



## Green Sense 07-07-13

### Bike Boston and Circle the City

Did you know you can take your bicycle on the MBTA during off-peak hours? That means that any weekend you can take your bike into Boston on the train or subway, and enjoy the bike routes and greenways. And Boston is offering a car-free neighborhood event on July 14<sup>th</sup>, providing the perfect opportunity to cycle in the city.

Bicycles are allowed on Commuter Rail trains except during weekday peak hours in peak directions, so Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> is a good time to hop on the Haverhill Line at Reading Station and head into the City. Bicycles can also ride Subways all weekend (and weekdays off-peak (except Green line), see [www.mbta.com/riding\\_the\\_t/bikes/](http://www.mbta.com/riding_the_t/bikes/)).

Getting around Boston on bike has never been easier. For one thing, last year the Boston Transportation Department began installing 90 bicycle way-finding signs - posted at intersections Downtown to point the way for cyclists to sites in Boston. There are also many, many, new bike lanes on major streets. Find out more at [www.cityofboston.gov/bikes/](http://www.cityofboston.gov/bikes/).

The City's website will also link you to the Hubway, the bike rental program that has bicycles at stations all over the city. So, even if you don't have a bike, you can rent one in the City at a Hubway station (there are over 100 stations and 1,000 bikes available in Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, and Somerville). You can take subway or commuter rail into Boston and hop on a Hubway rental bike at North Station and many other locations (see <http://thehubway.com>).

So, plan to bike in Boston on Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> for Circle the City, Boston's 2nd Annual Open Streets event. From 11:00am to 4:00pm, Circle the City and the Fenway Alliance are presenting "Open Streets on the Avenue of the Arts" on Huntington Avenue. The festival will be moving between Belvidere Street and Brigham Circle (along Huntington), connecting to the Back Bay Fens and the Southwest Corridor and featuring many of the institutions along the way.

Circle the City was launched last year to encourage family fun, and promote safe, car-free physical activity linking neighborhoods and parks. Temporarily transforming Boston into 'paved parks', with fitness clinics, biking & walking tours, kids' games, yoga, art activities, live music and dance classes, Circle The City is free and open to all. For info, check out the schedule at [www.emeraldnecklace.org/restoration/circle-the-city/](http://www.emeraldnecklace.org/restoration/circle-the-city/).

Featuring free activities for all ages that promote healthy, active urban living, Circle the City closes Huntington Street to traffic, creating a safe, car-free area to walk, bike, roll, play and celebrate some of our greatest urban resources. Not only will there be live and roaming performances, but you'll also find Farmer's Markets, bike clinics, children's activities, culinary demonstrations, roller skating, hula hooping, and countless other opportunities to have fun on the streets and in the parks.

(Note, some of the routes near Circle the City will be 'soft closures' with cross traffic allowed at a limited number of points along the route and auto access for residents and businesses located within the closed route.)

From North Station, it's two miles (through Boston Common) or take the Orange Line from Oak Grove to Mass Ave and it's two blocks to Huntington, an easy walk or bike ride. There are many "active transportation" events listed for July 14<sup>th</sup>, including Boston Bikes' bike rodeo, a demonstration cycle track to try out sponsored by the Boston Cyclists Union, and they are also hosting a mini cafe to learn about biking in the city.

The LivableStreets Alliance is setting up a Photo Booth for "Red Line" photos and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council is showcasing their BostonGreenMapApp. Finally, starting right at 11 AM, there's a tour led by Boston By Foot and Walk Boston down the "Avenue of the Arts" to learn about the establishments dedicated to the fine arts, music, theater, education, religion, sports and more on Huntington Avenue.

So, if you've ever thought about getting to know Boston better, the events on July 14<sup>th</sup> are a good time to go on public transit, and by foot or by bicycle get some insight, exercise, and free entertainment.

A column by Reading Climate Committee member Gina Snyder.