees have been set too low and as a result the city will need to increase the fee or make up the deficit from its general budget. Council members White and Homer voted in favor of bringing the fees up to the necessary levels. Kren and Thorne voted against. Dale cast the tie breaking vote in favor of the increase. The council invited a task force to look at possible solutions for developers who need help in addressing the increase.

### **Formation of Idaho Statewide Pedestrian & Bicycle Coalition**

Since the BSU Transportation Conference met in late spring plans have been underway "to develop a statewide coalition of groups and advocates for walking and bicycling to: encourage and make cycling and walking safer, improve the state's approach to these vital modes and support and link those working locally around the state". A recent update reported that a six member board has been named, bylaws are in development, and discussions are underway with the Idaho Conservation League for 'fiscal sponsorship' so that the organization will have tax exempt status. This is great progress and we look forward to the on-going development. The organization is looking for someone with web skills to develop the website. If you can help, contact Molly O'Reilly at [yachthalo@yahoo.com](mailto:yachthalo@yahoo.com), President and Ped Coordinator in Sand Point, ID.

### **Google Maps to Add Cycling Directions**

Read about it at <http://blog.tstc.org/2009/11/17/google-bike-directions-could-be-useful-tool-for-cities/>

### **New Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator Named**

Maureen Gresham has been hired fill ITD's Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator position. She has more than 16 years of experience in bicycle and pedestrian planning and advocacy at the local, regional, and state levels. Maureen has also been involved in a variety of land use, transportation, and community planning projects and has extensive bicycle and pedestrian experience in policy development, program management, facility planning, advocacy involvement, and project delivery. We look forward to meeting her at a future NBPCAG meeting - watch your agenda!

### **Putting a Face on Transportation Needs**

Idaho Smart Growth is a coalition of realtors, developers, planners, and transportation advocates who are working to keep "communities vibrant and our landscapes healthy". In meeting with the Treasure Valley Community Planners' Association (COMPASS) they are working on a campaign that will help the public, particularly legislators, understand the need for funding public transit. They are looking for personal stories. Do you or someone you know depend on public transit? Do you know someone who is hindered from finding employment because they don't have access to affordable transportation? You can help by sending your stories to [Steve Stuebner at sstuebner@drakecooper.com](mailto:Steve.Stuebner@drakecooper.com).

### **Nov. 3 -Voters across the country support transit in tough times**

According to a report by the Kootenai Metropolitan Planning Organization (KMPO) - "This November, measures were on the ballot in five states-- Colorado, Indiana, Maine, Michigan and Ohio. Of the seven measures, five were finance, one sought to establish a Regional Transportation District, and one to amend a city charter to require voter approval of all public transportation projects. Voters in Cincinnati, Ohio rejected the city charter amendment, which was designed to delay and obstruct public transportation projects. **Voters also approved four out of five finance measures**, generating over \$74 million for transportation...In mayoral races in Cincinnati and Charlotte, the pro-rail candidate won. Newly re-elected Mayor Mark Mallory strongly supports the 7.9 mile streetcar plan for Cincinnati. In Charlotte, voters elected City Council member Anthony Foxx, a strong supporter of the Charlotte Area Transit System and finding new funding options for transportation. In both cases, the defeated candidate was less supportive of transportation issues. This was also a key issue in city council races in Boise, ID, and at the ballot, the **candidates with the stronger transportation agenda were elected**. For a complete list of measures see the Center for Transportation Excellence at <http://www.cfte.org/>.

**BicyclePaper.Com** Website of the Week (month?) -Based out of Washington. News, classifieds, race calendars for the northwest. <http://www.bicyclepaper.com>

**Need a gift idea?** For as little as \$18 you can give someone a membership with [Rails To Trails](http://RailsToTrails.org). This organization is responsible for the conversion of miles of railroad right of ways to trails across the country. A membership includes a subscription to a great magazine that has stories about beautiful destination trails in every state - a great resource for planning your next vacation. To learn more go to [Rails to Trails.org](http://RailsToTrails.org).

Have a wonderful holiday season - see you Sunday night for the Christmas Lights Cruise - or at our next meeting, January 12, 2010!