

From: LACBC News newsletter@la-bike.org
Subject: LACBC News: Board President Bids Tamika Farewell, Tamika Rides On
Date: June 15, 2017 at 1:07 PM
To: BikinginLA bikinginla@hotmail.com

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Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition Newsletter

[Join LACBC](#) or renew your membership to help make L.A. County a healthy, safe, and fun place to ride a bike.

Message from LACBC Board President Doug John

Dear LACBC Family,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition, I'd like to ask you to join me in expressing our profound gratitude to Tamika Butler, our Executive Director, for her leadership of LACBC during her nearly three year tenure. Tamika has decided to pursue other opportunities and will be stepping down as Executive Director effective on July 14, 2017.

Under Tamika's leadership, LACBC has become both a local and national leader in advocacy for cycling, active transportation, and transportation equity. We've seen our operating revenue almost double, membership more than double and have racked up numerous policy wins for cyclists throughout Los Angeles County.

In 2016, Tamika and LACBC, played a key role in the Yes on M campaign – successfully leading to the passage of Measure M – securing, for the first time, a dedicated source of funding for Active Transportation in Los Angeles County. Additionally, having just completed the 17th Annual River Ride, and after 17 years of advocacy, we can celebrate that we will finally see the gap on the LA River Bike Path closed through Measure M funding.



The declaration of Los Angeles as a Vision Zero city means Tamika's legacy of ensuring all residents of LA County have access to safe cycling infrastructure will be memorialized in the concrete and steel of improving and expanding active transportation infrastructure. While the hard work of implementation and holding elected officials accountable remains, the prioritization of a high injury network means low-income communities and communities of color that have historically been disproportionately affected by traffic violence will finally see real investments in safety and active transportation infrastructure.

Tamika is leaving the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition primed for continued growth and success, which speaks volumes not only to her own leadership, but also to the team and culture she cultivated during her tenure. While we wish her success in all her endeavors, we must now turn to the future of our organization to ensure what has been gained under Tamika's leadership is not lost. The board will be identifying an interim Executive Director in the coming weeks, and launching a full, national search to attract a strong applicant pool for our next Executive Director. We're asking members and supporters of LACBC, community partners, and funders to take a moment and encourage anyone you may know that may be interested to apply.

The Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2018, and we'll continue to fulfill our mission of making Los Angeles County a fun, healthy, and safe place to ride a bike. We're better positioned

now to achieve that mission than ever before, and that's in no small part due to Tamika's tenure as Executive Director. We wish her well.

Sincerely,

Doug John

President, Board of Directors
Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition

Off the Chain by Tamika Butler

Dear LACBC fam,

This is the hardest Off the Chain I've had to write in my nearly three year tenure at the organization as I announce that I'll be leaving LACBC on July 14th. Leaving is truly one of the hardest decisions I've ever made. Ultimately, I had to do what was best for my family and I have an incredible opportunity at a new organization that is going to help me continue to grow as an Executive Director and leader.

When I rode my bike to the LACBC Spring Street office in December of 2014, I never imagined how much I would grow as a leader and person with this organization. Like any epic ride, my time at LACBC has been full of hard climbs, exhilarating views, and plenty of tears and laughs with all of you.

LACBC was already a phenomenal organization when I got here, but during my time here, we have become even stronger, and that is because of all of you! Our members, volunteers, and staff are the core of what we do at this organization. You are the backbone to our successes. You are the people we do this work for and that encourage us to keep fighting to make LA a healthy, fun, and safe place for all people who ride here. Here are a few highlights of what the LACBC team has accomplished together:



