SAN FRANCISCO BICYCLE COALITION

TUBE

SUMMER 2019 ISSUE 168 - JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

TIMES

PROMOTING THE BICYCLE FOR EVERYDAY TRANSPORTATION



Share the Joy of Bicycling



This year, for the the first time, the young kids arriving at the Bike to Work Day Energizer Station I captained were not on the back of their parents' bikes — they were pedaling their own. Seeing that made me so proud of everything the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition has achieved to make bicycling for everyday transportation a real option for these families and many others.

So much has changed in the past few years. Not just in our cycling community and not just with bicycle infrastructure — the whole world has changed. The biggest and boldest changes are being led by a younger generation, with fresh voices who are demanding more participation, more justice, and more change. They will not settle for anything less than a shake up of all our assumptions and a rewriting of the rules — from the Green New Deal, to Black Lives Matter, to #metoo.

I'm preoccupied and, frankly, obsessed with the passion, thoughtfulness and drive of this young cohort who have inspired me to look at everything with fresh eyes and challenged me to level up my advocacy. How can we engage the next generation to bring new perspectives to our own community at the SF Bicycle Coalition, or to fight for transportation justice? It gives me shivers to think of what we will accomplish next, with young and diverse leaders at the forefront of our movement.

Thank you to all the longtime members who have helped create a different type of San Francisco, a place where we're connected to each other and our environment. Thank you for creating the space for us to demand better. Now it's time to pay it forward and make space for the new leaders of our evergrowing movement.

Jean Kao

Board President

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

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Strangest Thing You've Moved With Your Bike

Biking is our favorite way to get around, even when we've got large or heavy things with us. We love a challenge!

Need to move something big or strange? SF Bicycle Coalition members have access to free bike trailer rentals. Rent one today at sfbike.org/trailer. Not a member? Join or renew at sfbike.org/join.

We asked our Twitter and Instagram followers to share the strangest things they've transported on their bikes.



TWITTER



@rosepants

Replying to @sfbike

Christmas tree! strapped it on with bungee cords & walked it home from the lot





Noah Tye @noahlt

Replying to @sfbike

Back when we first moved to SF my then-roommates biked home carrying a 4ft-tall potted tree



Maureen @sfwom1

Replying to @sfbike

Taking 50lbs of art supplies to a school when I ran the SCRAP to You program.





Roan Kattouw @catrope

Replying to @sfbike

In college, I bought an office chair at IKEA and transported it (still in the box) 50 miles by bike+train+bike. Couldn't strap it onto my bike rack so I had to walk the bike while holding the box. Hardest part was carrying the 40-lb box through the station while changing trains.



dawsonmorton @dawsonmorton

Replying to @sfbike

Hay bale!





Stephen Braitsch @braitsch

Replying to @sfbike

I once hauled about 20 redwood 2x3s home from Discount Builders Supply to build a bookshelf for my bedroom. I sort of rode home on one pedal like a skateboard:)





Ellisa @EllisaF

Replying to @sfbike

In 2010, I strapped a 15 person tent plus a camp stove to the back of my bike.

OINSTAGRAM



@csuznc

Banana bread batter! Didn't end well.



@dream_recall

Pop up soccer goals, slung over my shoulders like bees wings



@adriennerow

An entire apartment!

Quick Releases

Hellos and Goodbyes

We're thrilled to welcome two new members to our SF Bicycle Coalition staff: Whitney Libunao, Development Associate, and Eliana Marcus-Tyler, Program Coordinator. Whitney is boosting our fundraising efforts and already has connected with thousands of our generous members and supporters. Eliana is managing our Bicycle Education programs, including hiring a roster of culturally competent and experienced Bicycle Education Instructors to teach our popular classes.

We will deeply miss Nancy Buffum, our long-time Family & Schools Program Manager, and Jen Gennari, our External Affairs Director. Nancy did so much to promote bicycling for youth and families throughout the City, and Jen is continuing to support our organization by fundraising for us on this year's Climate Ride. We'll miss you Nancy and Jen!

