

# MOMENTUM

## e-newsletter



May 2017

### IN MULTIMODAL NEWS

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT: NEEDHAM CONNECT II PROJECT

Phase 2 of the sidewalk project along Columbine Dr to kick-off with May 11 public meeting



Deteriorated sidewalk in need of repair along Columbine Drive near Clovis Drive.

The **Needham Connect II** Safe Routes to School project will include design and engineering, and construction for Columbine Drive as a **Complete Street** from Cottonwood Drive to Clovis Drive, including sidewalks and bicycle facilities. Beginning in early 2017, design and engineering will be underway for the Needham Connect II project which was awarded a \$506,140 Safe Routes to School grant and a \$690,240 Transportation Alternatives grant. Design and engineering will be completed by December 2017, and construction will be completed by December 2018. View conceptual design plans [here](#).

The **Needham Connect II Project** was identified as a high priority, Tier 1 project in the City's **Multimodal Transportation Plan** to increase safety and improve sidewalk accessibility improvements along Columbine Drive from Cottonwood Drive to Clovis Drive. The proposed project will include elements - shared lane markings and improved sidewalks - of a **Complete Streets** cross section. Shared lane markings are one element of a Complete Street that can calm traffic, decrease the likelihood of an injury resulting from a crash, and improve bicyclist level of comfort by establishing bicycle priority in the roadway.

A neighborhood meeting on **Thursday, May 11 from 5:00 to 6:30 pm at Needham Elementary School in the Multipurpose Room at 2425 W 3rd Ave** will review and discuss the concept design plans for the upcoming **Needham Connect II** sidewalk project. For more information, please call 970-375-4955.

## NEEDHAM AND PARK ARE GEARING UP TO WALK-N-ROLL TO SCHOOL!

The City is hosting **Walk-n-Roll-a-Thon events** at Needham and Park Elementary Schools the week of May 8-12 as a part of the City of Durango's Safe Routes to School program. The week will kick-off with a bike rodeo at Park on Friday, May 5 and culminate in a bike rodeo



and walk-n-roll parade at Needham on Friday, May 12. Throughout the week, students are encouraged to walk, bike, bus or carpool to school.

The bike rodeos will include bicycle skills tests, rock dodging and other drill stations with the Durango Police Department; mini bike tunes and inspections by Durango DEVO; a presentation by Gray Matters Helmet Program from Mercy Regional Medical Center on helmet-fittings and bike safety demonstrations; and a safety station with the ABCs of bike safety. The City offers great prizes for students who participate from local businesses including 2nd Ave Sports, Brown's Sport Shoe, Osprey Packs, the City of Durango and more.



The school-wide walk-n-roll parade at Needham will be on Friday, May 12 from 1:15-2:45 pm along Columbine Drive. Neighbors and the community are invited to come out and cheer on the parade! For more information, please call 970-375-4955.



## MAYCOMMUTER OF THE MONTH

Ben Thompson bikes his daughter Gillian to pre-school on his way to work.

Ben says: "We like riding the bike because it slows things down and it is fun for us to chat. We look forward to the spring commute when we can see the geese in their nests or watch a blue heron snatch a fish near the fist hatchery. We try to guess when the last patch of snow is going to melt from Chapman Hill.

Riding along the Animas River Trail gets you anywhere you need to go without even hitting a stoplight. If you haven't tried it, you might be surprised how much you enjoy it!"

*If you or someone you know would make a great Commuter of the Month, please email your nomination to [GetAroundDurango@durangogov.org](mailto:GetAroundDurango@durangogov.org).*



## RIDE THE ROCKIES IS COMING TO DURANGO!



Ride the Rockies, the premier amateur cycling tour of the state, is coming back to Durango this summer. And this time, they'll be here for two days! Riders, their families and support crews, and Ride the Rockies staff will arrive in Durango from Pagosa Springs on Monday, June 12th. On Tuesday, June 13th, they'll stay in Durango and have the option of a loop ride around town. Riders will depart on Wednesday, June 14th, for Ridgway. Organizers expect 2,500 people to be here over these two days. For questions about Ride the

## IN TRANSIT NEWS

# DURANGO TRANSIT EXTENDS HOURS ON TROLLEY ROUTE

## Summer Schedule Begins May 15



*Durango Transit drivers are ready to take you where you need to go!*

Durango Transit will be returning to the summer schedule on Monday, May 15. The summer schedule will be in effect through the end of September.

Throughout the summer, the Main Avenue Trolley will run seven days a week from 7 AM until 10 PM. The trolley services each stop every 20 minutes.