- L.A. becomes a Vision Zero City: The City of Los Angeles became a Vision Zero city. As other cities around the county look to adopt Vision Zero policies, LACBC has been a leading advocate in this work. We have stressed the need for Vision Zero to save lives, but also value lives and consider issues such as gentrification, displacement, and racial profiling as cities look towards utilizing enforcement strategies. LACBC has been viewed as a national expert on this topic and our intersectional approach to Vision Zero has been seen as a national model.
- Measure M passes: Last November, L.A. County residents overwhelmingly voted to pass Measure M, which provides approximately \$120 billion over 40 years for transportation projects, including at least \$4 billion for active transportation. Not only is this funding important to complete biking and walking projects, but working on the campaign was a true collaboration between organizations and groups with different missions. This campaign required strategic organizing and thoughtful storytelling. LACBC was at the forefront of this campaign with our partners and were a critical player in its passage. We also stood boldly and honestly in calling it a sales tax and continuing our fight post-passage to ensure that the low-income communities and communities of color most often negatively impacted by infrastructure aren't afterthoughts as the county looks towards implementation. Our seat on the Metro Measure M Policy Advisory Committee solidifies our position as we continue to influence the shaping of Metro's work and vision as they plan the future of the county.
- Operation Firefly expands: Since 2012, LACBC's Operation Firefly program has been helping people bike more safely at night by distributing bike lights and handing out safety information, and this program has grown tremendously. During my tenure we had an over 160% increase in the number of lights dispersed, including over 3000 lights this last season. In our continued effort to serve all people who bike, our youngest light recipient was 2 and our oldest recipient was 85.
- LACBC in schools: In the largest grant awarded to LACBC in our history, we have developed an education model that will incorporate bicycle education classes into more than 30 LAUSD schools. We'll be training PE teachers how to teach bicycle education classes to their students, allowing our work to ignite a new generation of people who bike and creating an education model that will live on from year to year as we reach thousands of students. We have prioritized schools serving low-income communities

and communities of color as our commitment to equity has been the driving principle in reaching neighborhoods that were historically neglected by our work and other transportation improvements.

- Bike share debuts across the county: Santa Monica led LA County with the first bike share program, Breeze Bike Share, last fall. Since then, other areas have followed: Long Beach, Beverly Hills, Downtown LA, and West Hollywood. We've been on the frontlines working with Metro and Multicultural Communities for Mobility as we looked to make bike share more equitable as it grows throughout the county.
- Internal sustainability and chapter growth: Behind the scenes, we've grown the budget, we've grown our membership, we've expanded our reach, and we've increased our professionalism. A major part of doing this was expanding our chapter system which now includes 13 local chapters of our most committed members throughout the county. They lead the work from the ground and have been a key part in pushing us to be better. We've done all of that while making the team stronger, providing better pay and benefits for the staff, investing in the professional development of our team, and having a ton of FUN!
- Continued expansion of our events for all riders: Whether it was a fancy gala, a ride spanning the state to fight climate change, the historical LA River Ride, or a Sunday Funday exploration of a new neighborhood. We continued to offer a variety of events that cater to all experience levels and all ages. We have these events not just to raise money (though throughout my tenure, our fundraising from these events grew), but to primarily build community. These events are about having fun, experiencing the diversity of our county and membership, and making new friends!
- Meeting you all: From LA River Ride to meetings to conferences to Sunday Funday rides, I have loved connecting with so many of you in person and hearing about what is important to you. We don't always agree, but we all want to make LA better. I've been energized by that and am more committed than ever to serving others in the furtherance of that goal.
- LACBC's recognition as a national leader: During my tenure, LACBC has been recognized as a national leader on a number of issues. In particular, as part of our mission to make LA a healthy, fun, and safe place for all people who ride here, we've pushed people to consider voices that have historically been silenced. As our national presence and visibility rose, many people right here in LA didn't understand why we were talking about things like race, inequity, housing unaffordability, police, or social injustice. Often times when you're leading the way, people on the sidelines question what you do because they don't yet understand what it is, why it's important, or that you're changing the game. We at LACBC have been part of changing the game. We know that we've only been able to do this because of all the leaders (predominately women, people of color, and LGBTQ folks) in our community and across the country who paved the way. Many of these leading individuals did this at the expense of their own well-being while being minimized and tokenized by the broader movement. We thank those people. We're happy to join the fight and we will continue to do this work, even after my departure. It's now essential to the LACBC culture and all that we do. We know that everyone may not understand, but we hope that one day everyone will. When they're ready, we'll still be here, leading the way.