Giving Away More Bikes in the Bayview

We are holding one Community
Bike Build every month between
March and October in 2019, bringing
together SF Bicycle Coalition
volunteers and staff with community
organizations to provide donated
bikes to low-income San Franciscans,
in service of our strategic goal of
transportation justice. All Bike Builds
during this time will be focused on
the Bayview community. So far this
year, we've provided bikes for over
50 Bayview residents, and we're



Community Bike Build

planning to give away 120 more bikes before the start of the next school year.

If you're interested in helping us prepare the bikes we give away, come out to Community Repair Night at our Bayview warehouse space — now being held every Wednesday! You can also can volunteer at the Community Bike Builds by going to sfbike.org/volunteer.

Promoting Youth and Family Biking in the Sunset

For the sixth year in a row, Assemblymember Phil Ting hosted a Bike Safety Fair to promote youth and family biking. Hundreds of families attended this year's event on April 28 in the Outer Sunset at A.P. Giannini Middle School. There were a variety of fun activities, from test riding a family bike, to a "bike rodeo," where youth could try their skills on an obstacle course set up by the YMCA's YBike. Special thanks to Assemblymember Ting and Supervisor Gordon Mar for joining us, and to BikeMobile for providing bike repair.

The BEST Bike to Work Day Ever!

Bike to Work Day is always the best day of the year to ride a bike in San Francisco! This year, an astounding 1,365 people joined the SF Bicycle Coalition as new or renewing members, crushing all previous records! This event can only exist because of the 300 member-volunteers who wake up at the crack of dawn to cheer on their fellow riders and spread the word about the SF Bicycle Coalition. At this

year's Bike to Work Day rally, Mayor London Breed made an exciting announcement that will drastically improve cycling in SF. Find out more on page 5!

Thank you, business members

Business membership is a great way to support the work of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition and build a reputation as a bike-friendly company. If you own a business or believe your employer would like to support us, contact Whitney Libunao at wlibunao@sfbike.org.

Thank you to our latest new and renewing business members: Dropbox, Recology, Redwood Credit Union, San Francisco State University, and Skip Scooters.



Some of our amazing volunteers on Bike to Work Day

SIGN UP FOR FREE BIKE EDUCATION CLASSES

ADULT LEARN TO RIDE



RULES OF THE ROAD



NIGHT RIDING



THIS PROJECT IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY THROUGH A GRANT OF PROPOSITION K LOCAL TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX FUNDS.

sfbike.org/education



AND MORE!



We're Changing the Way Protected Bike Lanes are Built

Unprecedented progress in the last six months.

By Charles Deffarges

Early on the morning of May 9th, Bike to Work Day, Mayor London Breed took to the podium at City Hall in front of a crowd of hundreds to announce the biggest piece of news for biking in San Francisco's recent memory. Sporting an "I biked today" sticker, the Mayor declared that San Francisco would build 20 miles of protected bike lanes over the next two years.

To give that commitment some context, in 2018 San Francisco built 5.33 miles of protected bike lanes — and that was a record year. To hit the ambitious goal of 20 miles in two years, we'll have to nearly double last year's record.

This commitment to bicyclists' safety didn't come out of the blue. This year, San Francisco is on track to see far more traffic fatalities than we've seen in recent years. The epidemic level of fatalities and serious injuries on our streets has forced bike advocates and transportation planners alike to rethink the process for approving and constructing protected bike lanes. If we're going to hit the goal of 20 protected miles in two years, the City needs to build protected infrastructure in a matter of months, not years.

This year, we saw the first example of what it looks like when the City acts with urgency. Under intense pressure from our members following a collision that ended in the fatality of 30-year-old Tess Rothstein at 6th and Howard, the City removed parking spots that impeded visibility and implemented a temporary protected bike lane in just six weeks — a record speed for protected infrastructure in San Francisco.

Why did the City move so quickly on that Howard protected bike lane? Normally, projects like this one go through lengthy approvals and outreach before being built. This time, the process was reversed — the City first removed the parking and built the protected bike lane. Approvals came later. Our advocacy and our members' action made that happen.

