SALE COBICYCLE COALITION

# WINTER 2018 ISSUE 162 | JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH

ACMOTING THE BICYCLE FOR EVERYDAY TRANSP

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### LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# PUTTING OUR VALUES INTO ACTION

By the time you read this letter, your San Francisco Bicycle Coalition board of directors will have approved a new five-year Strategic Plan to guide our work through 2022. I want to thank all of you who informed the scope and direction of this plan by attending an open house or a forum, responding to our survey, or sitting down for a listening session. I also want to thank board, staff and members who served on the committee that sifted through all the rich data that resulted from that process, analyzed it, and helped draft and revise the plan until we arrived at the final product. We are excited to share this bold plan in detail with members and the world in the coming weeks, so watch your inboxes.

Our mission of promoting the bicycle for everyday transportation remains the reason for our organization's existence. The new Strategic Plan adds a set of four core values and corresponding value statements to help guide us in our work toward achieving that mission:

TRANSPORTATION JUSTICE: We advocate for everyone's equitable access to safe, affordable and healthy transportation to create a just city.

SUSTAINABILITY: We fight climate change by enabling and encouraging more people to bike more often.

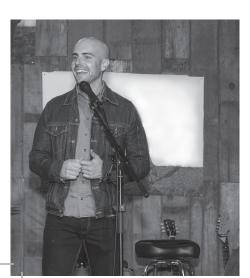
PEOPLE POWER: We create positive change through coalition building and collective action.

JOY: We celebrate bicycling as a fun, healthy way to get around and connect with each other and our communities

Each time I read these values, I feel a sense of renewed commitment to our mission and a dedication to holding ourselves to a high standard. If we live these values through our work, I know that we will continue to make even more significant progress toward a city that is a safe, just and livable place for everyone.

Sometimes, however, we will need to navigate situations where these values may seem at first glance in opposition to one another. Take our bike theft story on pages 5-6, for example. Our value of Transportation Justice calls on us to recognize the experience of black and brown communities with law enforcement and to resist advocating for enforcement policies that may bring further harm. People Power calls on us to come together as individuals to form a louder voice for action. This past summer and fall, I heard from many members upset about theft who demanded we support aggressive police enforcement, particularly against open air chop shops. As you will read, we did our best to call upon both values while bringing more attention and solutions to the real and difficult problems posed by theft.

Solving difficult problems to achieve what others would too easily give up on is at the heart of what your San Francisco Bicycle Coalition does. Whether it's demanding the highest quality protected bike lanes on our streets or holding City officials accountable to their promises, we will be there seeking the best solutions in a complex and changing world. I hope you will help re-affirm our values and support this crucial work. Join me in making a year-end, tax-deductible gift to the SF Bicycle Coalition Education Fund at sfbike.org/donate. We need your support to help our movement pedal the extra mile in 2018. Best wishes to you, your families, and our biking community for a happy and healthy New Year!



**BRIAN WIEDENMEIER Executive Director** 

San Francisco Bicycle Coalition

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The *Tube Times* is a quarterly publication of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, a member-based advocacy organization transforming San Francisco's streets into more livable, safe places by promoting the bicycle for everyday transportation.

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1720 Market Street San Francisco, CA 94102 tel: 415-431-2453 (BIKE)

Support our work for more welcoming, more bikeable streets with a gift today: **sfbike.org/donate.** 





o instagram.com/sfbike



# **MEMBERS' HOPES AND DREAMS IN 2018**



TYRA FENNEL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF IMPRINT CITY

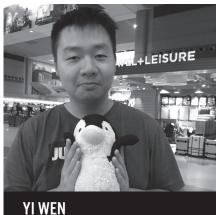
"In Bayview-Hunters Point, Imprint City has created the 'Sprayview,' on Egbert Avenue and Third Street, seeking to bring more art and lighting to an area frequented by a growing number of people walking and biking. In 2018, we are looking forward to securing more investments to activate similar spaces, bringing both beauty and public safety to isolated areas of the city."

Want to know the secret to how the SF Bicycle Coalition consistently wins more and better bike lanes all over San Francisco? It's you — our members — turning up, speaking out and supporting our advocacy for people biking. So we reached out to a few of you to see what you're most looking forward to in the year ahead.



ALISON CANTOR
BIKE EDUCATION OUTREACH SPECIALIST
& VALET BICYCLE PARKING SUPERVISOR

"I'm really excited for the construction on the Wiggle and Masonic to be finished! These are critical connectors that will make all the difference for me and my neighbors."



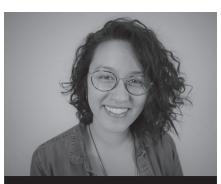
YI WEN 2017 INTERN

"In 2018, I want San Francisco to be a city where various levels of riders can explore the city with ease, breeze and pride."



KAREN WIENER
CO-OWNER OF THE NEW WHEEL, AN SF
BICYCLE COALITION BUSINESS PARTNER

"The countless symbolic gestures toward cyclists from City Hall in recent years have done little to improve safety and access, making the coming local elections an opportunity to hold City officials accountable. In 2018, I look forward to dreaming big, creating a vision of our city with comprehensive infrastructure and tens of thousands more cyclists, and putting into action a plan to make it happen."



DANI ARIAS
VOLUNTEER & FORMER BICYCLE
EDUCATION STUDENT

"I'm really looking forward to seeing more protected bike lanes and connected bike routes, especially in the city's outer neighborhoods. I'm lucky to have been able to take advantage of the upgrades on San Jose Avenue in a big way this year, and I think having safer routes will help encourage a lot of folks in our outer neighborhoods to commute by bike!"

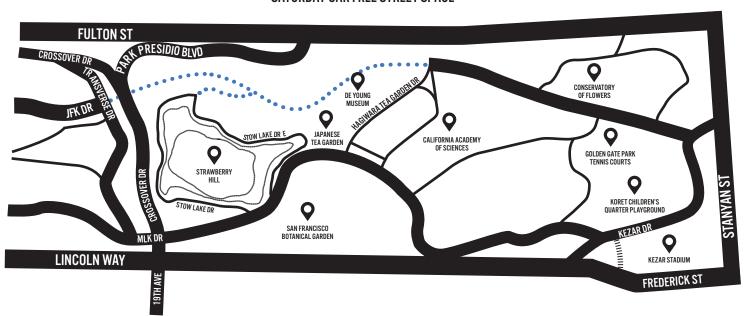


SOO LEE
RECENT ADULT LEARN TO RIDE STUDENT

"I'm excited that I will be able to expand out to new areas in the city on my bike since San Francisco is fixing up the streets to be safer for people biking, driving and walking. I have been mostly sticking to the park and the Richmond neighborhood since I feel like it's slightly safer, but I'm excited to experience more of SF by bike!"