These are just a few of the things this amazing team has accomplished, and LACBC isn't done. The vision of the organization is to continue centering the voices of all people who bike in Los Angeles County and to do our work with an intersectional social justice lens. At LACBC we don't always do what's popular. We do what's right. We do what's inclusive. We do what is going to best fulfil our mission to represent all people who are biking in their communities. Our work is about people, not just bikes. We're going to keep this vision and this commitment. The next chapter of LACBC is going to be the best chapter yet. I can't wait to see what's next!

This experience has forever changed me and I want to thank each and every one of you who has supported me and pushed me to be better. For now, we still have work to do, so I need to get back to it!

Ride On,

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p.s. Feel free to reach out before I leave, I'd love to see you! Stay tuned to the newsletter for updates on the ED search. I'll also be announcing my new landing spot shortly.

SankofaOnTheShaw: Crenshaw Traffic Safety Activation Week

Join MCM, LA Commons, LACBC, Ride On! Bike on, and the Office of



JOIN MCM, LA COMMONS, LAOBC, RIDE ON! BIKE CO-OP, and the Offices of Councilmember Harris-Dawson, and Council President Wesson for a weeklong mobility justice and art activation along Crenshaw Boulevard between MLK and 52nd. We'll be elevating the issues of traffic safety and highlighting narratives, experiences, and community solutions to inform the city's Vision Zero policy.

The activation will be June 17 to June 25 to coincide with community activities including the Juneteenth Festival, Crenshaw HealthFest and LA Common's Day of the Ancestors Mask Festival.

Events for SankofaOnTheShaw include:

- Saturday, June 17, 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.: Grand Opening & Juneteenth Leimert Park. Boothing at Ride On!
- Saturday, June 24, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.: Workshop at Crenshaw HealthFest.
- Sunday, June 25, 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.: Boothing at Mask Festival.

For more information about SankofaOnTheShaw, check out the Facebook page [here](#).



Vision Zero: Fletcher Drive

On Tuesday evening, June 13th, Vision Zero presented their alternatives for safety improvements on Fletcher Drive for the section of roadway between San Fernando Road & I-5 which is listed as one of the City's top 40 most dangerous streets. The event was well attended by cyclists and safe streets advocates as attendees were given the opportunity to comment on the project.



Some of the improvements the plan proposes are enhanced pedestrian crossings, speed feedback signs, intersection tightening and bike lanes. Check out photos from the open house in our [Facebook album](#). If you want to add your input, please email your comments to: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org and cc: visionzero@lacity.org

Sunday Funday: Tour of the Westside

As temperatures start to rise, what better place to go than near the ocean? Our next Sunday Funday will be touring the westside and the coast while also rolling through the new safety improvements in Playa del Rey and Mar Vista.



We will be starting at Culver / Slauson Park just four miles from the La Cienega Expo Line Station along the Ballona Creek Bike Path. The ride will continue into Marina del Rey and feature a stop in Venice along the vibrant Abbot Kinney commercial district. Did someone say ice cream? [RSVP here](#).

When: Sunday, July 2. Meet at 9:30 a.m. Ride at 10:00 a.m.

Where: Culver / Slauson Park - 5072 Slauson Ave., Culver City, 90230

What's Ringing our Bells: Victorian-Era Racing Anyone?

In LA, you'll find a number of fixed gear races across the county, but as simple as these bikes are, you can't call them old school. Penny Farthing was a craze in the 1880s that had "big" ambitions, but died out in the 20th century as practicality took over.