To build 20 miles of protected bike lanes in two years, we'll need to apply this same urgency to every new bicycle safety project. Already, in partnership with the City, we've identified the next ten projects we want built by the end of this year. With those in the ground, we'll be well on our way to twenty miles.



Mayor London Breed and Executive Director Brian Wiedenmeier on Bike to Work Day

The New Faces of Bike Ed

Our Bicycle Education program is growing, so we've brought on new bike ed instructors to bring the joy of bicycling to more people in San Francisco. Nancy, Jose and Nora truly represent our values of transportation justice, sustainability, people power, and joy. Join our free classes to meet these new members of our team! Go to sfbike.org/education.



Nancy Hernandez (she/her/hers pronouns)

English-Spanish bilingual

Bikes make me feel confident, strong, and free — and I want everybody to experience the feeling that comes with getting somewhere with the power of their own legs. Bikes can be a vehicle for social change and a way to tackle health, environmental, and economic disparities in lower income communities of color. It took almost getting doored for me to realize I had the right to take the lane. I keep that feeling of empowerment by reminding myself that streets are for everybody.



José Vargas

(he/him/his pronouns)

English-Spanish bilingual

I first learned to bike in Nicaragua when I was 6, but one day I forgot how to brake and split open my forehead. They say you never forget how to ride a bike, but I did. I had to relearn when I moved to SF the following year. I find biking exhilarating, liberating and environmentally friendly. It also allows me to sleep in later, since biking is the most predictable way to get to work. I would advise someone new to biking to ease into it and be patient. Biking can be intimidating at first, but the pay-off is enormous.



Nora Dve

(she/her/hers pronouns)

English-Spanish bilingual

Feeling at home on a bicycle is an incredibly liberating experience, but there are many things that pose barriers to biking: your experience growing up, lack of access to financial and practical resources, lack of representation in the biking community, and fear of the unknown. I aim to reduce these barriers, in part through the California Field School, which takes young people on bike tours exploring social and environmental justice. This May, we're biking over 300 miles with Life Academy, an Oakland Public High School.

TUBE TIMES 168

To 12,000 and Beyond

By Brian Wiedenmeier



The San Francisco Bicycle Coalition's 10,000 members power our work. From thousands of hours spent volunteering to speaking up for safe streets, people power is at the heart of our movement.

So how do we grow that movement to 12,000 and beyond?

This year's record-breaking Bike to Work Day was a great start. Our volunteer Bicycle Ambassadors helped us sign up almost 1,400 new and renewing members in just one day.

I had so many conversations on Bike to Work Day with folks who are brand new to San Francisco and had never heard of us. Meeting people along their commute is one of my favorite ways to engage people and let them know about the work the SF Bicycle Coalition is doing to transform San Francisco into a safe, just and livable place. With some explanation of what we do and what we've accomplished, many of them joined on the spot.

And yet, many barriers still exist to becoming a member, including cost. Despite the rising wealth in our city, a \$35 membership is still out of reach for many San Franciscans. That's why I'm excited that our board of directors has begun to explore a reduced membership level for low-income individuals. We also need to continue to grow our multilingual and culturally competent outreach to San Francisco's diverse communities and neighborhoods.

I am also excited about the rise of youth voices in this movement, to which this issue of *Tube Times* pays special attention. If the average age

of our membership continues to rise, as it has, we risk losing our relevance and influence. How do we attract more young people to get involved and join? Our work needs to speak to the reality of how young people get around in San Francisco.

That means saying "yes, and..." instead of "no" when it comes to engaging new kinds of transportation modes. These include emerging mobility technology companies, such as e-scooters, bike share, and Uber and Lyft. Our purpose isn't about preserving the "purity" of bike advocacy, as some people have suggested. If we focus almost exclusively on "cyclists" and ignore other means of getting around, we would be speaking largely to people who are already members and engaged in our work, many of whom are older, white and male-identified.

"We will only grow our movement if we expand the conversation to include those who are not currently part of it."

