

For Immediate Release

Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels Proclaims Saturday August 24, 2002 Car-Free Seattle Day

Contact Robert Zverina: rob@zverina.com or 547-6433

website: www.thinksmall.org

Car-Free Seattle has chosen Saturday, August 24, 2002 as a day to focus the public's attention on transportation issues which affect us all and to celebrate the existing alternatives of public transit and human-powered vehicles. Across the world, car-free days have become routine in cities from Bogota to Paris in order to reduce air pollution, preserve historic monuments, and liberate their citizens from noise and gridlock.

Car-Free Seattle Day will be celebrated by a rolling party - a bike ride for riders of all skill levels - that will connect events in Columbia City (Rainier Valley Heritage Festival), Capitol Hill (14th Avenue Merchants Association Block Party), and Fremont (Tour de Fat). Look for bands, music, sidewalk chalk art, beer gardens, games and workshops. A full range of kinetic sculptures, vintage bicycles, cruisers, electric bikes and choppers will be on display. Free, non-judgmental car-free counseling for the auto dependent, and information from local alternative transportation and cycling advocacy organizations will also be available. Later that night, the Fremont Outdoor Cinema will be showing *Breaking Away*, the classic bike movie.

There are other ways to participate in Car-Free Seattle besides showing up for the event. Seattle residents can help spread the Car-Free concept by scheduling a block party in their neighborhood for August 24. Car-Free Seattle is similar to Buy Nothing Day (<http://adbusters.org/campaigns/bnd>) in that it is possible to participate by *not* participating - by choosing not to drive on August 24.

Car Free Seattle is an ongoing grassroots campaign directed to raising consciousness about the dangers of auto abuse. Car Free Seattle aims to make cars obsolete in Seattle and to raise consciousness about the impact cars have on the environment, society, and our mental, physical, and spiritual well-being.

Car-Free Seattle is funded through a grant from the City of Seattle CarSmart Communities Program which funds neighborhood-based projects that encourage people to drive less, drive smarter and explore alternatives to cars. For more information, see <http://www.cityofseattle.net/carsmart>

Other partners of Car-Free Seattle include Bikeworks, a community bike shop in Columbia City, the 14th Avenue Merchants Association, and New Belgium Brewery

Mayoral Proclamation

August 24, 2002 Declared Car-Free Seattle Day

WHEREAS, the widespread use of the single occupancy vehicle in Seattle has contributed to such problems as pollution, traffic accidents, and traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS the vast majority of travelers in the Seattle area still depend on the single occupancy vehicle as their sole means of transportation; and

WHEREAS, the city of Seattle has introduced numerous programs and services that encourage the use of alternative means of transportation including but not limited to the provision of bike lanes, a public bus system, vouchers such as the U-Pass, and the forthcoming rail projects; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to encourage the members of Seattle's community to use these alternative means of transportation and educate them on how to use them in order to counteract the above mentioned problems of the single occupancy vehicle;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it proclaimed, by the Mayor of Seattle, that Saturday, August 24th 2002 be declared **Car Free Seattle Day** in order to promote the use of alternative means of transportation, celebrate those who have already looked beyond the single occupancy vehicle as their main source of transportation, and teach others that they have the power to do the same.

(signed) Greg Nickels,
Mayor of Seattle