# **QUICK RELEASES**

### **SATURDAY CAR-FREE STREET SPACE**



# **HEALTHY SATURDAYS YEAR-ROUND**

Ten years ago, SF Bicycle Coalition members led the charge and won open space on JFK Drive for people biking, walking and rolling on Saturdays. *Healthy Saturdays* created car-free space from Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive to Transverse Drive from April to September. Now we have a chance to make *Healthy Saturdays* a year-round program, but we will once again need our members to speak out.

If you enjoy biking JFK Drive on Saturdays with your family and neighbors, City officials need to hear from you! We're organizing a broad coalition of neighborhood and community groups to support this important improvement to park access. Visit sfbike. org/HealthySaturdays to learn more and speak out today.

# SF BICYCLE COALITION JERSEYS NEW DESIGN! sfbike.org/store

# IT TOOK A VILLAGE TO THROW THIS PARTY

On Dec. 3, more than 1,000 SF Bicycle Coalition members came together for Winterfest, our annual member party and fundraiser made possible with the generosity of over 200 talented member-volunteers.

Huge thanks to Art Show Curator Anthony Ryan, Art Show & Web Coordinator Carla Hopman and Winterfest Intern Maggie Fields. We're also incredibly grateful for the fantastic tunes spun by DJs shOOey (Jenny Shu) and Sinned (Dennis Yang). And we are especially appreciative of the generous support from nearly 200 businesses and over 50 San Francisco artists.

Special thanks to: Principal sponsor Bay Area Bicycle Law; platinum sponsors Postmates, Recology and The Veen Firm; gold sponsors Fort Point Beer Company, Yoga Garden and Yelp; silver sponsors Avenue Cyclery, CIVIC Cyclery, Faraday Bikes, Flywheel Sports, Gazelle Bicycles, Huckleberry Bicycles, Jesse Costello-Good, JCDecaux, LimeBike, Mission Bicycle Co., Pedal Revolution, Roaring Mouse Cycles, Sports Basement, Swell Bicycles, Valencia Cyclery, Sally Morin Law and Xtracycle; and bronze sponsors BergDavis Public Affairs, Burning Man, GLL Properties, Perkins + Will, Strava, Tern, Timbuk2, and Warm Planet.



Outer Sunset resident, SF Bicycle Coalition member and staff Operations Manager Janelle Wong, biking the new Vicente Street bike lanes with her son Aidan.



# **VICENTE STREET – NEW BIKE LANE IN SOUTHWEST SF**

Over the summer, a fresh new buffered bike lane was striped on Vicente Street in the Outer Sunset, from 17th Avenue all the way to the Great Highway. Spanning the entire neighborhood, this new bike lane now serves as a much needed thoroughfare for people travelling to, from and within the Outer Sunset. If you've been meaning to ride your bike to the beach, but couldn't find the right east-west route for you, try out the new lanes and tell us what you think.

# LET'S TALK GENDER, FEMINISM & BIKING

Join us for a special discussion on Wednesday, Jan. 24 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, featuring a panel of inspiring, trailblazing women, moderated by Katie Styer, host of KGPC's Oakland Bikes! radio program. We'll explore the intersections between identity, feminism and biking, with an eye towards the barriers faced by femme-identifying or gendernonconforming people. Kids are welcome; light snacks and beverages will be provided. sfbike.org/women

### TURK STREET — ONCE BUFFERED, NOW PROTECTED

When City planners proposed replicating the failed, unprotected bike lane plan from Golden Gate Avenue on Turk Street, we took a controversial stance. That proposal marked the first bike lane ever opposed by the SF Bicycle Coalition in our 46-year history. Now, City planners have returned from the drawing board with a proposal for a physically protected bike lane instead. Turk Street's new safety improvements will go a long way towards transforming one of San Francisco's most dangerous streets into a safe corridor for people walking and biking. Pending January approvals, the protected bike lanes will be accompanied by a road diet, reducing the number and width of faster moving traffic lanes on Turk. If approved, this new protected bike lane will be the first westbound protected bike lane through the Tenderloin, allowing for direct connections from Market to Polk.

# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 2018 MEMBER ELECTIONS**



Member voting for seven seats on our board of directors will open on Jan. 31 and close on Feb. 16, 2018. For complete details, and to learn more about running for the board, go to sfbike.org/board\_election.

# BETH'S BRUSH WITH BIKE THEFT: A CAUTIONARY TALE

By Chris Cassidy

In 2014, SF Bicycle Coalition member Beth Williams emerged from an event she was attending in the Mission District. She strolled back to where she had locked up her bike and found nothing remaining but the cable portion of her lock cut in two. Both her bike and U-lock were nowhere to be seen.



Member Beth Williams with then-South San Francisco Police Officer Alvarez and the bike he helped Beth recover in 2014.

One of four values enshrined in our new Strategic Plan.

More coming soon at sfbike.org

"What I learned that night is that there is no 100-percent theft-proof lock," Beth said.

Bike theft is a serious problem in San Francisco. In 2016, over 3,800 bikes were stolen at a cost of over \$5 million, according to an estimate by *Hoodline*.

In a city where many are struggling to make ends meet, losing a bike can be disastrous. After only housing costs, transportation is the second-highest monthly expense for the average San Francisco household. And biking offers the affordable transportation that many residents rely on to remain living here.

Using a high-quality, hardened steel U-lock to secure both your rear tire and the rear triangle of your bike frame is among the most effective locking methods. Add a cable or second lock to secure your front tire, and the chances of keeping your bike are greatly improved. Members can find discounts on locks from an array of local bike shops at sfbike.org/discounts.

Two common locking mistakes are evident all over town, however. Some folks use locks that are too big, leaving space for thieves to access the lock with saws, bolt cutters and other tools. Employing the smallest U-lock possible decreases both the lock surface area and the angles available to would-be thieves.

Additionally, it is all too common to see U-locks securing just the top tube — that segment of the frame between the seat post and the handlebars. This method risks exposing more surface area of the U-lock to tampering and leaves both wheels at risk. It also opens up the possibility of a thief using the top tube for leverage against your U-lock.