Still, you'll find cyclists today with oversized aspirations as America's only [High Wheel Race](#) comes to Frederick, Maryland this August. Start training now as the competition is head and shoulders above the rest.

LACBC KITS COMING BACK FOR ORDER NEXT WEEK

Our LACBC Kits are going to be available again soon for a limited time starting **next week**. Once again, we'll be offering a full line of jerseys, shorts, jackets and accessories designed by [superdomestik](#) from our [Voler store](#).

If you [sign up for updates](#), you'll receive information on ordering periods, news and discounts. Get ready to grab yours so you can #RepLA. Jens Voigt knows...



Events, Meetings, & Volunteer Opportunities

Montebello Bicycle Coalition Camp Williams / GMR

When: Saturday, June 17, 7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Where: 1600 W. Beverly Blvd., Montebello, 90640

Join the Montebello Bicycle Coalition as they ride into the Angeles National Forest up to Camp Williams (31 miles). Riders will have the choice of returning back or continuing on in a loop up Glendora Mountain Road (38 miles). Get more route information and RSVP [here](#).

Downey Bicycle Coalition Family Fun Ride

When: Saturday, June 17, 7:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Where: Furman Park, 10419 Rives Ave., Downey, 90241

If you are new to bike riding, or haven't been riding for quite a while, or would like to get to know Downey a little better, this group is for you. This is a fun ride for both kids and adults. The pace is based on the members who are riding with us. There is no cost to participate, bring your bike and enthusiasm to make some new friends. More information [here](#).

Lower LA River Family Bike Ride

When: Saturday, June 17, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Where: Chavez Park, 401 Golden Ave., Long Beach, 90802

LACBC is leading a short bike ride along the Lower LA River to share the opportunities for improvements and gather feedback about the types of improvements that the community would like to see. This feedback will be used to inform the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan and is an opportunity for your voice to be heard. More information [here](#).

Summer Breeze Community Ride, Ride with the Mayor & Summer Soulstice

When: Sunday, June 25, 8:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Where: Breeze Bike Station, Ocean Ave & California Incline, Santa Monica, 90401

Join Santa Monica Spoke, Council Member Sue Himmelrich, City of Santa Monica Mobility Team and Breeze Bike Share at the new Breeze Station at the top of the California Incline for this 3x's the FUN EVENT! The ride will cover three miles and all participants that RSVP will receive a promo code good for 1.5 HOURS of ride time on Breeze Bike Share and first time Breeze Ride participants can receive a FREE helmet. Register [here](#).

Walk Bike Glendale Women's Beginner Ride

When: Sunday, June 25, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Where: [Verdugo Park](#), 1621 Cañada Blvd., Glendale, 91208

Come out to continue your 2017 riding habit as Walk Bike Glendale hosts another of their Women's Beginner Riders. It'll be moderately paced and relatively flat covering 22 miles. This will be a no-drop ride and will regroup as needed. More information [here](#).

Join LACBC or Renew

The Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition is a member-supported organization that works to make L.A. County a healthy, safe, and fun place to ride a bike! Members are the backbone of LACBC. Help keep LACBC strong by becoming an [LACBC member](#) (or renewing your membership) and be part of the change! Support one of our local chapters when you join or renew:

[Bicycle Coalition at UCLA](#) | [Bike Culver City](#) | [Carson Bicycle Coalition](#) | [Downey Bicycle Coalition](#) | [Montebello Bicycle Coalition](#) | [Pomona Valley Bicycle Coalition](#) | [Santa Clarita Bicycle Coalition](#) | [Santa Monica Spoke](#) | [USC Bicycle Coalition](#) | [Walk Bike Burbank](#) | [Walk Bike Glendale](#) | [Walk Bike Long Beach](#) | [West Hollywood Bicycle Coalition](#)

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[It's good to be King.](#)

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Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition · 634 S Spring St, Suite 821, Los Angeles, CA 90014,
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