



Let It Ride

How the city is making bicycling easier and safer

NOT QUITE READY FOR THE RACE CIRCUIT (PAGE 42)? Austin is accelerating its efforts to make the city bike friendly. We now have more than 119 miles of bike lanes, with 20-plus miles added last year alone. Roads such as Exposition Boulevard offer stretches of continuous bike lanes and a few rolling hills to get the blood pumping. And the Lance Armstrong Bikeway lets you enjoy a smooth ride away from traffic altogether.

The city is planning its first bike boulevard—streets designed to slow traffic to make bicycling safer—on Rio Grande and Nueces streets. City boards and commissions have unanimously supported the Downtown Bike Boulevard, and the first phase on Rio Grande should be completed by early next year. Getting across Lady Bird Lake also promises to be easier with an extension of the Pfluger bicycle/pedestrian bridge, set for completion this fall. The flyover will cross Cesar Chavez, giving cyclers a quick connection to downtown.

Local cycling organizations can also help you get riding. The Austin Cycling Association (austincycling.org) has route information and offers Traffic Skills 101. The Yellow Bike Project (austinyellowbike.org) teaches the ins and outs of bike repair. And advocacy organizations, including League of Bicycling Voters (lobv.org) and Bike Texas (biketexas.org), work to make bicycling safer and more accessible. —R. D'AMICO