Sadly, even the best locking arrangements only delay a determined thief. While some locking techniques are more formidable obstacles to thieves than others, no lock is absolutely certain to prevent theft, as Beth learned the hard way.

Before even taking your bike out on the streets, though, there is one important step to take.

Registering with SAFE Bikes, a citywide bike registry, can go a long ways towards helping police recover your ride, should thieves strike. When officers recover stolen bikes, they turn to SAFE Bikes to look up the serial numbers. Police can then reach out to bikes' rightful owners, using the contact information logged with SAFE Bikes. Registration with SAFE Bikes is free, and there's a link to their registration page at sfbike.org/theft.

Registration was the first step toward the recovery of Beth's bike.



After discovering her bike missing, Beth filed a police report at SFPD's Mission Station. "I did everything recommended by the SF Bicycle Coalition," Beth said. (Psst! Those recommendations are all available at sfbike.org/theft.)

Four days later, not having heard from the police, Beth began looking for a similar make and model to replace her beloved missing bike. She started with online sites where people resell bikes and — to her great surprise — she found her stolen bike listed for sale in South San Francisco.

"The description was extremely detailed about the gears and modifications made to the original bike," Beth said. "They knew exactly how to market the bike. They just had beautiful details about it that made you think, 'Wow, what a cool vintage bike!'"

"They knew more about the bike than I did!" she added.

Beth called the South San Francisco Police Department.

"My heart was pounding. South San Francisco Police suggested that I make arrangements to meet the seller, then come to the police station before the meeting," Beth said. "Essentially, we set up a sting operation."

Beth arranged to meet the seller near South San Francisco's City Hall. Then she went to the police station in South San Francisco, where she met Officer Alvarez. Beth and Officer Alvarez hopped into a squad car and headed toward the meeting place she had agreed on with the person attempting to sell Beth her own bike.

Officer Alvarez dropped Beth three blocks away, and she approached the meet-up spot by foot.

"I felt a little bit at risk meeting this guy, not knowing how he would react when he realized he was being caught up in a sting," Beth said. "I walked up and started talking with the seller. When I asked him if I could ride the bike and got on, police immediately swooped in and arrested the seller."

Beth was able to take her bike home that day. The recovery was successful because Beth had recorded her bike's serial number with SAFE Bikes and filed it away at home along with photos of her bike.

"The main thing to remember when you buy a new bike and you're very excited is to be sure to take pictures of it and record your serial number. It lets you prove that it's your bike," Beth said.

While there's no one guaranteed way to prevent bike theft or ensure the recovery of a stolen bike, Beth's story shows the value of registering your bike and maintaining your own records, should the day arrive when you need that information.

# **ADDRESSING THEFT**

By Brian Weidenmeier

The sinking feeling in your stomach as you approach the rack where you locked your bike only to find it nowhere in sight. The confusion that quickly turns to panic and then anger. Weighing your options and next steps: is it even worth filing a police report? The mental math of tallying the costs of a replacement bike.

At the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, we know that bicycle theft is the second most commonly cited reason for why more people don't ride in our city, trailing only safety concerns. To grow the number of people choosing to bike, we need to continue to demand action and find real solutions to addressing bicycle theft.

Beyond the preventative measures discussed at left, what else can be done?

The SF Bicycle Coalition believes in enforcement strategies targeting theft that have been demonstrated to be effective. Community policing strategies can reduce the incidence of property crime like bicycle theft. Police also need to dedicate resources to the thorough investigation of theft as part of a dedicated unit, otherwise bicycle theft falls down their list of priorities.

Two SF Supervisors stepped forward this summer to propose enforcement-based policies. Supervisor Jeff Sheehy introduced a bill that defined and targeted open air chop shops, assemblages of five or more bicycles or bicycle parts in the public right of way. Supervisor Hillary Ronen proposed directing the San Francisco Police Department to alter their centralized approach to investigating and enforcing neighborhood property crimes, particularly bike theft, by creating task forces based at each police station. After listening carefully to the concerns of our members along the way the SF Bicycle Coalition came to support both measures.

We look forward to continuing to work with City leaders, including Police Chief Bill Scott and Director of Public Works Mohammed Nuru, as these strategies are implemented. As we researched prevention, enforcement and recovery strategies that have proven successful in other jurisdictions, one thing became clear: we need more data to better understand the scope of the bicycle theft problem in SF. We know it's serious; but just when, where and how often it occurs is not fully tracked. As San Francisco steps up its fight against theft, we will closely monitor the political landscape and advocate forcefully for just, effective solutions.



Mark your calendars to join students, families, school staff and community leaders in celebrating Bike & Roll to School Week this April.



We're launching a new monthly advice column for people who bike. The first column is premiering here in the *Tube Times*. Though bikes, biking, and getting around SF is our area of expertise, feel free to ask anything! Submit your questions at sfbike.org/wheeltalk.

Wheel Talk, I've noticed that more and more people are riding around with music playing from their bikes. Some people have small Bluetooth speakers, while others seem to have club-ready PA systems rigged to their frames. Call me a noise-pollution curmudgeon, but isn't this just adding to the din of the city and intruding on the peace of others on the road? —Plugged Ears

Dear Plugged Ears, I hope you didn't earn your sobriquet because you have rubber-tipped headphones permanently crammed in while you're in the saddle. One of the aspects of this trend that I really appreciate is that many people are choosing Bluetooth speakers over headphones, which allows people to enjoy their tunes while still maintaining awareness of street sounds.

But as with so many things in life, the answer shifts with context and with scale. At big parades or marches, I love a booming subwoofer mounted on a bike trailer. The same subwoofer blasting down Valencia during rush hour, however, is disrespectful at best and dangerous at wors. In that context a Bluetooth speaker at a reasonable level is great, though. But for Pete's sake, people: when entering an enclosed space such as a BART train, turn it off!

Wheel Talk, I just recently moved to the city. While biking near Mission Bay, I was pulled over by a cop and ticketed for running a flashing red light and having both earbuds in. The fines came to nearly \$500! The cop told me not to worry — I could contact the SF Bicycle Coalition and take a class, which would get the ticket wiped away. Where do I sign up? —Lesson Learned

**Dear Lesson Learned**, Oh if only the left hand of the law would take a look at what the right hand is doing! I get this question frequently from people who have been misinformed by a police officer. Sadly, it's not true, Lesson Learned.

