

# South Florida Sun-Sentinel.com

## Lake Worth rolls out plan for bike trails

### City to conduct first public meeting today

By Angel Streeter

South Florida Sun-Sentinel

January 9, 2009

Getting around Lake Worth on a bike is going to get easier.

The city and its Community Redevelopment Agency have embarked on a plan to make the city bike friendly by creating a network of bike lanes and trails that will link downtown, neighborhoods, the beach, parks and schools.

"We want the connectivity throughout the city," said Joan Oliva, Lake Worth CRA executive director. "We probably have more people using bikes here than any other place locally."

The city will conduct its first public meeting on the proposed bike network today. Anyone can provide input on what they would like in the plan.

Lake Worth will be among a growing number of cities being reshaped to be bike-friendly. Miami has embarked on a major effort, following such cities as Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Louisville, Ky.

Only Boca Raton, Jupiter and Royal Palm Beach have bicycle master plans in Palm Beach County.

Lake Worth decided to join those cities after working on improvements to 10th Avenue North and finding no space available for bike lanes.

The CRA looked for other avenues to direct bike traffic and found the entire city was mostly deficient in providing safe, adequate space for bike riders, Oliva said.

The natural layout of the city and the large number of cyclists in the area added to the desire to create a network of bike lanes that would make it easy for residents to ride to work, school, the beach or a downtown restaurant.

The city's street grid network, short blocks and one-way streets make it ideal for a network of bike routes, said Raphael Clemente, vice president of the Florida Bicycle Association, who grew up in Lake Worth and often rides in the city.

The grid disperses traffic throughout city streets, preventing too much congestion on only a few streets. That would make it easy to designate some streets as preferred routes for non-motorized traffic

Plus, Lake Worth has a lot of alleys that could be cleaned up and turned into bike trails, Oliva said.

"Lake Worth has some really great opportunities," Clemente said. "When cities create bicycle route networks, it

THE CARLISLE  
PALM BEACH  
LUXURY RETIREMENT LIVING

Offering independent and ECC licensed assisted living care on a monthly fee basis.

(561) 533-9440 TOLL FREE (800) 440-4461  
www.srgseniorliving.com

ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY #9713

encourages people to use bikes for transportation. It becomes something that people feel comfortable doing."

Bill Bove, co-owner of Fat Cat Bicycles in the city, is excited at the prospect of the bike network to reduce dependence on foreign oil and get cars off the road.

"Every city should have something like this," he said.

Angel Streeter can be reached at [astreeter@SunSentinel.com](mailto:astreeter@SunSentinel.com) or 561-243-6537.

Copyright © 2009, [South Florida Sun-Sentinel](#)