We must continue to call out the well-documented, negative impacts of transportation network companies like Uber and Lyft, but we also need to recognize that they are transportation choices for hundreds of thousands of San Franciscans. If we can steer Uber and Lyft's operations toward positive safety

outcomes, like limiting pickups and drop-offs to streets without bike lanes and educating users and drivers about the dangers of dooring, we will not only save lives, but also raise awareness of our organization and its work. If more Uber and Lyft riders know about the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition and understand what we're working for, that's a win.

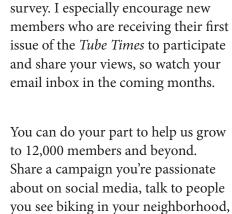
We must also try to find common cause with all of the others who have found their way onto bike lanes — for example, scooters and skateboards. Their numbers are increasing, and they share with us a need for the safe use of San Francisco's streets.

Our advocacy is increasingly including more young people, people of color and folks across the gender spectrum. As our advocacy director Janice Li wrote in our last issue, we



are a movement of people who bike, not bicycles that people use. We will only grow our movement if we expand the conversation to include

those who are not currently part of it.



Our current members will have a

later this summer via our member

chance to weigh in on all of this

or start a conversation with your co-workers about what would make it possible for them to bike to work. We can grow our membership, and our impact, by welcoming in the many thousands of people who are not already connected to the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, but who increasingly love biking in our city.



The Kids Are All Right

Learning from the Next Generation of Bike Advocates.

By Janice Li and Kristen Leckie



On March 15, hundreds of middle and high school students marched down Market Street carrying signs reading "Youth vs. Apocalypse," and "It's Our Future." As part of the worldwide Youth Climate Strike that spanned over 100 countries, these young people demanded that our representatives in Congress listen and take action to preserve a future for our people and planet.

These youth were calling out the mess they've inherited — indeed, many of the choices we made in years past put the future of today's youth at risk. America's century-old love affair with the automobile has led us to today's reality, where city streets are designed for cars, rather than for people. Just as we now bear the brunt of decades of poor decision-making, the next generation will experience the lasting effects of the decisions we're making today.

Changing how we build cities is no easy task, but your San Francisco Bicycle Coalition is working every day to make changes that will have positive effects on future generations. In the last year, we've seen some big and promising shifts. We are constructing more protected bike lanes than ever, and on Bike to Work Day, Mayor London Breed directed City staff to build 20 miles of protected bike lanes in the next two years (read more on page 5).

It's not just the pace of change that is shifting — it's also who's leading the change. Some of San Francisco's

youngest bike commuters and pedestrians have led the charge on safe streets advocacy. Whether they are going to City Hall and meeting with Supervisors or making public comment before the SF Municipal Transportation Agency's Board of Directors, more and more youth are stepping up for safety.

Take the Westside Waves, a girls soccer team that tragically lost teammate Madlen Koteva, when the fourteen-year-old was hit and killed by a driver while walking across John Muir Boulevard near Lake Merced.

"It is important for kids to advocate because it is our world as well, and we will be living on it."

For Madlen's teammates, it wasn't good enough to hope that policymakers or City planners would do the right thing. Wearing their blue soccer jerseys, they went to City Hall and met with Supervisors Norman Yee and Aaron Peskin to demand action. One teammate, Leela, told the *San Francisco Chronicle*, "It shouldn't take our friend to die to fix this problem."

A couple weeks later, the young women came back to City Hall to make public comment in support of pedestrian safety improvements. There was not a single dry eye

in the room as teammate after teammate pleaded for change. The improvements they advocated for passed unanimously, and pedestrian safety improvements are now under construction. The improvements will be completed by this summer.

Youth who get involved in advocacy are usually fighting to change the status quo. They bring optimism and urgency to stagnant conversations, compelling us to adopt entirely new perspectives and see old problems with fresh eyes.

Recently, when we asked our members to urge the SFMTA Board to approve protected bike lanes on Howard Street, 12-year-old Nadine Denmark wrote, "I ride to and from school a few times a week, and I know that it is safer to ride on Howard Street. But still, riding there is scary." Reflecting on the role of cars, Nadine added, "Some days when I am thinking about global warming and what it is doing to this earth, cars pop up in my head. They are a big part of pollution. Why can't some people see this?"

