



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Columbus City Council set to enact ordinances to implement Bicentennial Bikeways Plan

Columbus | December 15, 2008 -- Today the City of Columbus passes another major landmark on the road toward becoming a bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly city. Columbus City Council will enact a set of revisions to the City traffic code that will implement key provisions of the *Columbus Bicentennial Bikeways Plan* completed earlier this year.

At City Council's last regular meeting of 2008 -- and City Councilwoman and Council Transportation Committee Chair Maryellen O'Shaughnessy's last City Council meeting before assuming her duties as the newly-elected Franklin County Clerk of Courts -- City Council is scheduled to adopt a comprehensive overhaul of the Columbus traffic code that ensures that Columbus will continue to carry out the vision and goals contained in the *Bicentennial Bikeways Plan*.

Mayor "Bikin' Mike" Coleman officially launched the City-Council-funded bike plan at the opening ceremonies of Consider Biking's Bike to Work Week in May of 2008. The bike plan, which is available online here: <http://www.altaprojects.net/columbus/>, calls for the construction of a 538-mile network of bikeways including both marked on-street bike lanes and off-road shared use paths.

The Bicentennial Bikeways Plan, created through a city-wide, comprehensive, public-involvement process, creates a blueprint for making the City of Columbus a "Bicycle Friendly Community." The June, 2008 issue of *Bicycling Magazine* named the City of Columbus a future "Best Bicycling City" based on the new plan. The plan uses the "4-E's" -- engineering, education, encouragement, and enforcement -- to accomplish this.

Now City Council will incorporate key provisions of the *Bicentennial Bikeways Plan*, including most notably the "Complete Streets" provisions of the plan, into City Ordinances to pave the way for all Columbus-area citizens to make bicycling a part of their everyday lives.

Since the launching of the *Bicentennial Bikeways Plan* the Columbus Transportation Division, in partnership with the Columbus Transportation and Pedestrian Commission and Columbus City Council, have worked with stakeholders and the general public to enact key provisions of the bike plan into law as called for in the Bicentennial Bikeways Plan.

City Councilwoman Maryellen O'Shaughnessy calls the adoption of the changes to the City traffic code "a milestone in the creation of a bikeable and walkable City of Columbus."

Jeff Stephens, Executive Director of Consider Biking and Chair of the Columbus Transportation and Pedestrian Commission, hailed the enactment of the new bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly traffic code "a guarantee from City Council and the Mayor that Columbus will become the greatest bicycling city in the country."

The City Council meeting starts at 5:00 p.m. at City Council Chambers at City Hall, 90 West Broad Street.

ABOUT CONSIDER BIKING: Consider Biking is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) advocacy organization dedicated to creating an inviting environment for bicycling and walking, enabling Central Ohioans to make active transportation a part of their everyday experience.

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