Here's how the confusion originated: in 2015, California passed a law that permits municipalities to institute a bike traffic ticket

diversion program, such as what the officer described. However, municipalities must actively institute the program, which SF has not yet done. Why not? The law specifically states that the program must be sanctioned by local law enforcement agencies — as in, the SFPD. That has not yet happened.

But fear not! Your San Francisco Bicycle Coalition is working hard with various segments of the San Francisco government to get a program rolling, and we're feeling hopeful. Stay tuned!

Wheel Talk, I get apoplectic when I see cars double parked in the bike lane. More often than not, they have telltale Uber and Lyft stickers in the window. Now, I'm no purist. Every so often, I take a Lyft home at the end of a night out. Last night I did so. When the driver dropped me off, she pulled over into the bike lane! I was appalled and gave the driver a mediocre review. Was that the right thing to do?

—Heading Home

Dear Heading Home: Discussing the impact that so-called ridesharing companies have on biking can be like trying to untangle a hairball (or even the Hairball). Like many riders, I have a special forehead vein that pops out just for Uber and Lyft drivers in bike lanes. At the same time, this behavior is in many ways a down-lane effect of the "gig economy", which relies on contractors instead of employees who can be required to attend comprehensive safety training. Actual taxi drivers, by contrast, must take a live training from yours truly before they are permitted by the SFMTA.

So is it fair to penalize your driver for this behavior by leaving a bad review? Maybe — every person behind the wheel should still know that pulling their car into a bike line is unacceptable and dangerous. But your driver is also trying to get by in a system that's in many ways stacked against them. So here's what you do next time, HH: first, use your words. Ask your driver not to pull over in the bike lane and explain why. And then send a message to the transportation network company, demanding that they take responsibility for training their drivers. Our safety depends on it. Try support@uber.com or support@lyft.com. Feel free to cc: christopher@sfbike.org.

# TIME TO FIX VALENCIA STREET

By Julia Raskin

Valencia was once a huge SF Bicycle Coalition success story. Today, double-parked Ubers, Lyfts and delivery vehicles highlight the urgent need for protected bike lanes on the heavily-biked Valencia Street corridor.

# TIMELINE

1994

Valencia bike lanes approved.

1999

Valencia bike lanes striped.

2009

Uber introduced to SF streets.

Nov. 14, 2017

Funding approved to start planning and implementation of protected bike lanes on Valencia.

# Today

Your SF Bicycle
Coalition continues
advocating to
transform Valencia
Street into the
optimal northsouth bike route
that San Francisco
deserves.

Winter 2018

SFMTA plan open houses to discuss design options.

September 2018 SFMTA board approval sought.

# Just the Facts

Valencia sees an average of

60,000

bike rides per month.

In the year following the addition of the bike lanes, the number of people biking increased by

117 percent

and car traffic decreased by 12 percent.

Rides reached an all-time high in May 2016, also known as Bike Month, with

66,103 rides!

In 1999, Valencia became the first major thoroughfare to add bike lanes in the city, reducing fast-moving traffic by removing

# two auto lanes

in favor of dedicated space for people biking.

Currently 15 percent of all vehicle trips in San Francisco are taken with so-called transportation network companies like Uber and Lyft. Their negative impact on safety and congestion may be more apparent on Valencia Street than on any other corridor.

# Taking Action

# 2016

Your SF Bicycle
Coalition begins
pressuring City
officials to
prioritize
improvements to
transform Valencia
Street into the
optimal north-south
bike route that San
Francisco deserves.

# **May 2017**

Activists and SF Bicycle Coalition members begin drawing muchneeded attention to safety concerns on Valencia with a series of People-Protected Bike Lane actions.

# Nov. 2017

SFCTA Board votes to approve funding for the first steps towards protected bike lanes on Valencia.

Go to sfbike.org/valencia for updates and to join the campaign for protected bike lanes.





# **JUST GALS BEING GALS**

By Maggie Fields

In San Francisco, where men outnumber women who bike, how can we create welcoming and inclusive spaces for all women, trans\* and femme-identified people? That's a guiding question for Gals with Gears, an SF Bicycle Coalition program founded and organized by women over 50 years of age, offering their peers welcoming monthly rides all over the Bay Area.



"I personally appreciate the independence, convenience and empowerment that come with biking."



"I was tired of pulling up to intersections along Market Street on my bike and being the only woman, much less the only woman over 50," said Lenore McDonald. "I seized on the idea of organizing rides for people like me."

Looking around at the gender imbalance among people biking, Lenore co-founded Gals with Gears along with fellow SF Bicycle Coalition members Carla Stern, Maggie Robbins and Alexis Jakob. They continue Gals' rides to this day, in which people with a range of biking experiences are welcome and nobody is left behind.

"I think there is a special comfort level knowing that you'll be amongst women on the older side, that there is always a sweep rider and that there's no rush or competition," Carla said. "That said, the Gals are open to all women, and we always have some riders way under 50, too."

Gals with Gears aims to empower all women to embrace the fun and freedom of biking. In addition to a warm, welcoming environment, ride leaders offer practical tips.

"We show women how to fit their helmets correctly and how to put their bikes on a Muni bus, and we insist on observing rules of the road," Lenore said.

Beyond enjoying regular recreational rides, Lenore and the Gals also prefer making their everyday trips throughout SF by bike.

"I personally appreciate the independence, convenience and empowerment that come with biking. You aren't beholden to bus and BART schedules or the availability of parking," Lenore said. "Experiencing the sensations of the city from the seat of my bike has enriched my life and enabled me to appreciate this beautiful city and countryside we live in and around.

"And it's just more interesting than passing through a place in the cocoon of a car," Lenore added.

Want to join Gals with Gears on their next ride? It's listed along with all of our Women Bike SF events for women, trans\* and femme-identifying folks at sfbike.org/women.



McLaren Bike Park is a project close to a decade in the making. Through years of fundraising and advocacy, a group of dedicated people made their dream of San Francisco's first mountain bike park a reality.

A mountain bike park is an enclosed area where off-road enthusiasts can ride their bicycles on varying degrees of challenging terrain. In the case of McLaren Bike Park, there is something for everyone. Toddlers can take their strider bikes on the outer track, while more experienced riders can ride the bowls and jumps in the center.

