

Me thinks that the moment my legs begin to move,  
my thoughts begin to flow. ~Henry David Thoreau



# Ped & Pedaling



Pedestrian & Bicycle Transportation Newsletter for the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

**NEXT PED & PEDAL MEETING: FEB. 21st 1:30pm @ NIRPC**

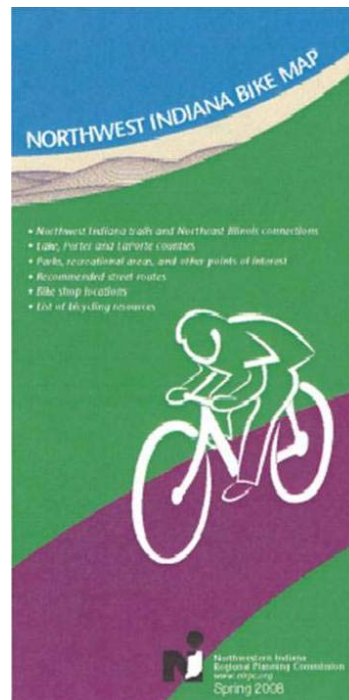
**Feb. 2008**

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## NWI BIKE MAP RELEASE! FEBRUARY 21 @ 11AM

At LONG last, the first comprehensive Northwest Indiana Bike Map will be released to the public on Thursday, February 21st at 11am at NIRPC offices in Portage. Representatives from the eight major sponsors are scheduled to be on hand for this landmark event. These map sponsors include: the Calumet Crank Club, Trek Bicycle Store, NIPSCO, Lake County Convention & Visitors Bureau, LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Porter County Convention, Visitors, & Recreation Commission, the Chicago Southland



Convention & Visitors Bureau, and The Greenways Foundation. Thanks to their generous support, NIRPC was able to secure federal matching funds to produce 100,000 FREE copies for the riding public. The Chicagoland Bicycle Federation were the consultants behind the map's creation, and the format is similar to their popular products in the City of Chicago and NE Illinois. The map will include both on-road and off-road trails for safe bicycling, safety information and resources for riding and advocacy groups active in the NW Indiana area.

**On Tap**



**May is NATIONAL Bicycle Month!**

Get ready by joining the Indiana Bicycle Coalition on their annual celebration during the month of May. The IBC is actively looking to assist any and all to create events and programs to get people out of their automobiles and on their bikes! Visit [www.bicycleindiana.org](http://www.bicycleindiana.org).

Keep up with the latest Ped & Pedal news along the South Shore...

**Join the Ped & Pedal Listserv today!**

Send your e-mail address to Mitch at [mbarloga@nirpc.org](mailto:mbarloga@nirpc.org)

## Stay For Special PPC Meeting!

After the Map Release Event, please be on hand for a special Ped & Pedal Committee meeting starting at 1:30pm. Our "featured presentation" will include Mr. Ron Carter, Executive Director of The Greenways Foundation, which is a charitable trust working to promote the growth, enhancement and use of Indiana greenways. To accomplish that, they solicit donations and make grants in support of greenway development,



enhancement and operations. Mr. Carter will detail the mission of the program and how it can assist with new greenway opportunities in NW Indiana. Also on the agenda will be a group discussion about the upcoming STP-1 & CMAQ non-motorized scoring criteria. More about these two major funding opportunities can be found on the next page. As for the Greenways Foundation, please visit their website at [www.greenwaysfoundation.org](http://www.greenwaysfoundation.org).

***On February 12th, NIRPC will be issuing a solicitation for new projects in a number of federally-funded programs where non-motorized projects are eligible for a certain percentage of the overall "booty". These programs are detailed below in what can be described as...***

**STP-1 Program**

The Surface Transportation Program, Group 1 funding is directly programmed by NIRPC for local road and bridge related projects in the region. However, a modest set-aside of roughly 3 to 5 percent has been available to non-motorized projects in previous funding years. These previous STP-1 awards have included the Grand Calumet Trail, Phase 1 in Hammond, the Oak Savannah Trail in Hobart and an underpass at Broadway (SR 53) for the Oak Savannah in Gary. ***All STP-1 projects will be reviewed FIRST by the Ped & Pedal Committee at their March 27th meeting.*** The PPC will review each submission according to the same methodology used for Transportation Enhancement, or TE projects. These will be forwarded to an STP review committee for final placement. Please see the application schedule below for further details.

**Mad**



**Money!**

**FTA Transit Enhancement**

A modest amount of funds are available through this Federal Transit Authority program. Maximum requests are \$35,000 and include projects such as sidewalks and landscaping at or near transit stations.

**CMAQ Program**

Nearly \$1 million could be available for non-motorized projects under the federal Congestion, Mitigation & Air Quality Program, or CMAQ. This innovative program targets funding for surface transportation and other related projects that contribute to air quality improvements and reduce traffic congestion. It is no secret that sidewalks and trails aim to do just that by eliminating our total need for automobiles, and thus making our environment cleaner. Previous non-motorized CMAQ awards have gone to Portage's Iron Horse Trail, a sidepath in Porter from downtown to US 20, and to NIRPC for our "Rack em' Up!" bike rack subsidy program (which we will re-apply for). Overall, projects must demonstrate air quality benefits and formulas are involved. The PPC will meet on February 21st to discuss eligible projects during this cycle. Details follow below.