As we continue creating the San Francisco we want to live in, walk in, and bike in, we must remember that our advocacy must be the most inclusive it can be. By empowering and welcoming youth to engage in advocacy, we are cultivating the next generation of leaders who will continue fighting to clean up the mess they have inherited and work for a better city for everyone.

Nadine and Oscar Denmark, 12 and 14-year-old siblings who advocated for protected bike lanes on Howard Street

Q: Why is it important for kids to get involved in advocacy, and what do you wish adults did better?

Nadine: I think that it is important for kids to get involved because if a kid speaks up, the supervisors can see all the points of view. I wish adults would speak up for kids more and see us as citizens of San Francisco like everyone else.

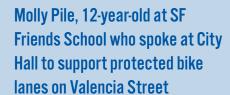
Oscar: It is important for kids to advocate because it is our world as well, and we will be living on it [for many years to come].



Q: We had big wins on Howard Street. How do you feel now?

Nadine: I am excited that changes are being made, because that means all of the hard work that people are putting into this is helping a lot. It is also exhilarating to know that I was a part of this change.

Oscar: It makes me feel that I can make a change on this planet, and that in the grand scheme of things, we could end climate change, because more people will bike.



Q: We know that some parents at your school didn't agree with this project. How did that affect you?

Molly: I think it helped that we were some of the first people to speak at City Hall. I am very glad that I spoke first, because I might not have felt comfortable speaking after hearing older people speak out against the project.



Q: What advice do you have for other youth looking to speak up at City Hall?

Molly: When you're in the moment, it's not as bad as what you thought it would be. Just walk up and speak. Then, you want to rehearse it enough times, to be comfortable saying it without mistakes.





II

Valet Bicycle Parking Coming to Chase Center Starting in September

By Jo-Anne Burgess and Rahul Young

On Friday, September 6, 2019, the Chase Center will open its doors to three long-time San Francisco legends: Metallica, the San Francisco Symphony, and San Francisco Bicycle Coalition's Valet Bicycle Parking!

For the past five years, we have been working with the Chase Center and the Golden State Warriors to ensure that the Chase Center will have stateof-the-art secure bicycle parking available for up to 300 bikes at all of its 200+ annual concerts, basketball games and events. San Francisco Bicycle Coalition staff will work all events, from two hours before each event begins to one hour after it ends. The entrance to the bicycle valet room will be on 16th St. near the corner of 3rd St. and will include two tiers of parking for all types of bicycles, including space for cargo bikes — so bring your family with you!



In 2018, we parked 11,760 bicycles at events including Giants games, Presidio Picnic, and American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) performances. Once the Chase Center opens, we'll be parking over 20,000 bikes annually, but we need your help! Apply to join our valet bicycle staff at sfbike.org/jobs.

Do you know of other events in San Francisco that should have valet bicycle parking? Email Program Coordinator Jo-Anne Burgess at joanne@sfbike.org so we can reach out to event organizers and make bike parking safe for everyone who attends.

Did you know we've been providing bicycle valet at events in San Francisco for over 25 years? Here's a sampling of other events where we provide Valet Bicycle Parking:

- SF Giants home games
- Presidio Picnic
- A.C.T. preview performances

- Dreamforce
- Google NEXT
- SF Parks and Rec Eggstravaganza
- SF Parks and Rec Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Flower Piano
- Dutch King's Day

Rides

San Francisco's Hidden Gems

1:00 pm | August 4 | PROXY, 432 Octavia St.

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. Join us for a 10-mile bike ride on the western half of the city to learn the stories of how these unique spaces were created — directly from the community members who built them. Sign up at sfbike.org/events.



Free Classes

Smart City Cycling 1: Classroom

6:30 - 8:30 pm | July 18 | Ortega Branch Library, 3223 Ortega St.

This is the perfect class for anyone already riding to hone their skills, or for people interested in riding but intimidated by urban traffic.



