

CASCADE BICYCLE CLUB RECOMMENDS THE ADOPTION OF THE
BICYCLE MASTER PLAN TO CITY COUNCIL
Plan helps fulfill Green Ribbon Commission on Climate Protection

SEATTLE – On Monday, October 29, at 9:55 a.m., Seattle City Council will be briefed with recommendations for the adoption of the Bicycle Master Plan. As advocated by Cascade Bicycle Club, a leader in creating more livable communities through bicycle advocacy, events and education programs, the Bicycle Master Plan will pave the way for Seattle to become the best community for cycling in the United States. Cascade Bicycle Club Advocacy Director David Hiller will represent the Citizen’s Advisory Board on the briefing team, which will also include representatives from the Seattle Department of Transportation and the Seattle Bike Advisory Board. The Club’s executive director, Chuck Ayers will also be available for comment.

The Bicycle Master Plan helps to fulfill Mayor Nickels Green Ribbon Commission on Climate Protection’s goal of finding local solutions to global climate disruption. By creating an interconnected bicycle system via the Master Plan, the City will make it easier for people to choose bicycling as climate-friendly transportation. Bicycling will save one pound of CO2 per mile that would otherwise be emitted by driving a car. According to the Department of Energy, burning one gallon of gasoline produces 20 pounds of carbon dioxide. Assuming a fuel efficiency of 20 MPG, that equates to roughly one pound of CO2 per mile.

Funding to implement the Plan was approved in November 2006 when voters approved Proposition 1, the “Bridging the Gap” levy, which will triple funding for bicycle infrastructure improvements over the next nine years. “By approving Proposition 1 last year, voters showed that they support more and better bike facilities in their communities,” said Chuck Ayers, Cascade Bicycle Club executive director.

According to the Bicycle Master Plan, [...] *Seattle currently lacks a connected system of bicycle facilities. Bicyclists face barriers, such as freeways, roadway crossings, and topography in many parts of the city. Many people would choose to bicycle if they had a connected network of comfortable, safe bicycle facilities throughout the city* (Executive Summary, page iv).

The vision of the Bicycle Master Plan is to connect communities via a 450-mile network of trails, bike lanes and bicycle boulevards. Cascade Bicycle Club has been a driving force behind the development of the plan and encourages Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels and the City Council to follow-through on its goals. The final Seattle City Council vote on the Bicycle Master Plan is expected to take place in November or December 2007.

“We look forward to congratulating the Seattle City Council when the Bicycle Master Plan passes and becomes Seattle’s blueprint for innovative transportation solutions and carbon mitigation,” said David Hiller, Cascade Bicycle club advocacy director.

Resources: The Seattle Bike Master Plan with maps is online at:

<http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/bikemaster.htm>

Founded in 1979, Cascade Bicycle Club is a 7,400-member, non-profit organization based in Seattle, serving more than half a million cyclists in the Puget Sound community. The club is operated by a nine-member volunteer Board of Directors, 15 professional staff, and thousands of volunteers. More information about the Cascade Bicycle Club's programs is available online at www.cascade.org or by calling (206) 522-3222.

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