**FFY 2009-2013 TIP Solicitation Schedule - NON-MOTORIZED**

NIRPC will be issuing a broad solicitation on February 12th for new projects in the categories explained above. **All applications are due MARCH 11th.** Regarding NON-MOTORIZED submissions, the Ped & Pedal Committee will directly review and rank STP-1 applications ONLY. In the past, there has been NO review of CMAQ or FTA projects. At the PPC meeting on February 21st, this policy will be discussed in detail. Here is the application & review schedule:

- Tuesday, February 12:** Applications ONLINE at NIRPC website and distributed at NIRPC TPC meeting at 9AM. There will be a SPECIAL application for non-motorized projects.
- Tuesday March 11, :** ALL APPLICATIONS DUE!
- Thursday, March 27:** Review & Ranking of STP-1 Applications at Ped & Pedal Committee.
- Early April:** Final Project Programming

# Rack 'em Up!

## DUE MARCH 3rd!

NIRPC applied for and received up to \$40,000 in CMAQ federal funding to launch a bike rack subsidy program which is being dubbed, "Rack 'em Up!". This program is being aimed at municipalities, school districts and other quasi-public organizations in offering an 80% discount on the purchase of a select number of bicycle racks or lockers. Funding allows up to two lockers total due to their prohibitive price.

**Applications were released in December and the first cycle of proposals are due to NIRPC by Monday, March 3rd at 4pm!**

The type of rack available will ONLY be the "inverted U" shaped design shown in the photo

below here. This popular bike rack has become the standard for secure parking since one can lock up their bike on two ends, where as "wave" and "comb" racks fail since they are only able to lock up the front or rear. These "comb" racks are also quite infamous for bending more front tires than any other design.



NIRPC expects to work with INDOT officials on the final contract language and vendor before the March 3rd deadline. The application cycle will be conducted in several rounds until the funding runs out. It is expected that 250 racks and 2 lockers will be available for subsidized purchase. This is for purchase ONLY - no labor costs will be reimbursed. Entities will be reimbursed according to standard INDOT policy based on successful installation of racks and lockers.



**GREENWAYS & BLUEWAYS**  
NORTHWEST INDIANA REGIONAL PLAN

On December 13th, the NIRPC Commission Executive Board unanimously adopted the **NW Indiana Regional Greenways & Blueways Plan** as official NIRPC planning policy. This bold new vision for our region aims to inspire ALL landowners in NW Indiana to become conservation-minded with their properties. Numerous strategies are presented in the document to aid and inspire in this challenge. The plan, with accompanying CD and poster will be distributed in February. A copy of the final plan can be view via NIRPC's website - [www.nirpc.org](http://www.nirpc.org). At the December 13th meeting, it was announced that the **ArcelorMittal Steel Foundation** has awarded NIRPC and the Openlands Project a \$75,000 one-year grant to being work on the plan's recommendations. Subsequent awards are planned to follow!

## Plan Adopted!



**ArcelorMittal**



# Modeshift

## CONFERENCE 2008



### Reduce your community's carbon footprint through transportation!

Learn the necessary tools to create change in your community's transportation habits at **Modeshift**, the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation's annual conference, **8:30 a.m. To 3 p.m. Feb. 28 at Metcalf Federal Building, 77 W. Jackson Boulevard, third floor, Chicago, IL.**

From funding to social marketing, **Modeshift** will show you how to take advantage of resources that will guide your efforts to reduce your community's carbon footprint. Go Boulder's Martha Roskowski offers a first-hand account of lessons and challenges that accompany this transformation. Transportation is responsible for 31 percent of the region's carbon emissions. Municipalities and planning organizations have a unique opportunity to significantly reduce these emissions.

Registration is \$35 for Chicagoland Bicycle Federation members and \$45 for non-members. Lunch is included. Check in starts at 8:30 a.m. Registration is limited.

**Modeshift** is presented by U.S. EPA and the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation, and co-sponsored by the Metropolitan Planning Council, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and Commission. **NIRPC is also a proud sponsor for the event.** Please visit [www.biketraffic.org/modeshift](http://www.biketraffic.org/modeshift).



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**Bike the Drive** is back and bigger than ever! On Sunday, May 25th join 20,000+ of your closest friends as you enjoy a 15-mile ride like no other on a car-free Lake Shore Drive! For more information on how to take part, simply visit:

[www.bikethedrive.org](http://www.bikethedrive.org)



So, are you the type that will not let a simple drop in the temperature stop you from riding your bike this winter? Well, there is a group just for you! *Chicago Bike Winter*

has been encouraging "all-season cycling" to help "keep bikes out of the basement". Through proper route planning, and of course layered clothing, one can enjoy the great benefits of bicycling year-round. For more information on Bike Winter, including events and tips on how and where to ride visit [www.bikewinter.org](http://www.bikewinter.org).



NIRPC's next Ped & Pedal Committee meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 21st, 1:30pm @ NIRPC.** Please contact Mitch Barloga if you have any issues you'd like to discuss.