

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, since the early 19th century, the bicycle has been an important vehicle for human transport, and today, millions of Americans engage in bicycling because it is a viable and environmentally friendly form of transportation, an excellent form of physical activity, provides quality family recreation, and over 15 percent of all motor vehicle trips Americans take are less than one mile long, and 35 percent of the working population commutes five miles or less to work, an easy distance by bike; and

WHEREAS, Tampa, Florida is home to over 350,000 residents, 15 million yearly visitors, scenic Bayshore Boulevard - which has one of the world's longest continuous recreation trails, and perfect weather, and our city capitalizes on such characteristics and promotes cycling as a viable transportation alternative, championing it as a key component of our sustainable transportation efforts and as a recreational opportunity which promotes active lifestyles while alleviating traffic and reducing air pollution; and

WHEREAS, community based partnerships are essential to the success of bicycling initiatives and many governmental, civic, and neighborhood groups are actively involved in bicycle improvement projects throughout our region, and since 2011, approximately 31 miles of bicycle improvements have been completed in Tampa neighborhoods, with 31.93 miles of scheduled projects over the next three years; and

WHEREAS, coming in the spring 2014, a new campaign is being launched in the city to make more bicycles accessible through *Coast Bike Share*, an initiative to promote the use of bicycling for commuting, errands, visiting friends, or just for fun by making bikes available 24/7 at several locations in the Downtown core, Historic Ybor City, and Hyde Park, and the Tampa Downtown Partnership is teaming up with Coast Bike Share to add 250 additional bike parking options in the downtown area through free standing bike racks, medallions on parking meter posts, and two self-repair stations; and

WHEREAS, The city of Tampa has formed an interdepartmental and interdisciplinary *Complete Streets Team* with the Florida Department of Transportation, Hillsborough County, and Hillsborough County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to implement recommendations in making Tampa a bicycle and pedestrian friendly community and an even safer, more convenient, and comfortable way to travel and accessible for bicycle users of all ages and abilities; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of **Florida Bicycle Month**, the City of Tampa is proud to join TampaBayCycle.com, the Tampa Downtown Partnership, New North Tampa Transportation Alliance, Hillsborough MPO, Bay Area Commuter Services, Tampa Greenways & Trails Citizens Advisory Committee and independent cyclists throughout our region in promoting greater public awareness of bicycles and the proper and safe operation of bicycles to ensure the safety and comfort of all users.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2014 as

“FLORIDA BICYCLE MONTH”

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all residents to try bicycling as a form of transportation and recreation, and to recognize the importance of bicycle safety by becoming more aware of cyclists on our streets, highways, greenways and trails.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 3rd day of March, 2014.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor