

EASY RIDER



A Newsletter of the Transportation Alternatives Program

Vol. 1, No. 3 December 1991

About the Bus Passes

If you've kept up with your *Staff Notes* reading, you know that the bus pass program has been continued through 1992 for all NCAR/UCAR staff and visitors. Your new 1992 sticker will be sent to you in late December. Please be sure to attach it immediately to your pass; we will not be able to send out replacements for lost stickers.

You might be interested in knowing that your bus pass is officially called an "Eco Pass." This is RTD's new name for the previous Boulder/RTD "Mobility Pass." The Eco Pass is now offered throughout the entire RTD system (Denver/Boulder, etc.). You may have heard advertising spots on KBCO and other stations announcing this program.

Employers are charged a flat rate for each employee, regardless of how many employees get and/or use a pass (similar to medical insurance). Since bus service to our locations is not very frequent, NCAR received a lower flat rate than other employers. Locally, over 40 organizations (including NIST, Boulder Community Hospital, and Neodata) are also enrolled in the program. The City of Boulder is offering a 25% subsidy to businesses that wish to sign up (NCAR/UCAR received a subsidy during the first year of the program). This program is believed to be the first of its kind in the United States.

Just think, you've been using your bus pass all this time without even knowing that you're a pioneer!

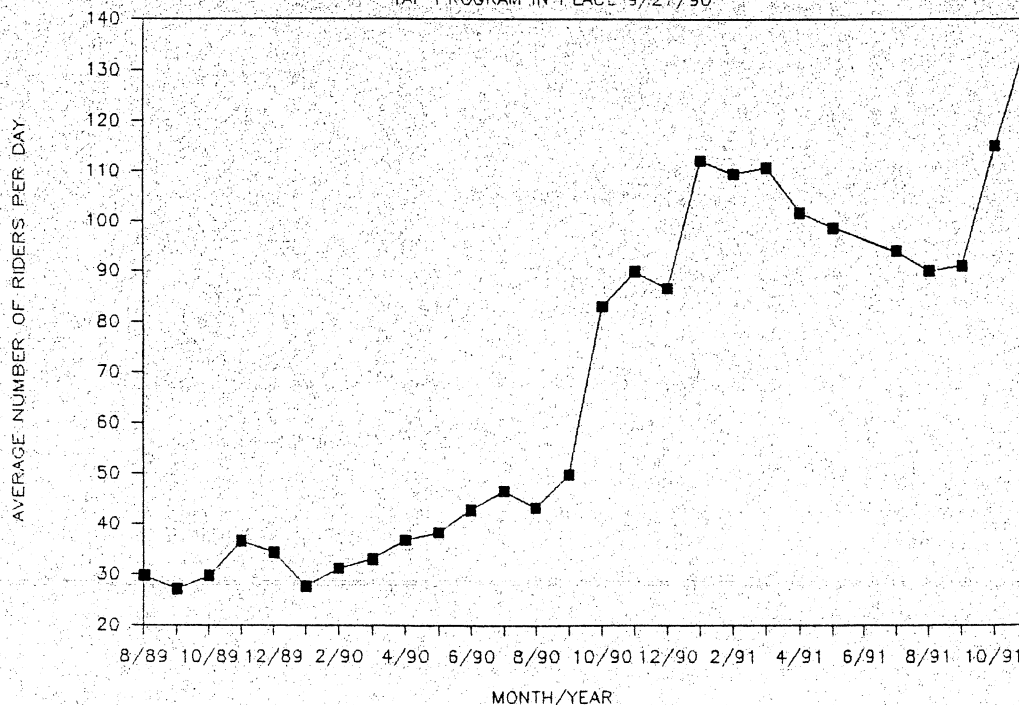
TAP into TAG

Would you like to be a member of the TAP committee? The Transportation Alternatives Group invites interested staff and visitors to become a part of this volunteer committee.

Anyone with enthusiasm, ideas, and a keen interest in alternative transportation is encouraged to contact Chris Ennis (x1469), Dean Lindstrom (x1141), or any other TAG member.

NCAR Shuttle Riders

TAP PROGRAM IN PLACE 9/27/90



National Center for
Atmospheric Research

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Featured TAPper



Deirdre Roach, a scientific applications programmer II at Flatiron West, has used alternative transportation since she joined the Research Applications Program (RAP) about a year and a half ago. "I bicycle about 12 miles roundtrip each day from near South Boulder Rec Center.