Loop routes will continue to operate from 6:30 AM until 9:35 PM Monday through Friday. Saturday Citywide service will run from 7 AM until 7 PM.

For route description, bus stop information and more, [click here](#).

For more information, please call (970) 259-5438.

## UPCOMING FREE TRANSIT DAYS

On Free Transit Days, ride Durango Transit for FREE all day long thanks to our sponsors!

**Friday, May 12**

*San Juan Basin Public Health Women's Wellness Connection*

**Tuesday, May 30**

*United Methodist Thrift Store*

[See the Rider's Guide here!](#)



Free Transit Day Sponsorship provides an excellent opportunity for your business to give back to the community.

By sponsoring a Free Transit Day, your business will provide fare-free transit service to the public, which is also a great advertising tool for your business.

For information on sponsoring a Free Transit Day, call (970) 375-4945 or [click here](#).

## IN PARKING NEWS

### REMINDERS FROM YOUR FRIENDLY PARKING DIVISION



The Durango Parking Division is often asked about areas near intersections and fire hydrants where parking is not allowed. In the Central Business District, these areas receive extra markings and/or signs for convenience even though markings are not required for enforcement of the Municipal Code. The reason for these no parking areas are for driver and pedestrian safety and ensure that the parked vehicle does not block the view of approaching traffic.

For a fire hydrant, you must stay at least 15 feet clear on both sides of the hydrant so the Fire Department can access it in case of emergency. At a road intersection, you must be at least 30 feet behind any stop sign or signal. When there is no stop sign or signal, you must be at least 15 feet back.

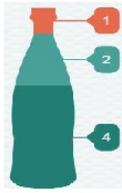
If there is a crosswalk, or two approaching sidewalks, then you must be 20 feet behind the closest side of the marked or inferred crosswalk.

Please help us maintain good site distances by obeying these parking laws for everyone's safety.

## GREEN SPRING CLEANING

1.

Try making your own cleaning products from basic household supplies



1 One part baking soda

2 Two parts vinegar

4 Four parts water

2.

Buy products that use:



Grain alcohol



Plant oils

Not:



Cellosolve, Petroleum, Triclosan

3.

Ditch the paper towels - use washable cloths or old t-shirts instead

Spring is here! With the Citywide Cleanup coming to an end, it is time to dust off those cobwebs and get scrubbing the nooks and crannies of your home that have been gathering god-knows-what for the last few wintry months.

Take a moment to think about what it is that you are using to 'clean' your home. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, indoor pollution can be two to more than 100 times higher than outdoors, largely due to the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that we bring into our homes in the form of decorating and cleaning products. The chemicals in conventional cleaning products may actually be healthier than the dirt they are intended to clean.

What about all those paper towels, Swiffer pads and other disposable items we plow through in our quest for cleanliness? While under normal circumstances you might recycle and strive to buy healthy green products; these good intentions frequently go out the window (or down the drain) when it comes to spring cleaning.

Luckily, there is a plethora of information out there on how to green your clean. Check out [inhabitat](#) and [SparkPeople](#) for handy tips.

## WHAT WE ARE READING

### [CDOT US 160/550 Construction Updates](#)

Crews are rehabilitating the concrete surface of US Highways (US) 160 and 550 through Durango. The project begins at Tech Center Drive on US 160, just west of the US 160/550 intersection, and ends at Animas View Drive (at 3800 Main Ave.) on US 550 north of Durango. The project is expected to last approximately three months, with the intent of completing work by the latter part of May, in time for Memorial Day holiday weekend travel. [Read more.](#)

### [Join the National Bike Challenge in May](#)

Kick-off [National Bike Month](#) by participating in the National Bike Challenge is a nationwide event uniting thousands of current bicyclists-and encouraging countless new riders. [Read more.](#)

### [Should developers pay to 'ride' the benefits of transit?](#)

If transit is coming to your neighborhood, you can bet the land value will go up. From Toronto to the Bay Area to Dutch cities, research has shown that residential and commercial property values - and rents - are higher near transit. [Read more.](#)

### [Prescription for savings](#)

It's a virtuous cycle that may come as no surprise: build bike lanes, and watch health care costs drop. [Read more.](#)

### [Vision Zero and Safe Routes to School: Partners in Safety](#)

Vision Zero, a movement that works to eliminate all traffic deaths and serious injuries, is gaining visibility, momentum and political traction in many US cities and towns - providing an opportunity for Safe Routes to School advocates to tap into a broader transportation initiative that is politically connected and often very high-profile. [Read more.](#)

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