The City of Wilmington is constructing North Carolina’s first bicycle boulevard. This concept is a strategy whereby bicycles are given priority over motor vehicles on an existing roadway corridor. The bicycle boulevard will involve road improvements such as curb extensions, alley resurfacing, high-visibility crosswalks, pavement markings, and signage. It will connect many of the historic neighborhoods in Downtown Wilmington as well as Williston Middle School, Gregory Elementary School, Fit for Fun Center, Sheridale Morgan Physical Fitness and Boxing Center, Robert Strange Park, Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center, downtown Wilmington and the Riverfront Farmers’ Market.

The Ann Street Bicycle Boulevard will complete the connection from Downtown Wilmington to Wrightsville Beach, therefore making the bicycle boulevard accessible to most of Wilmington’s population.

Ann Street Group Rides
Easy 1.4 mile ride

There are six (6) scheduled Ann Street Group Rides. These rides begin at Ann and S 15th Streets and end at the Riverfront Farmers’ Market. The City of Wilmington will be giving away Farmers’ Market gift cards to 15 participants in each group ride. Those who join us at Ann Street and South 15th Street and ride to the Farmers’ Market will be eligible for the gift cards as well as many other prizes.

Ride Schedule
April 24, May 22, June 12, July 24, August 7, September 18
10:00 am Ann St - S 5th St
10:02 am Ann St - S 3rd St
10:04 am Ann St - S 10th St
10:06 am Ann St - S 8th St
10:08 am Ann St - S 5th Ave
10:10 am Ann St - S 3rd St
10:12 am Ann St - S Front St
10:15 am Riverfront Park

Riverfront Farmers’ Market
open from April 17

The Riverfront Farmers’ Market is located along the Cape Fear River in Historic Downtown Wilmington in Riverfront Park (600 block of N. Water Street).

It is a curbside market featuring local farmers, producers, artists and crafters. Products include fresh fruits and berries, vegetables, plants, herbs, flowers, eggs, cheeses, meats, seafood, honey, baked goods, legumes, pickled items, jams and jellies, wine, art, crafts and more.

The Riverfront Farmers’ Market opens Saturday, April 17 at 8 am. For more information www.wilmingtonnc.gov

Basic Traffic Riding Techniques

Riding confidently and skillfully in traffic takes practice and an understanding of some basic ideas. One of the most important ideas is road position. Just where you ride on the roadway depends on several important things: your speed, the width and condition of the road, and your destination.

1. When you’re going a little faster, ride near traffic. This encourages right-turners to slow and wait instead of passing at the last moment and cutting you off.

2. When you’re going the same speed as you, ride in the line of traffic. This is your most visible position and ensures you’ll be where drivers look for traffic. There’s no reason to ride fast near the curb and a lot of good reasons not to.

3. When you’re going a little slower, ride in the line of traffic but slightly to the right of the traffic stream. This allows easy passing without causing the danger caused by turning or crossing traffic.

4. Always ride a good door’s width from parked cars. Also be aware of cars backing out from driveways.

Share the Road

Cars and bicycles frequently must share the road. On roadways with high levels of bicycle traffic, but relatively demanding conditions for bicyclists, Share the Road signs have been installed. These signs are intended to increase motorists’ awareness of bicyclists on a roadway without designating that roadway as a preferred route.

Bicyclists, however, must also be aware of the importance of sharing the road with motorists. If someone comes up behind you, move to the right when safe to allow them to pass. In groups, bicyclists should ride cooperatively and help motorists pass safely.

Wear a Helmet!

If you don’t already have one, get a bicycle helmet today! If you have one, wear it every time you ride. Today’s helmets look good, are very light, and let in those cooling breezes... all while protecting your head and brain! Helmets cost as little as $15 and could be your most important piece of equipment.

Why? In a word: protection. A good bike helmet can protect your brain. That’s important if your head hits a hard surface... like a road, a curb, or a car. Brains are fragile and once damaged may not mend.

*In North Carolina, children under the age of 16 are required to wear an approved bicycle helmet.

Event Calendar 2010

- **Ann Street Bicycle Boulevard Events**
  - April 17, June 5, July 17, September 11
  - MLK Center-10 am

- **Ann Street Group Rides**
  - April 24, May 22, June 12, July 24, August 7 and September 18
  - Ann Street and S 15th Street-10 am

- **Azalea Festival**
  - April 9-11

- **Riverfront Farmer’s Market**
  - April 17
  - Riverfront Park-8 am

- **River to Sea Ride**
  - May 1
  - Riverfront Park

- **Orange Street ArtsFest**
  - May 29-30
  - Orange Street and Front Street

- **Riverfront Celebration**
  - July 4
  - Water Street, Downtown Wilmington

- **Art Walk and Parade**
  - September 11
  - Downtown Wilmington

- **Riverfest**
  - October 1-3
  - Downtown Wilmington

Visit www.rivertoseabikeway.com or call 910.341.3258 for more information.

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