

DAVIDSON NEWS.NET

Sept. 25 ride to promote cycling awareness

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By David Boraks

Town officials, residents and local cyclists will take a bicycle ride through town on Saturday, Sept. 25, to promote bicycle safety, an issue much in the news recently because of collisions between vehicles and bicycles. The 10 a.m. ride

will cover about 3 miles of Davidson's South Prong Greenway as well as town streets, and coincides with the official marking of the greenway as part of the Carolina Thread Trail.

The ride will include elected officials as well as town staff and members of the town's volunteer Greenways, Trails and Bikeways Advisory Board. Town Planning Manager Lauren Blackburn, herself an avid cyclist, said local bicycle shops and members of cycling groups also have said they'll join in.

The ride begins at Saturday, Sept. 25, at 10 a.m. at the end of South Street, where the Kincaid Trail begins. It's designed for cyclists of all skill-levels and will include sections of greenways, neighborhood streets, and Davidson-Concord and Concord roads. In the safety of a group, riders can learn how to navigate different kinds of roads, including the roundabout at East Rocky River Road and town streets with bike lanes and on-street parking.

"The awareness ride itself is to allow residents of the region to participate in a safe event, where they can learn how to ride more safely, and for drivers to learn more about bicycles on the road," Ms. Blackburn said.

Ms. Blackburn said the ride is particularly important, given increased numbers of cyclists in the region and recent bicycle-motor vehicle crashes that have seriously injured cyclists. Since last spring, *DavidsonNews.net* has reported on about a half-dozen such incidents in and around Davidson.

The ride is among a planned series of events in coming weeks prompted by concern among officials, cyclists and motorists, who have been asking how the town can help promote road safety. Residents and officials [gathered Aug. 31 at Davidson Day School](#) for a meeting to discuss strategies for increasing awareness of cycling, promoting safer riding habits, and educating the public about the rules of the road.

After the awareness ride, the town hopes to schedule a series of public forums where cyclists and drivers can learn more about the rules of the road and share concerns, Ms. Blackburn said. She also said the town is studying improvements in road signage.



Young cyclists cross Main Street last week.
(David Boraks/DavidsonNews.net)

The town also is encouraging cyclists to organize early morning rides on area roads and greenways Sept. 25 to demonstrate responsible cycling behavior. The town is inviting these early-morning cyclists to meet at the South Street trailhead no later than 10 a.m. to join in the general awareness ride.

CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL

The Sept. 25 ride will begin with a brief ceremony noting that the South Prong Greenway is now part of the Carolina Thread Trail.

The Carolina Thread Trail, or The Thread, is a 15-county, two-state initiative aimed at creating a regional network of trails and conservation corridors. The area covered is home to about 2.3 million people. Local communities are planning and implement their own portions of what organizers call a "green interstate system." Catawba Lands Conservancy is the lead agency for The Thread, in partnership with The Foundation for the Carolinas, and local partners and land trusts.

RELATED LINKS

Read an announcement about the Sept. 25 Bicycle Awareness Ride on the town website, www.ci.davidson.nc.us.

Read more about recent accidents and responses under the ["Cycling" tag on DavidsonNews.net](#).

For more information, about The Thread Trail, visit www.carolinathreadtrail.org.

<http://davidsonnews.net/2010/09/16/sept-25-ride-to-promote-cycling-awareness/>