If you're gearing up for a weekend day trip to the new McLaren Bike Park, plan ahead and consider the directions below:

From the Excelsior: Take Persia Avenue before taking a right on Sunnydale Avenue, which leads directly to the park, or connect from Russia Avenue to Sunnydale through a quick trail segment.

From Crocker Amazon: If you're in an off-road mood, several unnamed trails lead up from Geneva Avenue to Sunnydale Avenue right by the bike park. If not, connect on Moscow Street to Persia or Russia avenues and follow the directions above.

From Sunnydale and Visitacion Valley: The bike park is most easily accessible from these neighborhoods. Once on Sunnydale Avenue, head west and you can't miss it.

A lot of maintenance goes into keeping the bike park in top shape, and volunteers are always needed. If you're interested, there are opportunities to help with maintenance, community outreach, fundraising and volunteer training. Donations are also welcome as planning moves forward for phase two of the park.

See mclarenbikepark.com/volunteer for a full list of ways to get involved.

# DBA: BUILDING A BETTER, BIKEABLE SF

By Anna Gore & Chris Cassidy



Photo by ©Anne Hamersky, courtesy of DBA

# Thank you

to our latest new and renewing members:

Bicycle Coffee Company
Levi Strauss and Company
Postmates
Quantcast
Ridar Systems
The Veen Firm
Workday

We started our Business Membership program to engage businesses and entrepreneurs who support better biking in San Francisco. David Baker Architects (DBA) has been with us since the beginning.

Not only is DBA a bike-friendly firm that supports our advocacy, but it's also a great place to work for people biking.

"We offer employees a range of incentives for biking: a monthly bonus, subsidized bike share, office bikes you can check out, free SF Bicycle Coalition memberships and more," DBA principal and founder David Baker said recently. "We have secure bike parking and a shower in the office if you need it."

David himself is a long-time SF Bicycle Coalition member who regularly gets around town by bike.

"Besides the fact that it is fun and good for you, biking is the quickest way to get around the city and allows you to be better connected," David said. "Passing cars that are stuck in traffic is always fun, and you can choose to take a different route for a different adventure every day. Plus, you never have to look for parking!"

Though he loves biking in SF, David knows as well as any of us that a lot more could be done to welcome more people to the fun and freedom of biking in our city.

"San Francisco still has a lot of room for improvement when it comes to supporting people who bike. We need better paved and protected bike lanes — including more left-turn lanes for bikes," David said. "Additionally more separated bike paths would keep the best lanes from becoming overcrowded and unsafe."

Both David and DBA know that supporting advocacy for people who bike is the best investment they can make towards a more bikeable, livable city.

"We believe in walking the walk, or I guess you'd say 'biking the bike,'" David said. "We believe in the mission of the SF Bicycle Coalition and want to instill or reinforce that feeling in our staff.

"We want to promote and support bicycle advocacy in San Francisco, make riding safer, and to connect with the bike community, including other Business Members."

From our Business Members to our Bicycle-Friendly Business Awards, we're always looking for more ways to engage local businesses in our advocacy for people who bike. Learn more about ways that businesses can support making SF the best biking city it can be at sfbike.org/business.



By Christopher White

# The San Francisco Bicycle Coalition has a new class: Night and All-Weather Biking. Here's a taste!

Years ago, I left a meet-up with a friend in the Mission. We could see our breath in the crisp January air, and a sliver of moon hung over us. My friend swung her leg over her saddle.

"Where are your bike lights?" I asked, frowning.

She shrugged. "Somewhere in my apartment. But all the streets are so lit up."

"Gurll"

"I know," she said, rolling her eyes.

Yes, we can easily convince ourselves that bike lights on urban streets are redundant. But even if you can see perfectly well (or so you think), most people on bikes realize our lights help others see us even more than they help us see. Although many streets in SF are well lit, conditions change quickly from block to block. And at night many artificial light sources compete for drivers' attention, so you need to stand out. On well-lit streets, or at dusk, use your lights in flashing mode — the better to attract the attention of people in cars. But on darker streets, use a solid beam; it's easier for others to judge your distance and motion if your light is the only thing visible.

It's also the law in California that, at night, bikes must be equipped with at least one front white headlight and one red rear reflector. Without those, police could pull you over. Traffic fines for people on bikes can be hefty, but this one is easily avoidable. Of course, we recommend going beyond the minimum required by law. At the very least, a red rear light will keep you visible to drivers overtaking you from behind.

Aside from the law, lights give important protection even on well-lit streets. In even slightly reduced light, a person's peripheral vision decreases significantly. Because people on bikes generally ride to the right on streets (keeping outside the door zone, of course), we depend on the peripheral vision of people in cars. Your lights help you overcome their compromised vision.

When should you turn on your lights, though? Many people assume full darkness is the signal, but particularly in winter, when the sun is low in the sky for much of the late afternoon, we recommend turning lights on when we reach "the squinting hour." This is when the sun is low enough in the sky that people might squint from the sun's glare. Lights in flashing mode can cut through the blinding glare, improving your visibility to drivers.

Need more reasons to use lights while riding? Several weeks after my evening ride with my bike-light-less friend, I saw her again. She had recently had a minor collision with someone driving on Valencia. The distracted driver had been fumbling with her wallet while pulling out of a driveway and had clipped my friend. My friend was okay but still called the police in case damage to her bike or body crept up later. When the police arrived, they assessed the scene and found my friend at fault simply because she had no bike lights after dark.

Now that we are far past daylight savings time, be sure to keep those bike lights handy, with an extra set nearby in case batteries lose their charge. Let's keep our evening streets safe and illuminated.

Get more tips for biking after dark or in wet weather by signing up for our **free** Night and All-Weather Biking class! Visit **sfbike.org/education**.

# **TUBE TIMES 162**

# 

JANUARY · FEBRUARY · MARCH

# CHAIN OF EVENTS

For additions to the Chain of Events, visit sfbike.org/events. To submit an event or organize a ride, go to "Submit an Event" at the bottom of our website. Events not officially organized by the SF Bicycle Coalition are marked with an asterisk.

# 

# **EVENTS**

sfbike.org/events

### WOMEN BIKE SF COFFEE CLUB 8:00 - 9:00 am

Fri, Jan. 5 | Duboce Park Cafe, 2 Sanchez St.

Fri, Feb. 2 | Sweet Inspiration, 2239 Market St.

Fri, Mar. 2 | Inner Sunset Arizmendi, 1331 Ninth Ave.

