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The Weather Report

The official newsletter of
Thunderhead Alliance for Biking and Walking
Strengthening and Uniting Coalitions Across North America

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BRING A WINNING CAMPAIGNS TRAINING TO YOU IN 2009

2008 saw the Alliance and its members in Seattle, San Francisco, and Chicago for trainings and our Leadership Retreat. Over 90 advocacy leaders came together in the last year to plan their campaigns and continue to stabilize and build the capacity of their respective organizations. Next week, an advanced training for trainers event will help Alliance leaders improve their training techniques through hands-on experience and peer feedback.

As was unveiled at the retreat in August, we plan to bring you approximately four to six trainings across North America in 2009, including our proven Winning Campaigns Training, and other customized trainings designed to meet your needs. The Alliance IS our members, and therein, the success of Alliance trainings require both your input and your willingness to help.

If you have interest in increasing the effectiveness and capacity of your organization by bringing a training to your area, we encourage you to start thinking about hosting a training in 2009. We expect to be making an announcement and have an application on our website in December. Please stay tuned!

UPDATE: BIKE/PED PROJECTS AND THE ECONOMIC STIMULUS BILL

Thanks to the diligence so many Alliance organizations, we have compiled a list of 450 "ready-to-go" bicycle and pedestrian projects in preparation for the economic stimulus bill. This list includes projects in 38 states and totals \$1.25 billion. Congress is expected to pass a stimulus bill in January or February. It could include \$50-60 billion to fund transportation infrastructure, yet the current draft has no funding for bike and pedestrian facilities. We have compiled this list to demonstrate to Congress that there are plenty "ready-to-go" bicycle and pedestrian projects that will meet the intentions of creating jobs very quickly. The Alliance will continue to work closely with America Bikes, T4America, Rails to Trails, and other partners to make certain the stimulus bill will help fund these projects. We'll keep you updated when the time is right for you to put the pressure on your DOT and representatives....stay tuned!

RENEW YOUR ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP/SUPPORT TODAY!

It's that time of the year again. But this time, renewing your Alliance membership or support is easier than ever. Just go to www.thunderheadalliance.org/join. You can renew right there on our website and then choose to pay online with a credit card, mail in a check, pay by phone, or have us invoice you. With more options than ever before, renewing for 2009 should be a piece of cake.

Renewing early ensures your membership doesn't miss a beat and that you don't miss out on a day of the great resources your membership provides, such as:

- Access to members-only listserv
- Access to members-only [online Resource Library](#) with over 600 models, templates, and resources to support your work
- Free [Mutual Aid conference calls](#) on topics that support your work
- On-call support and networking with top bicycle and pedestrian advocacy experts
- Discounts on Thunderhead Alliance [trainings, retreats](#), and [publications](#)
- Eligibility for special scholarship offers and contests
- Opportunity for inclusion in Thunderhead Alliance's [Benchmarking Report](#)
- Free [job postings](#) on ThunderheadAlliance.org
- Extra credibility of Thunderhead Alliance membership
- [Listing and link](#) on ThunderheadAlliance.org
- Ability to display the Alliance logo and link on your website.

And, to help encourage early renewals, if you renew online by December 2nd, you will get a free Alliance publication of your choice—our gift to you. Please [renew online today at www.thunderheadalliance.org/join](#).

LAST CHANCE: SUBMIT YOUR NAME IDEAS!

As you've probably heard, we are in process to re-name the Thunderhead Alliance. Will you help us find the perfect name?

We're inviting you to share your ideas for a new name. We have already gotten many great name ideas at [www.thunderheadalliance.org/name](#) and at the Leadership Retreat in August. However, we haven't received as many aspirational name ideas. Think EarthJustice rather than the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, Bioneers instead of The Conference for Environmental Leadership and Innovation. Bikes Belong and Rails to Trails are great examples of aspirational names in our community.

Here are a few aspirational names to get you thinking:

BikeWalk North America
 Bike Walk Nation
 Move Smart North America
 Transportation Choices
 Smart Movement

If at the end of this process we choose your name you will win a \$250 voucher good towards your Thunderhead Alliance membership, publications, or registration for one of our trainings or retreats. **The deadline to submit your name ideas in December 2nd.**

[Submit your name ideas for a chance to win at www.thunderheadalliance.org/name.](#)

THUNDERHEAD ALLIANCE IS ON FLICKR! SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS

We're on [Flickr.com](#)! Thunderhead Alliance wants to build a quality biking and walking photo library for advocates like you. So far, we have shared pictures from past Thunderhead Alliance events, and have a small collection started of biking and walking photos. Will you share your photos with us and with your colleagues across North America? If you're willing to grant use of your biking and walking photos for advocacy-related communications, please upload your photos to this new library.

Steps to Share Your Photos with the Alliance:

1. Go to [Flickr.com](#)
2. Enter username: thunderheadalliance password: BikeWalk
3. Click on "You" and then "Upload Photos and Video"
4. Search for the photos you want to contribute on your computer. You can select more than one at the same time by holding the "Shift" key as you select pictures right next to each other or the "Ctrl" key as you select pictures not right next to each other
5. Be sure to mark the photos as "Public"
6. You're done!