Before I started with RAP, I was a sporadic bike commuter." Deirdre is quite dedicated to her alternative transportation use now. "I took a class at the Denver Tech Center this past summer and used my bus pass to get there. So far this year I have only driven my car six days!"

When asked about bicycling in bad weather, Deirdre replied, "Oh, it's not so bad if you have the appropriate gear. I wear nice warm boots, a big jacket, and travel on bike paths and bike routes except for a few intersections. I know it would be a different story if I had to travel on the roads. I am very lucky and have no excuses!" It was interesting to learn that her bike commute takes 30 minutes while driving takes 20 minutes. In addition, Deirdre says she "feels safer on my bicycle. I have better visibility, and I know I can stop!"

Deirdre's name may sound familiar to staff members who have followed the results of the past two year's EAC Fall Races. In 1990 she finished first in both the bicycle and foot races, setting a new record for the foot race. This past summer she also set a new record in the bicycle race of 6 minutes 39 seconds. Will she better this time in 1992?

"I think bicycling is just fun! It provides a good transition time--I find that I arrive home all mellow after cycling. It does take commitment and organization--I bet I have forgotten everything at least once! But the hardest part, even in bad weather, is getting your foot and bicycle out the door. After that, just enjoy!

- Barbara McDonald



Dueling Alternate Modes

Bicycling Magazine has rated Boulder one of the 10 best cycling cities in the United States. Seattle, Palo Alto, San Diego, Gainesville, Eugene, Montreal, Madison, Missoula, and Davis also made the grade. A poll showed that bicycle commuting across the country has doubled since 1983, and that about one in 60 employees bicycles to work in the U.S.

Not to be outdone by the bicyclists, Boulder's walkers can brag that their city has been named one of America's 10 Most Walkable Cities. By *Walking Magazine*, of course.



What Next, Vinegarette??

An Italian company is testing a vegetable-oil-based fuel in buses in Zurich. Operating tests show a 50% reduction in some emissions when compared with petroleum-derived diesel fuel. The new fuel is composed of 100 parts of either sunflower or rapeseed oil and 10 parts of methanol.

The results, which showed that the tailpipe emissions contained fewer particulates (read: less black fumes) and a total absence of sulfur compounds, would be a welcome relief for pedestrians and cyclists who now must hold their breath when a bus passes.

- Source: *Chemical and Engineering News*
18 November 1991

Chuck Carlentine, DIR, has miniaturized a portion of the shuttle schedule. It will fit nicely in your wallet or pocket. If you'd like a copy fresh off the laser printer, drop a note to Chuck (ML).

ML	TM	CU	Pearl	CU	TM	ML
7:05 AM	7:12	7:17	7:22			
7:03 AM					7:10	7:17
7:17 AM					7:24	7:31
7:31 AM					7:38	7:45
7:45 AM					7:52	8:00
			7:52	7:57	8:03	8:10
8:03 AM					8:10	8:17
8:17 AM					8:24	8:31
8:31 AM					8:38	8:45
8:45 AM					8:53	9:00
9:30 AM	9:37	9:42	9:47			
			10:35	10:42	10:47	10:55
9:45 AM	9:52					
11:40 AM					11:47	12:00
11:45 AM	11:52	11:57	12:02		1:05	1:15
12:45 PM	12:52		1:12	1:17	1:22	1:30
1:30 PM	1:37	1:42	1:47	2:42	2:47	2:55
1:45 PM	1:52					
3:30 PM	3:37					3:44
3:46 PM	3:53					4:00
4:00 PM	4:07					4:14
4:16 PM	4:23					4:30
4:31 PM	4:38					4:45
4:45 PM	4:52	4:57	5:03			
5:00 PM	5:07					5:14
5:20 PM	5:27					5:34
			5:32	5:37	5:43	5:50
5:37 PM	5:44					5:51

The Shuttle of the Future

When the dust has settled from the Foothills Lab move-in early in 1992, service offered by the NCAR shuttles will be transformed. More frequent service between the Foothills Lab and the Mesa Lab will be added to the current schedule. A shuttle will leave each of the two main sites approximately every 30-40 minutes. Some runs will be "Express" connections, while others will make stops at CU, downtown, and Crossroads on the way. Watch *Staff Notes* and your mailbox for details. We hope that the new schedule will make it even easier for you to "TAP Into It!"

Remember, You Have a Guaranteed Ride Home

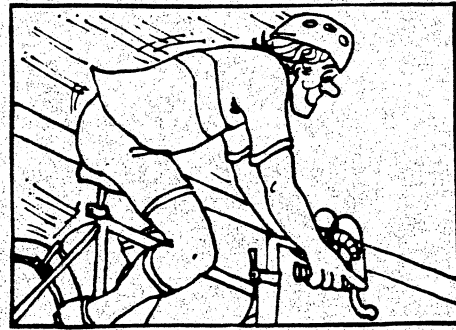
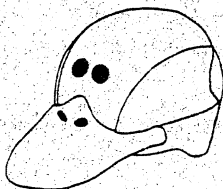
The Transportation Alternatives Program's Guaranteed Ride Home Program offers NCAR/UCAR employees who use alternative transportation a free taxi ride in case of emergency. Situations covered by this program include illness, medical emergency involving family members or friends, nonmedical family emergency, missing a carpool or shuttle ride due to unexpected work-related need to travel to another NCAR/UCAR site. Call the Mesa Lab receptionist, x1140, or have a security guard call the cab company through the priority phone number. (Do not call the cab company yourself.) A free taxi ride will be provided for you, courtesy of the Denver Regional Council of Governments. You must show your Regional Transportation District bus pass to the taxi driver or give him your five-digit NCAR/UCAR employee number or visitor number. If you have any questions, contact Rachel Jones, x1650.

Computing Commuting News

After making its debut at the TAP birthday party (Mesa Lab, 10 October 1991) the TAP Computer System has been updated a bit. The carpool database now contains the survey information received from staff members. We are currently adding a complete listing of the RTD bus schedules and developing software to enhance this service. In addition, the computer system contains several information screens on how to obtain a bus pass, committee members' names and extensions, and more.

In the next few months, the system will be permanently installed at the Mesa Lab near the cafeteria. Special cabinets and display boards are being designed for this display. A similar system will be installed at the Foothills Lab in the future.

- Barbara McDonald



Helmets... Why You Should Be Wearing One

Accidents happen to even the most careful bicyclists. The main reason for wearing a helmet is to prevent head injury from the hard impact of an accident, but riders who wear helmets are also easier to see and gain the respect of motorists. Today's bicycle helmets are light, airy, and comfortable. They use a core layer of non-springy foam to absorb shock. Strong, adjustable straps and a secure buckle keep the helmet in place.

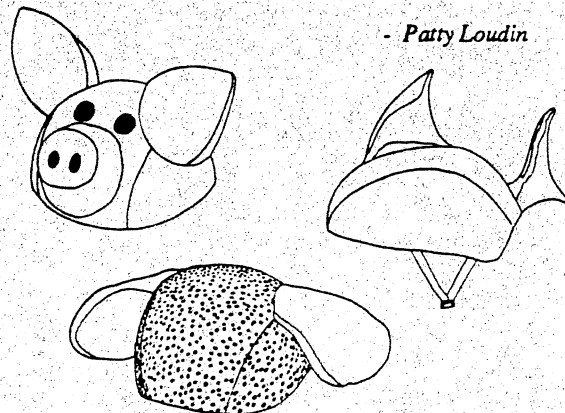
There are three basic categories of helmet design. FOAM ONLY, HARD SHELL, and MICRO SHELL. Each helmet should display a sticker indicating it has met the safety standards of the Snell Foundation and/or ANSI. Do not consider a helmet which has not met one of the two standards. Your local bike shop employee can explain the advantages of each design, show you how the helmet should be worn, and help you fit it properly.

