Readers respond to the Question of the Week: Will Southern California really ever bike to work?

Los Angeles News Group

Posted: 07/25/2013 11:53:36 AM PDT
Updated: 07/25/2013 11:54:00 AM PDT

We asked readers, will Southern California really ever bike to work?

Dreaming of pedaling on a 'bicycle freeway'

If I worked in San Pedro, I would commute to work by bike. I lived in Japan and a bike was my mode of transportation. I had a basket on my bike and it would always amaze me how all my groceries would somehow fit in it. When I rode my bike everywhere, I could eat whatever I wanted and didn't gain weight. But I work in El Segundo and Seal Beach now, so biking is not really an option. But it's too bad they can't invent a "bicycle freeway." That would cut down on the time it would take for the commute.

- Pamela Willis, San Pedro

Commuting on a bike not that practical

For me, cycling isn't an option. First of all, I don't own a bike. Second, I am a housekeeper and most always have to do certain things that don't involve riding a bike. I used to work at the Metro Expo Line to get halfway to my office. Now that my kids are grown, I transport items to the local animal shelters which necessitates the use of my car. Otherwise, I usually go to work by car or my son's car in Glendale which is way too far to bike.

- Valerie Brown, Ontario

If she can do it, most people can

I bike to work, as do many people in my office. If I get to my office a little late, it's hard to find a place to lock up my bike because the bike racks are full. When I bike to work I see bike commuters of all stripes also biking to work. Please note, I'm not some spandex-clad endurance athlete. I'm a fat 42-year-old woman with asthma. If I can bike to work, most people can bike to work. I usually use the Metro Expo Line to get halfway to my office. There's a bus that goes the rest of the way, but I've found that I can beat it, and the traffic, when I bike. Traffic in Culver City is generally so slow that it's easy to out-bike it. I'm amazed you seem so gobsmacked that people would bike to work. They're everywhere! If you take surface streets rather than the highway, you'll see them.

- Nicole Gustas, Los Angeles

No reason not to commute on a bicycle

There are very few reasons not to commute on a bicycle in Los Angeles, especially with the folding bikes available through the city of Pasadena. As a resident or as someone who works in the city, you qualify for a great voucher available for purchase. With the light rail and a folding bike, the entirety of L.A. is easily accessible.

- Kimberly Medendorp, Pasadena

Older workers might be willing but not able

A network of bike paths for riding to work is a beautiful idea, but impractical. Our country has a rapidly graying workforce. Very few seniors will be physically able, even if willing, to trade their Prius for a Schwinn. And most younger workers will find pedal power far too inconvenient. If you want to grocery shop or pick up something on the way home from work you can't because you would need to go home to get the watermelon-carrying cargo trailer suggested by Cal Poly Pomona history professor John Lloyd. Even that won't do the job if you shop at Costco where you purchase in large quantities. And how many workers will be OK with arriving at work sweaty after a trailer suggested by Cal Poly Pomona history professor John Lloyd. Even that won't do the job if you shop at Costco where you purchase in large quantities.

- Kimberly Medendorp, Pasadena

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Costco where you purchase in large quantities. And how many workers will be OK with arriving at work sweaty and with disheveled hair? Or pedaling home when really tired after an 8- or 10-hour shift?

Hopefully, Long Beach officials will listen to Syd Mead and abandon their expensive and certain-to-fail participation in this experiment.

- Richard Gutmann, Long Beach

Cyclists and drivers need to share the road

When I was working in Rancho Cucamonga, I rode my bike several days a week from spring to late summer. I didn't always have a dedicated bike lane to use so I stayed close to the curb. I obeyed all traffic laws, which I rarely see today's bikers doing. My main concern is that on at least two occasions while I was riding my bike I was attacked. Someone behind me threw a rock at me, but missed. Another time, as I made my way between the curb and cars stopped at a red light, I was hit by several raw eggs thrown by someone in a car behind me. I wasn't hurt, but I had a real mess to clean up when I got home.

- Michael Barb, Fontana

Riding a trike is fun and convenient

If the person works close to home, it makes sense to commute by bike. But what about not being able to carry a watermelon home on a bicycle? A bicycle cargo trailer would solve the dilemma of toting a watermelon home. If you have a cargo trailer, you could buy the watermelon and even cantaloupe, honeydew, Persian melon and other melons.

Three-wheel bicycles are the answer, but it needs to have a bell and a horn on its handle bars just like in the old days. It's a fantastic form of exercise for the commuter and for senior citizens. They will be happy knowing they are doing their part in helping keep our planet clean and beautiful!

- Lois Eisenberg, Valencia

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