



A Bike Ride Shouldn't Be A Death Wish

Published: Mar 24, 2007

If you ever considered biking to work, go back and read Alan Snel's Sunday piece about the obstacles facing bicyclists in Hillsborough.

Snel, an avid bicyclist and former Tribune reporter, wrote us after almost getting hit by a bus.

He reports that danger lurks at most every turn, with bike lanes coming to abrupt ends, drivers refusing to share the road and waylaid debris that makes riding a bike feel like a trip through a field of land mines.

Most disappointing, he reports that Department of Transportation folks told him he was "crazy" for biking to meetings of a task force studying traffic safety. What a sad commentary when transportation leaders describe our streets as too unsafe for bicyclists, as though they are resigned to this fate.

So what are they doing about it? And why aren't local leaders ensuring safe routes for bicyclists on county roads? Solving this problem would be a better use of time than the flash-in-the-pan issues some county commissioners waste time on.

Until then, drivers must remember that bicyclists are entitled to a full lane of roadway. And bicyclists need to remember that they, too, must obey stop signs, traffic lights, one-way streets and speed limits.

Much conflict could be avoided if motorists and bicyclists were more aware of the other - with the onus falling on motorists because they could cause the most damage. In other words, be considerate and share the road.

Find this article at:

<http://www.tbo.com/news/opinion/editorials/MGB9AEV6NZE.html>

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

©2007 Media General Inc. All Rights Reserved.

[Member agreement](#) and [privacy statement](#)