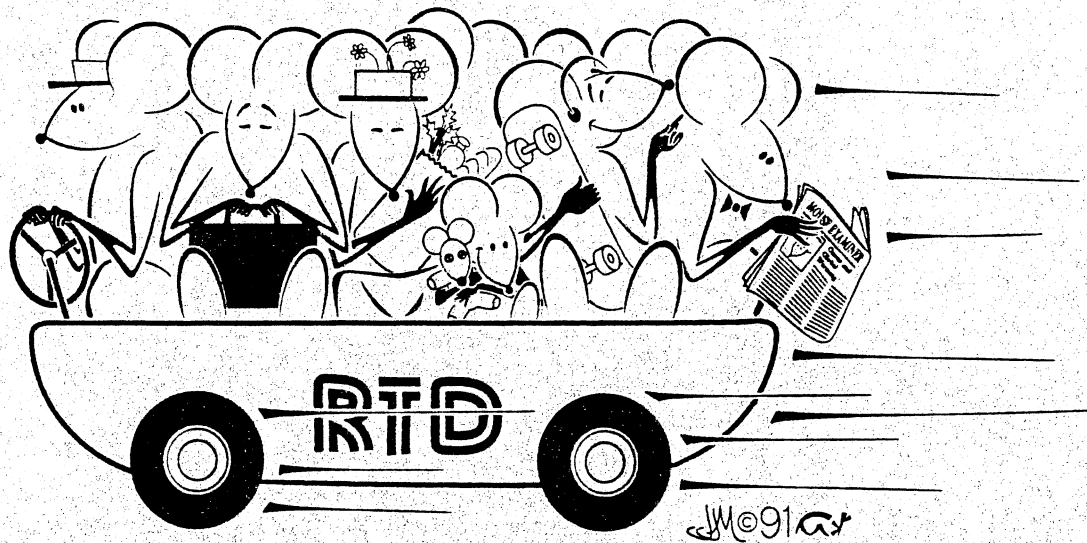
- Go Boulder Newsletter
November 1991
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...And How To Make It Fun!

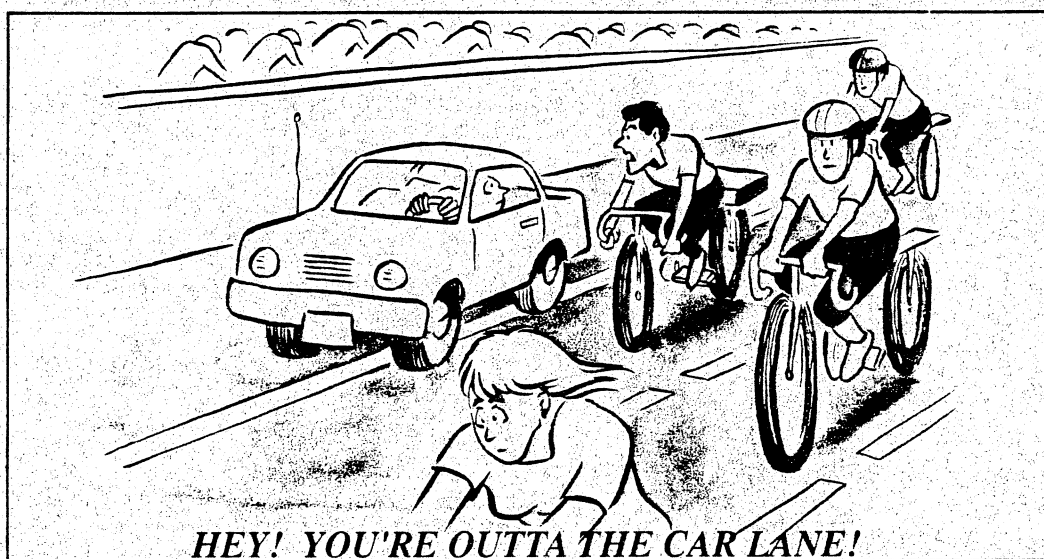
For those kids (or kids at heart!) who think bicycle helmets are too "uncool"-- "Comic Covers" helmet covers are available in various animal shapes including "Road Shark," "Trail Hog," "Puppy," and "Duck De Visor." Cost is approximately \$18 at the Morgul-Bismark bike shop on the hill. *This is provided for your information and amusement only. NCAR/UCAR and TAG do not endorse or recommend any company or service.*

- Patty Loudin





" Rodent Transportation District "



Thanks!

Thanks to Jacque Marshall , SCD, and the *GO Boulder Newsletter* for providing the cartoons for this issue.

Questions????????????????????

Please don't hesitate to contact any member of the Transportation Alternatives Group if you have questions about TAP:

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