

Q&A with active cyclist

by **PATTY SALAZAR**
editor-in-chief

Greg Myers is a veteran services coordinator at Clackamas Community College and has been riding his bike to work five days a week for four and half years. Myers, who lives in West Linn, has an eight mile commute, which takes him 30 minutes to get to the college. Myers is a lifelong cyclist who owns five bikes, rides year round and also competes in local races.

The Clackamas Print: Why do you ride your bike to work instead of driving?

Myers: I'm an avid cyclist, I race mountain bikes. I prefer to ride my bike and I ride year-round because it's good for me. I am also a combat veteran and I don't like to drive all that much. It wakes me up on the way in and it calms me, [and] makes me feel good on the way home. Whereas when I drive I don't get that. It's just good in every way.

TCP: What is your usual route to campus?

Myers: I try to switch it up; however, most days I cross the bridge, cut through downtown to Singer Hill [7th] climb it, cut over to 5th where it becomes Linn Avenue then Meyers Road, and then I cross 213 by the Carls Jr. That is my most frequently utilized route because it is the safest, [but] it's not the shortest.

TCP: Have you ever had any close calls with drivers on campus?

Myers: Not on campus but on the road all the time. I do everything I can to remain visible. I have a flasher on the front and flasher on the back, I put one on my helmet. I wear the brightest clothing I can possibly wear. I'm a lifelong cyclist, so I've learned how to look into the cars and not at the cars. I look at what people are doing. I've been hit a couple of times but I don't really fear that. I think that most people are fairly aware and I know I am visible even in the dark. But there are ignorant people; I've been yelled at, spit on and things thrown at me.

TCP: Has any of that happened on your way to or from work?

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Students and staff at Clackamas Community College gear up for warmer days and clear skies by riding their bicycles to class.

Is your campus bike friendly?

by **ERIN CAREY**
news & culture editor

Oregon is best known for how bicycle friendly most of its populated cities are, specifically Portland. This understanding of those who choose two wheels over four has taken years to make work. Here at Clackamas Community College, the warm weather often brings out students and faculty who enjoy using the day for a ride to the campus.

The campus is most densely populated by people with long-range commutes to campus, making it very bus and car-heavy. However, the biking community that CCC does have shouldn't be ignored.

CCC lacks the precautions that the other schools utilize for their bikers. Sitting right on Highway 213, the roadway features a large intersection that is often used by large semi trucks and other large,

fast moving vehicles. The 213 entrance also doesn't have a convenient bike lane for the cyclists, meaning that a biker either uses the sidewalk or shares the road with impatient college drivers who are always in a hurry to get to class on time. With a very congested entryway and a long red light, this makes everyone irritated.

Kate Gray is an English instructor who bikes at least once a week to the campus, and has been doing

it for years. "It's great exercise, it doesn't pollute, and it gives me lots of great energy that day," Gray says.

She understands the hazards with biking to CCC. "There aren't that many bike-safe roads in the area, and even on campus there isn't a shoulder on the actual roads around campus so the marking is difficult and a little dangerous."

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RULES OF THE ROAD



Oregon law defines bikes as vehicles

by **LIZ GOMES**
associate photo editor

Bicyclists are subject to DUI charges if found biking while intoxicated.

Bicyclists must yield to pedestrians on sidewalks and crosswalks, and must use bike lanes where available.

Bicyclists must always ride with the flow of traffic on the right side of the right lane (except when turning left.)

Bicyclists can be ticketed for speeding. Speeds must not exceed the limit for cars while on the road, nor walking speed while on populated sidewalks or trails.

Lights and reflectors are required on all bicyclists after dark. A white light visible from at least 500 feet is required for the front of bikes, and a red light or reflector visible from at least 600 feet is required for the back of bikes.

Helmets are required for all bicyclists riding on highways or public grounds, and always required for riders under the age of 16. The maximum fine for failure to wear approved headgear is \$25.

Passengers and burdensome loads are prohibited if the bike cannot safely accommodate them. Passengers are also subject to headgear laws.

Source: oregon.gov

There is an Oregon Bicyclist Manual with laws, tips, and advice for a safe and enjoyable biking experience. The manual can be found at any local DMV office or online at:

oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/BIKEPED