Women Bike SF is a San Francisco Bicycle Coalition program that aims to encourage and inspire more women, trans\* and femme-identified individuals to ride bikes with social events, rides and workshops. Once a month, an informal gathering of women who bike meet to talk bikes, share tips and caffeinate together. This is a perfect place to find riding buddies and answer some of your questions about biking in SF. Bring your ideas, questions and friends. sfbike.org/women

### **BIKE TO THE THEATER NIGHTS\***

Wed, Jan. 10 | 8:00 pm | The Birthday Party - ACT - The Geary Theater, 405 Geary St.

Wed, Feb. 21 | 8:00 pm | Vietgone -A.C.T. The Strand Theater, 1127 Market St.

Wed, Mar. 14 | 8:00 pm | Heisenberg - ACT - The Geary Theater, 405 Geary St

Come out to these special nights of theater specifically for people who bike! Join for a preshow happy hour from 7:00 – 8:00 pm at A.C.T.'s Sky Bar (inside the Geary Theater) for complimentary beer and snacks. Patrons who bike to the theater receive a special discount on tickets (\$35 off Orchestra, \$25 off Mezzanine, and \$10 off Balcony), using code "THEATERSFBC" online or by phone.

sfbike.org/events



### NEW MEMBER MEET & GREET

**Thu, Jan. 11** | 6:00 - 7:30 pm | SF Bicycle Coalition, 1720 Market St.

Stop by for snacks, refreshments and newmember giveaways, and chat with your SF Bicycle Coalition staff about your experience bicycling in the city. You'll come away with information, enthusiasm, new friends and excitement about all of the great things your membership is bringing to our city. sfbike.org/events

# BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING\*

**Mondays, Jan. 22, Feb. 26, Mar. 26** | 6:30 - 7:30 pm | City Hall, Room 408, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl.

The committee meets monthly to consider bicycle transportation projects and policies to

make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, the SFMTA, and other City and County agencies. sfgov.org/byac

# SF BICYCLE COALITION BOARD MEETING

Tuesdays, Feb. 27, Mar. 27 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm | SF Bicycle Coalition, 1720 Market St

The SF Bicycle Coalition is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The board is responsible for the organization's financial health and achievement of its mission. SF Bicycle Coalition members are invited to attend all board meetings. No RSVP needed. sfbike.org/board

# LET'S TALK: GENDER, FEMINISM & BIKING

**Wed, Jan. 24** | 6:00 - 8:00 pm | Location TBD

Join us for a special discussion featuring a panel of inspiring, trailblazing women, moderated by Katie Styer, host of KGPC's Oakland Bikes! radio program. We'll explore the intersections between identity, feminism and biking, with an eye towards the barriers faced by femme-identifying or gender-nonconforming people. Kids are welcome; light snacks and beverages will be provided. sfbike.org/women

### ALL MEMBER MEETING Wed, Jan. 31 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm | Location TBD

Join us for our Annual Member Meeting to learn what's new at the SF Bicycle Coalition and share feedback on the campaigns that matter the most to you. We want to hear how we're doing and what we should be focusing on in the coming year. The Member Meeting will also feature a SF Bicycle Coalition Board of Directors candidate forum. All candidates will be given an opportunity to speak, and members will have a chance to meet the candidates and ask them questions directly after the forum. sfbike.org/events



# SAVE THE DATE: BIKE & ROLL TO SCHOOL WEEK

Apr. 16-20 | All Week | Citywide

Join thousands of students, parents and school staff across San Francisco in this annual celebration of active, healthy transportation to schools. Any parent or school staff member may organize the event at your school, and everyone from pre-K through high school is welcome to participate. Registration opens Feb. 1. sfbike.org/family



# SAVE THE DATE: BAY AREA BIKE TO WORK DAY

Thu, May 10 | SF Bay Area

The Bay Area loves biking, and one of the most fun and rewarding days to bike is the annual Bay Area Bike to Work Day celebration. Join the SF Bicycle Coalition and thousands of others who will be biking to work on this great day. Energizer Stations will be set up in neighborhoods across the city to offer free coffee, bike tune-ups, snacks and other goodies. sfbike.org/btwd

# RIDES

sfbike.org/rides

# EXCELSIOR WALK & ROLL TO SCHOOL DAYS\*

Tuesdays, Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30; Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27; Mar. 6, 13, 20 | 8:00 am | Excelsior Playground, 579 Madrid St

SF Safe Routes to School welcomes all students and families to the community starting point for walkers and rollers to school. See friends and neighbors at Excelsior Playground and enjoy a healthy start to your day. Participating Safe Routes schools are SF Community School, Cleveland Elementary, and Monroe Elementary. Walk, bike or scooter, hop off MUNI or park your car, then walk or roll with us to school. stbike.org/events

### COMMUNITY CRUISE: PROTECTED LANES

**Sun, Jan. 21** | 1:30 - 4:30 pm | In Chan Kaajal Park, 3100 17th St.

In the fourth installment of our Community Cruise partnership with ¡PODER!, we'll be traveling the road of San Francisco's busiest and best bicycle infrastructure and discussing the ways in which access to affordable transportation creates opportunities for communities. All skill levels welcome. No riders will be left behind by the group. sfbike.org/rides

### ARCHITECTURE RIDE: THE REID BROTHERS IN THE RICHMOND Sat, Mar. 3 | 1:30 pm | Velo Rouge

Sat, Mar. 3 | 1:30 pm | Velo Rouge Cafe, 798 Arguello Blvd.

Did you enjoy the Feb. 3 introduction to the Reid Brothers? Whether you're a Reid Brothers fan, a Richmond District history hound or you just fancy a nice ride around the neighborhood, come along on this non-athletic, non-academic architecture bike tour. James and Merritt Reid designed an

impressive number of San Francisco's buildings in the early 20th century. We'll take a look at nine of the Reids' Richmond District projects that help round out the collection.

### GALS WITH GEARS | 10:00 am Sun, Feb. 4 | Level A: Cruise the Alameda

Sun, Mar. 4 | Level A: Golden Gate Park to Ocean Beach

Explore the Bay with the Gals! These monthly scenic rides are geared for women aged 50+ years young, but all riders are welcome. Four levels of rides offered to accommodate everyone from new to experienced riders. No rider is left behind! RSVP required: **RSVP required: sfbike.org/qals**.

