

Holistic, vibrant communities also mean bikeable neighborhoods

BY ROB SADOWSKY
CONTRIBUTING COLUMNIST

Much has already been written about the City Club of Portland's recently released report on bicycles, No Turning Back: A City Club Report on Bicycle Transportation in Portland. Most reporters have covered the issue of a proposed bike sales tax. The reporters have

mostly missed a critical section of the report that discusses diversity and equity. The authors of the City Club report affirm the importance of

bicycling in Portland. They also point out that we can and should do better in reaching broader constituents, both in planning for projects and the outcomes so that bicycling's many benefits are available to communities of color.

Like many discussions of race and equity in Portland, the report only broaches the subject, but fails to dive in deep to the root

issues facing communities of color and transportation. The City Club rightfully points out the great impact that our bicycling improvements have made on the economy and on saving health care costs. However, if you look closely, the new jobs that are being created at bike shops, frame builders, clothing manufacturers, and related businesses are not going to underserved communities, but are attracting talent from outside of Portland.

To solve these problems is not a problem that is individual to bicycling. It is a problem for all of Portland and its business community. We need to find more tools that will help elevate the opportunities in this new economy for all of its citizens. New businesses that cater to the hip young biking crowd should not forget that there are great economic opportunities in building opportunities and marketing to communities of color.

The City Club report also calls on the city to better integrate planning across transportation choices including freight, walking, driving and biking. We should plan for holistic communities while embracing that our vision for that "community" can

differ greatly from culture to culture. Yet if we work toward building walkable neighborhoods with vibrant shopping districts throughout the city, we will also be building bikable neighborhoods.

To begin this work, we must build out the East Portland Action Plan and its vision for connected communities so that we no longer have swaths of neighborhoods disconnected from important services, schools and economic opportunities. If we can focus on these efforts (rather than the well-intentioned but flawed proposal to tax bikes), then we can start moving forward together.

We at The Bicycle Transportation Alliance are excited to see the City Club's report embrace bicycling and raise very important issues that we can take part in to improve Portland.

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HEALTHY STREETBEAT

Bicycle
Transportation
Alliance

Healthy Streetbeat is a monthly column for Street Roots written by the Bicycle Transportation Alliance (BTA). Rob Sadowsky is the executive director of BTA.

Screening for HIV first step to realizing an AIDS-free world

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We have never been at a more hopeful point in the fight against HIV/AIDS. For the first time ever, we have a clear roadmap for ending this epidemic. This is due in large part to a study published last year demonstrating that when HIV-positive individuals get on life saving HIV medications and take them as directed, they can lower their risk of passing HIV on by as much as 96 percent. The study was cited during World AIDS Day (December 1, 2012), when President Barack Obama stated a vision for "ushering in an AIDS-free generation." The President's statement has built momentum in policy and community efforts to encourage HIV testing.

One such example was announced late last month. The U.S. Preventative Services Task Force formally recommended that all physicians and other health care professionals should screen everyone ages 15 to 65 for HIV and gave the recommendation an "A" rating. This is significant for two reasons: 1) Many private health care systems base their standards of practice off of recommendations

by task force; and 2) Any recommendations by the task force that receive an "A" rating are required to be covered by insurance companies. When the Affordable Care Act goes fully into effect in January 2014, much of our community currently uninsured will gain access to medical providers.

The remaining piece to ending AIDS is you. One of the most significant things each of us can do to realize an AIDS-free world is to get tested for HIV. Please, take it upon yourself to talk with your doctor and community about getting tested. Knowing your HIV status is empowering. Knowing your HIV status will go a long way towards ending the epidemic. We have a roadmap to ending AIDS in this country - it is simple, and it starts with you getting an HIV test.

To learn more about where you can get free or low-cost HIV or STI testing, please contact the Oregon AIDS Hotline at 503.223.AIDS or 800.777.AIDS, en espanol 800.449.6940, or web chat www.oregonaidshotline.com

Cascade AIDS Project is a 501(c)(3) community-based organization in Oregon and SW Washington whose mission is to prevent HIV infections, support and empower people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS, and

Fight To The Finish

By Austin Rathmann

Behold

A new art has been mastered
The artists, they live all around.

Invisible though,
Two worlds apart,
Masters of shadow,
Dynamic of origin.

Unified
by chaos.

Broken, sometimes beaten.

Down for the count?

Fuck that

Down, never out!



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