Smart City Cycling 2: Maneuvering

11:00 am - 1:00 pm | July 20 | Arguello Extension, by western entrance to Kezar Stadium

During this on-bike class, we'll cover bike-handling maneuvers such as scanning and signaling, as well as crash-avoidance maneuvers.

On-Bike Practice for Adult Beginning Cyclists

12:00 - 3:00 pm | July 21 | Arguello Extension, by western entrance to Kezar Stadium

We'll start by reviewing skills such as starting, stopping, and scanning, and then take to the streets to practice riding in light-traffic areas. This is a great class for those who have completed our Adult Learn to Ride classes.

You can find out more details and register on our website (sfbike.org/education) or by calling 415-431-2453 x301.

Women Bike SF

Gals with Gears: Venture by Bike From the Embarcadero to Tiburon

10:00 am | August 4 | Justin Herman Plaza, 1 Market St.

Gals with Gears is a member-led group of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition. The Gals lead monthly scenic rides geared towards women aged 50-plus-years young, although all riders are welcome. Join the Gals for an enjoyable, casually-paced ride from the Ferry Building to Tiburon and return to San Francisco by ferry. Sign up at sfbike.org/gals

Volunteer Sunday Streets

11:00 am - 4:00 pm | July 14 | Mission 11:00 am - 4:00 pm | August 18 | SoMa 11:00 am - 4:00 pm | September 8 | Tenderloin

11:00 am - 4:00 pm | September 22 | Western Addition

Sunday Streets opens streets to people by closing them to cars and creating recreational space for everyone. Help teach kids how to scoot, balance and glide on their bikes by volunteering at one of our Freedom from Training Wheels popups, or come talk to people about our work as we sign up members at our

SF Bicycle Coalition booth. Outreach is super fun and one of the most important ways you can help advance the bike projects that matter to you. Join us! Go to sfbike.org/volunteer.





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Nomad Cyclery Ocean Cyclery Pedal Revolution Roaring Mouse Cycles Sports Basement Swell Bicycles Valencia Cyclery Velofix Warm Planet Bicycles

Bike Services & Rentals

Bay City Bike Rentals & Tours Blazing Saddles Bike Rentals Dandyhorse Bike Adventures P-Fits Streets of SF Bike Tours Wheel Fun Rentals

Clothing & Accessories

Charlie's Coat Chrome Mission Workshop Po Campo RearViz Rickshaw Bagworks SFC San Francycle Timbuk2 Urban Bike Tech Vespertine

Food & Beverage

All Good Pizza Arizmendi Bakery* Coletta Gelato Dolores Park Café Duboce Park Café Equator Coffees & Teas Fort Point Beer Company* Greens to Go Kasa Indian Eatery Laughing Monk Brewing Mercury Cafe Nopalito* Other Avenues Co-op Precita Park Café Velo Rouge Cafe

Wellness

Body Awakening **Everchange Fitness** FitBERNALfit & fitGLENfit Golden State of Health Good Vibrations* **IMPACT** Bay Area Yoga Garden SF YuBalance

Other

Green Apple Books Last Minute Gear Tideline Marine Group Zipcar

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

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Francisco a better place to liv	a Francisco Bicycle Coalition and make San re, work and bike. As a member, you get bike trailer and air travel bike box rentals mbership for all the benefits.	MEMBERSHIP TYPE: \$35 ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP	SIGN ME UP FOR A NEWSLETTER: BUSINESS BULLETIN (QUARTERLY)		
ADDRESS	CITY	☐ \$52 A BUCK A WEEK ☐ \$120 SUSTAINERS* ☐ \$250 SUPPORTING MEMBER* ☐ \$500 PATRON* ☐ \$1,000 DONOR*	BICYCLE EDUCATION (MONTHLY) FAMILY BIKING (QUARTERLY)		
Make checks payable to: San Francisco Bicycle Coalition. Check with your employer about matching your donation. NAME CREDIT CARD NO. DATE (MM/YY) WISA MASTERCARD Do not share my name, even with cool organizations the SF Bicycle Coalition trusts.		*includes free SF Bicycle Coalition t-shirt! Please choose. Men's Size Women's Size ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBER FOR \$15			
		NAME:			









