Clean Air Partnership Honors Local Businesses

On May 29, 2008, Congresswoman Kathy Castor (D-FL) recognized local environmental leaders at a luncheon held at the InterContinental Hotel, hosted by the Clean Air Partnership of Tampa Bay.

Castor was chosen to present the awards because she has been an advocate for the environment and sound growth management policies since her days as a Hillsborough County Commissioner. She served as Chair of the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission and previously was Assistant General Counsel to the Florida Department of Community. Castor represents Florida's 11th Congressional District, which covers parts of Hillsborough, Pinellas and Manatee counties.

The ceremony honored local Clean Air Partnership businesses who have demonstrated their environmental stewardship by promoting options such as carpooling, riding the bus and working from home to help reduce transportation-related air pollution in the Tampa Bay area.

Local Businesses in the NNTA area honored by the Clean Air Partnership are:

Busch Gardens, Center for Urban Transportation Research, City of Temple Terrace, Florida Department of Transportation District 7, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center, James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, Pitman Hartenstein & Associates Engineers, University Mall, University of South Florida, University of South Florida Parking & Transportation Services, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, Yuengling Beer Company of Tampa, Inc.
Clean Air Partnership members receive recognition at the May 29th luncheon
Photo taken by Scotty Schrier
Bicycling Results in a Healthier Bottom Line

In light of today's ever-climbing gas prices, employees who commute to work via bicycle rather than drive have an economic impact that benefits not only themselves, but their employers as well, according to the League of American Bicyclists. Tampa BayCycle is an initiative that encourages commuters to cycle to work, school or play during the month of May, National Bike Month. In addition to reducing stress, riding a bike improves the health and fitness of employees. As such, companies who employ bicycle commuters may enjoy significantly reduced health insurance rates for those employees, as well as increased productivity and improved employee relations, according to Bicycle Source. Forty percent of people who participated in a survey conducted by Rodale Press said that they would commute by bike if safe facilities were available at their place of employment.

"A bicycle-friendly facility is important for encouraging employees to bicycle to work," said Julie Bond, co-organizer, Tampa BayCycle. "Secure, convenient bicycle parking, shower facilities, or flexible work hours can create a welcoming atmosphere for employees who choose bicycling as their mode of transportation. "Bicycle parking can be easily implemented at any facility," Bond continued. "A basic inverted bicycle U-rack is inexpensive and takes little space and effort to install."

Three hundred thousand deaths a year are associated with obesity or being overweight, according to the U.S. Surgeon General. Medical care for obesity-related symptoms accounted for more than 11 percent of all private health care spending in 2002 (Health Affairs). According to Hertz Corporation, operating a compact car costs approximately 35 cents per mile; the U.S. General Accounting Office sets the cost of riding a bike at five cents per mile. Employees who commute via bicycle drive less and save hundreds of dollars on fuel, maintenance, parking, and auto insurance.

"Bicycling saved me so much money that I was able to pay for a well and to landscape my front yard (43' x 59') into a happy home for birds and butterflies," said Kimberly Cooper, a bicycle commuter. This is the second year that a bicycling initiative of this nature will be held in the Tampa Bay area. Tampa BayCycle is made possible by a grant from the Florida Department of Transportation District 7.

For additional information regarding Tampa BayCycle and a complete schedule of events, please visit www.TampaBayCycle.com

Cyclists gather in downtown Tampa on May 1, 2008. Photo taken by Alan Snel
Jackman joins NNTA as Program Outreach Coordinator

Jason Jackman recently joined the New North Transportation Alliance as a program outreach coordinator. Jason's responsibilities include developing a Safe Routes to School program for walking school buses and bicycle trains, a program funded by the Florida Department of Transportation District 7.

Jason previously worked for Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation as a Recreation Leader. Born and raised in Tampa, Florida, Jason now lives with his wife Audrey in the Lake Forest community. He earned a Bachelor's degree in English at the University of South Florida and is currently working towards a Master's degree in Public Administration.

Important Dates

Wednesday, July 9, 2008
NNTA Advisory Board Meeting
8:00 - 9:30 am

Wednesday, September 10, 2008
NNTA Advisory Board Meeting
8:00 - 9:30 am

Wednesday, November 12, 2008
NNTA Advisory Board Meeting
8:00 - 9:30 am
Julie Bond, Executive Director  
Email: bond@cutr.usf.edu  
Phone: 813-974-9799  
Website: www.newnorthalliance.com

The New North Transportation Alliance (NNTA) is a public-private partnership improving transportation options for all travelers in the New North/University area.