



PRESS RELEASE

December 20, 2011

Davis Police Partner With Bike Shops to Promote Bicycle Safety

The Davis Police Department is announcing a partnership project with several Davis bicycle shops to promote and enhance bicycle safety.

The Police Department will be conducting a specialized Bicycle Safety Education and Enforcement Operation beginning January 9, 2012 and continuing throughout the week. Officers will patrol areas frequented by bicyclists to address traffic violations that lead to collisions with other bicyclists, vehicles, and pedestrians.

Since January 1st, 2011, the Davis Police Department has responded to 54 collisions involving bicycles. The bicyclist was injured in 93% of those collisions. Coupled with an increase in complaints from the public about bicyclist violating safe riding practices, including failing to stop at stop signs and riding at night without a light, the Davis Police Department has identified the need for a street-level education and enforcement program.

The goal of the program is to educate the public about the safe and lawful use of bicycles, as well as the safe and lawful use of vehicles that share the roadways with bicycles. Prevention is a key component of the program, which centers on the traffic laws that can prevent bicycle riders from being injured or killed due to illegal use or reckless behavior. While officers may choose to educate and warn offenders, officers may also enforce violations of the State Vehicle Code, and the City's Municipal Code that prohibits riding a bicycle on downtown sidewalks.

If a bicyclist is issued a citation for not having a bike light at night, he or she may take a copy of their citation to any of the following bike shops in Davis and receive a 10% discount on a new bike light.

Apex Cycles and Service
B&L Bikeshop
Blisworks Bikes
Davis Wheelworks
Freewheeler Bicycle Center
Ken's Bike, Ski and Board

This discount does not reduce or eliminate any fine associated with receiving a citation; it simply allows a bicyclist to obtain required safety equipment at a reduced cost.



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With more traffic congestion on our city streets, and more people turning to bicycles as a transportation alternative, we need to make sure that all road users understand the rules, laws and safe behavior; particularly how bicyclists and motorists share the road.

Safe riding practices include:

- Bicycles must be operated in a bike lane, if one is available; or on the roadway or the shoulder of the highway; but in either case, in the same direction as the flow of traffic.
- Bicyclists must stop for stop signs and obey all traffic signs and signals.
- Bicycles operated during darkness must be equipped with a working white light facing forward, a red reflector facing rearward, and reflectors on both wheels.
- Bicycles cannot be ridden on sidewalks in downtown Davis.
- Riders under 18 must be equipped with a properly fitted and buckled helmet.

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