You can browse existing photos from past Thunderhead Alliance events, and general pictures of biking and walking by visiting <http://www.flickr.com/photos/thunderheadalliance/>.

The more quality photos you can share, the more everyone benefits. Generic pictures of biking and walking (that don't show major landmarks in your community) are preferred. Also, if your organization is on Flickr, please add us as a contact.

NEWSLETTER CUT-AND-PASTE:

TELL OBAMA TO MAKE HEALTHY TRANSPORTATION A PRIORITY

This column in a service to our member organizations. Feel free to cut and paste this into your organization's e-news.

On November 4th, Americans cast their vote for change. Now, it's time to tell President-Elect Barack Obama to follow through on his campaign promises—like increasing funding for biking and walking. Obama has a remarkable opportunity to use his mantle for change and willingness of Americans to be part of the solution. He can call on Americans to eliminate our dependence on foreign oil in a year or less by encouraging biking, walking, transit, carpooling and reducing our consumption of oil. With a call to the nation, Obama can provide some incentives and leadership, and show that when it comes to creating healthy communities, cleaning the air, and becoming self sufficient, with a little leadership....Yes We Can!

Please take a moment to sign onto this letter from Transportation for America asking President-Elect Obama to make building that 21st Century transportation system a priority in his first 100 days. Sending your letter is easy online [here](#). (LINK TO http://action.smartgrowthamerica.org/t/3224/petition.jsp?petition_KEY=162)

MEMBER NEWS

San Luis Obispo County Bicycle Coalition Wins \$890,000 for Local Trail

According to the [San Luis Obispo County Bicycle Coalition](#), the state of California awarded \$890,000 to fund construction of a new section of their local Railroad Bicycle Trail. "The Bicycle Coalition was pleased to help the City of SLO on this grant application from the Bicycle Transportation Account, which funds bicycle projects throughout the state of California." For more info visit <http://www.slobikelane.org/>

PATH Wins \$\$\$ for Biking and Walking in Hawaii

In their November PATH News, [People's Advocacy for Trails Hawaii \(PATH\)](#) announced they have been awarded over \$130,000 in grants for their pedestrian and bike education and trail preservation projects. Grants include \$5,000 from the Visitor Industry Foundation and \$50,000 from the Hawaii DOT for Ped Ed, an interactive pedestrian safety education program for school children, and to launch an islandwide Pedestrian Safety Education Campaign. They also received a \$40,000 grant from the Hawaii DOT, and \$41,000 from the Bill Healy Foundation for their 4th grade Bike Ed program. The National Park Service also awarded PATH a grant to preserve historic trails and railway corridors throughout Hawaii Island. By the end of the two-year partnership, NPS and PATH aim to have implementation plans for 43.5 miles of trails and railways across the island. Way to go PATH!

Feet First Launches Community Mapping Kit

Seattle, WA's [Feet First](#) has launched a new community-mapping tool. According to their website, "This is a pilot project that allows people in King County to map the resources for healthy eating and active living in their neighborhood." The resource is the result of a pilot project to help King County schools, parents, and community members make a map and increase health and activity. To learn more and check out this new tool, visit <http://www.feetfirst.info/mapping/community-mapping-kit>.

Share Your News!

In addition to asking that you share any good news, ideas, etc. for future issues of the Weather Report, we ask you to please add us to your newsletter mailing list. Please send mail to: Thunderhead Alliance for Biking and Walking, PO Box 65150, Washington, DC, 20035. We want to stay up-to-date with the issues you are dealing with, progress you are making, and generally keep informed of what you are up to —Thanks!

Thunderhead Alliance Organizations Are Hiring!

Our member organizations are hiring! Check out all of the fantastic job opportunities on the [Alliance Job Board](#). If your organization is hiring, be sure to [post your job to the job board](#).

Upcoming Events at Thunderhead Alliance

December 1-4: Training for Trainers, Chicago, IL - [more here](#)

December 11: Mutual Aid Call: Bike, Walk, Plan: How to Engage and Build Relationships with Planners - [more here](#)

We've Moved! Please Update Your Records

If you haven't done so already, we want to remind you that the Thunderhead Alliance for Biking and Walking has a new address and phone number. You can call the office at 202-449-9692. Mail should be sent to PO Box 65150, Washington DC 20035. And if you are in DC and want to stop by our new digs, we are at 1612K Street, Suite 802.

We Want Your News!

Thunderhead Alliance wants to publish your good news! Our coalition is our members and your peers want to hear about your success and innovations. Have you had a recent success? A winning campaign? A creative event? Has your organization used innovative methods for attracting members or earning media attention? We want to know about it! [Tell us your news here](#).

This monthly Thunderhead Alliance Weather Report is for the leaders of our member organizations and our supporters. The Thunderhead Alliance, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is the only coalition of state and local bicycle and pedestrian advocacy organizations working together to promote bicycling and walking in North American communities. Find more info at: www.thunderheadalliance.org.

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