# ARCHITECTURE RIDE: THE REID BROTHERS IN SF

**Sat, Feb. 3** | 1:30 pm | David Hewes Building, 995 Market St.

From the turn of the 20th century through its first few decades, James and Merritt Reid designed an impressive number of San Francisco's buildings, from theaters to hotels, office towers to townhouses, bandshells to barns. With scant professional training but plenty of hustle, these Canadian brothers left their mark across the width of our city. Come discover some of their work and hear their story.

### BIKE TOUR OF SF STREET PARKS

Sun, Mar. 4 | 1:00 pm | Tunnel Top Park, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave.

The SF Bicycle Coalition and the SF Parks Alliance are teaming up for a tour of SF's Street Parks -- community built spaces that range from traditional parks and gardens to tiled stairways to open rec spaces. Street Parks are created when communities identify a space, come up with a design and raise funds to build them, with support from the SF Parks Alliance and SF Public Works. Hear the story of how these Street Parks were created directly from the community members who built them. sfbike.org/rides

# COME TOGETHER FOR AN UNPLUGGED BIKE RIDE

Sun, Mar. 10 | 9:00 am | California Academy of Sciences, 55 Music Concourse Dr.

Get off your phone and get on your bike. Reboot and the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition are using the National Day Of Unplugging to bring diverse groups together for a symbolic ride of unity through interfaith landmarks around our beautiful city. The National Day of Unplugging joins people around the world in carving out time to put down digital devices, unwind, relax, reflect, get outdoors and connect with each other. sfbike.org/rides

# FREE CLASSES

Don't see a class date that works for you? We're always adding more. For the most up-to-date list of classes, and to submit the required RSVP for any class, go to: sfbike.org/education

### LEARN TO RIDE WITH YBIKE IN THE PRESIDIO\*

Sundays, Jan. 7, Feb. 4, Mar. 4 11:00 am - 2:00 pm | Presidio Main Post Lawn, 103 Montgomery St.

Learn to ride your bike with YBike's awesome instructors. We provide bikes of all sizes and equipment. You just bring your game face (ideally a big, toothy grin) and a little determination. Children of all ages welcome. Repeats first Sunday of every month. Exact location in the Presidio may vary; for updates, check ybike.org.

### LEARN TO RIDE WITH YBIKE IN THE WESTERN ADDITION\*

Sat, Jan. 27 | 11:00 am | Rosa Parks Elementary School, 1501 O'Farrell St

Safe Routes to School presents a YBike Learn-to-Ride open to the community. Children practice bike handling and balance skills at their own pace. Our instructors help new riders and their parents work together based on each child's ability. Children who already have some biking ability will improve their skills by practicing turns, stops, and hand signals. sfbike.org/events

### **FAMILY BIKE: ON ROAD**

Sat, Jan 27 | 1:00 pm | Rosa Parks Elementary School, 1501 O'Farrell

Join SF Bicycle Coalition instructors for a neighborhood bike ride on a bike route that includes car-free paths, dedicated bike lanes and residential streets. This is a short loop, open to adults and children with basic riding ability. sfbike.org/events

### WOMEN BIKE SF INTRO TO URBAN BICYCLING WORKSHOP

**Thu, Mar. 8** | 6:00 - 7:00 pm | SF Bicycle Coalition, 1720 Market St.

Come learn the basics of biking in San Francisco at our Intro to Urban Bicycling Workshop for women, trans\* and femmeidentified people. Our one-hour course covers bicycling for everyday riding in SF, the rules of the road, route planning and more. No bicycle is necessary for this in-classroom class. RSVP: sfbike.org/education



### ADULT LEARN TO RIDE

Ongoing, returning March 2018

You're never too old to learn to ride a bicvcle. Instructors will work one-on-one to teach the basics of balancing, starting, stopping and steering a bike, as well as proper helmet fit and adjustment. Most people learn to ride their bikes while taking

the class, but even if they don't, they will leave with tips to continue teaching themselves to ride. sfbike.org/education

### **FAMILY BIKING CLASSES** Ongoing

Your SF Bicycle Coalition offers a range of family biking workshops for all ages, including family on-road practice: Biking with Babies, Freedom From Training Wheels and more. For dates, times and more information, see sfbike.org/family

### INTRO TO URBAN BICYCLING WORKSHOP

Ongoing

Come learn the basics of biking in San Francisco at our Intro to Urban Bicycling Workshop. Our one-hour course covers bicycling for everyday riding in SF, the rules of the road, route planning and more. sfbike.org/education

### NIGHT & ALL-WEATHER BIKING Ongoing

In a city that (almost) never sleeps, where mist and precipitation might roll in at any moment, it's important to feel confident riding in any condition. This class, designed for riders who feel comfortable navigating urban streets, will teach you how to be prepared for whatever comes our way

### sfbike.org/education

### TRAFFIC SKILLS 101: CLASSROOM WORKSHOP

Ongoing

Looking to get comfortable riding in San Francisco? Join us for a presentation covering all you need to know for biking in SF and the Bay Area. This is the perfect class for those already riding to hone their skills or for people interested in riding but intimidated by urban traffic. No bicycle is necessary for this class. sfbike.org/education

### TRAFFIC SKILLS 101: ON-ROAD Ongoing, returning April 2018

Practice what you learned in the Traffic Skills 101: Classroom. This on-bicycle class follows a comfortable progression onto city streets, beginning with a short review of the lessons from the classroom course. After a basic bike maintenance session, the class will practice bike maneuvering skills in a car-free practice area before riding on the streets in small, intimate groups led by instructors. You will gain experience riding alongside moving traffic in different traffic conditions and apply the safe-riding techniques practiced in the car-free space into real life. sfbike.org/education

# VOLUNTEER

RSVPs required except where noted. sfbike.org/volunteer

### VOLUNTEER NIGHT

Tuesdays, Jan. 9, Feb. 13, Mar. 13 | 5:00 - 8:00 pm | SF Bicycle Coalition, 1720 Market St.

This SF Bicycle Coalition tradition has been happening for as long as we can remember, and newcomers are always welcome. So stop by, snack on tasty treats, chat with fellow members, and help us keep our organization rolling as we work together on group office tasks. Dinner is provided. Bring a friend — the more the merrier! We have ample indoor bike parking, so don't forget to bring your bike into the office. No RSVP necessary.

# COMMUNITY REPAIR NIGHT

Wednesdays, Jan. 10, Jan. 24, Feb. 28, Mar. 14, Mar. 28 | 5:00 - 8:00 pm

Want an opportunity to practice working on bikes? Are you an experienced mechanic and want to donate your skills to help make sure all San Franciscans have affordable transportation? Or do you just want to get your hands a little dirty? Come on out and get greasy at our Community Bike Build Prep Night. We'll be fixing up bikes to get them ready to give away at future Community Bike Builds. Snacks and beverages will be provided. RSVP at sfbike.org/volunteer

### SF BICYCLE COALITION PHONE BANK

Tuesdays, Jan. 16, Feb. 6, Mar. 6; Wednesdays, Feb. 21, Mar. 21; and **Thu, Jan. 4** | 5:30 - 8:00 pm | SF Bicycle Coalition, 1720 Market St.

Join the volunteers who keep the SF Bicycle Coalition membership strong. No coldcalling, just calls to friendly lapsed members offering an easy way to renew. Plan to stay for the thank-you dinner afterward and get to know your fellow volunteers

### **BICYCLE AMBASSADOR** TRAINING

**Thu, Jan. 25** | 6:00 - 7:30 pm | SF Bicycle Coalition, 1720 Market St.

Flex your advocacy muscle and become a Bicycle Ambassador! Come to our training to get up to date on what's going on with your SF Bicycle Coalition and learn how to sign up new members. This training will prepare you to volunteer at races, festivals, Service Stations and other events. Please note that you must be a current member of the SF Bicycle Coalition to become a Bicycle

### VALET BICYCLE PARKING Ongoing

Justifiably famous in SF, the SF Bicycle Coalition's Valet Bicycle Parking is like a coat check for bikes. Volunteers are trained onsite by our friendly and experienced Valet Supervisors; no previous experience required. View upcoming opportunities and sign up at

sfbike.org/valetvolunteer

# COMMUNITY BIKE BUILDS

Your SF Bicycle Coalition works with a variety of community-based organizations around San Francisco to organize Community Bike Builds. Each event is an opportunity for the community to come together and refurbish reclaimed bicycles for its members. Each Community Bike Build needs more than a dozen volunteers to help out with both mechanical and nonmechanical tasks, and lunch will be provided. We'd love your help. RSVP at sfbike.org/volunteer

### POP UP SERVICE STATIONS Twice monthly | Citywide

Twice a month, your SF Bicycle Coalition pops up in different neighborhoods with our friendly, volunteer-staffed Service Stations, offering high fives and free coffee or other goodies to folks riding by. If you'd like to volunteer to brighten the rides of fellow commuters, view our upcoming Service Stations dates and locations, and sign up at sfbike.org/volunteer.

### BARTER MEMBERSHIP

Volunteer for 10 hours in a three-month period and earn a year's membership for free. If you'd like to get started with our Barter Membership program, please visit sfbike.org/membership



SAN FRANCISCO BICYCLE COALITION 1720 Market Street San Francisco, CA 94102

sfbike.org

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**PERMIT #3819** 

# Biking by the Numbers

Bike Share for All members gaining affordable, healthy transportation across the bay area.

10,000+

members making everything we do for people biking in SF.

~200 people

every month we're reaching in person with the rules of the road. 2.2 miles

We're fighting for protected bike lanes on Market Street from the Embarcadero through Octavia.

130,000

views of our rules of the road video at sfbike.org/bikelaw.

of people in San Francisco now report biking at least occasionally.

Please Support your SF Bicycle Coalition with a taxdeductible gift today at sfbike.org/donate.

# **BECOME A SAN FRANCISCO BICYCLE COALITION MEMBER** AND GET DISCOUNTS ALL OVER TOWN!

All Good Pizza Everchange Fitness American Cyclery fitBERNAL fit Arizmendi Bakery\* Avenue Cyclery Bay City Bike Rentals & Tours Bespoke Cycles The Big Hand Massage Big Swingin' Cycles The Bike Connection Bike Friday Blazing Saddles Bike Rentals Body Awakening Box Dog Bikes Charlies Coat Chrome Citizen Chain City Cycle of San Francisco Civic Cyclery Coletta Gelato Dandyhorse SF Bike Adventures DD Cycles Dolores Park Café

fit.GLENfit. Fort Point Beer Company Freewheel Golden State Health Good Hotel Good Vibrations\* Green Apple Books Greens To Go Heavy Metal Bike Shop High Trails Cyclery Huckleberry Bicycles IMPACT Bay Area Kasa Indian Eatery Laughing Monk Brewing Market Street Cycles Mercury Cafe Mike's Bikes of San Francisco Mission Bicycle Company Mission Workshop Noe Valley Cyclery Nomad Cyclery

Ocean Cyclery Other Avenues Co-op P-Fits Pedal Revolution Po Campo Precita Park Café RearViz Rickshaw Bagworks Roaring Mouse Cycles SFC San Francycle Sports Basement Streets of SF Bike Tours SunPorch Yoga Swell Bicycles Timbuk2 A Tran's Bay Bike Shop TRX Training Center Valencia Cyclery Velofix Velo Rouge Cafe Vespertine

Warm Planet Bikes

Yoga Garden SF

Zipcar

SIGN ME UP FOR A NEWSLETTER:

☐ BUSINESS BULLETIN

BICYCLE EDUCATION

(MONTHLY)

(MONTHLY)

**FAMILY BIKING** 

(QUARTERLY) WOMEN BIKE SF

(MONTHLY)

\*Must arrive by bike to receive discount. See sfbike.org/discounts for details.

Nopalito\*



Become a member of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition and help us Connect the City and make San Francisco a better place to live, work and bike. As a member, you get discounts all over town, free bike trailer and air travel bike box rentals and more. See sfbike.org/membership for all the benefits.

NAME	
ADDRESS	CITY
ZIP	
HOME PHONE	EMAIL
Make checks payable to: San Fran	cisco Bicycle Coalition
Check with your employer about matching your donation.	
NAME	
CREDIT CARD NO	EXP.
DATE (MM/YY)	
□ VISA □ MASTERCARD	Do not share my name, even with cool

# **MEMBERSHIP TYPE:**

Equator Coffees & Teas

■ \$35 ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP ☐ \$52 A BUCK A WEEK ■ \$120 SUSTAINERS\* ■ \$250 SUPPORTING MEMBER\* ☐ \$500 PATRON\* ■ \$1,000 DONOR\*

\*includes free SF Bicycle Coalition t-shirt! Please choose.

☐ Women's **ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBER FOR \$15** 

Men's

NAME EMAIL:







