

# BIKE TO WORK DAY IN THE WOODLANDS: RAIN AND ALL

## MAY 12, 2015

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**D**espite the threat of rain, flash flooding, and scattered thunderstorms approximately 300 people participated in The Woodlands Bike to Work Day on Tuesday, May 12. It's difficult to estimate how many people who participated actually biked to work today, but the number of people this year was the largest since Bike to Work Day was established three years ago. Bike to Work Day is an important catalyst to getting people to think about alternatives for driving to work, or using a bicycle to travel around our community to retail stores and restaurants. Participating in Bike To Work Day may be the first step toward a healthy habit that also saves money, reduces traffic congestion, and improves air quality.



For Tuesday's Bike to Work Day, Bike The Woodlands Coalition and The Woodlands Township—the two organizations that coordinated the event—set up 2 meet-up locations at Whole Foods Market in Hughes Landing and Black Walnut Restaurant on New Trails. Over 300 people showed up at the two locations between 6:30-9am. Those who ventured out in spite of the rain were greeted with food, t-shirts, giveaways, and some kind words from volunteers.

The message was loud and clear at Bike to Work Day: People riding bicycles want a convenient, safe, planned and connected bicycling infrastructure to make our streets & pathways more inviting for the growing number of people biking in The Woodlands; as well as making the streets more predictable for all road users. This includes a desire for a comprehensive system of off-road and on-road facilities that safely connects neighborhoods and destinations while encouraging safer bicycle and pedestrian commuting & recreational opportunities.

“In the next 5 to 10 years we want to see bicycle friendly corridors stretching across the community. These major east/west (I-45 to SH 2978) and north/south (SH 242 to Creekside) corridors would provide protected bike lanes”, according to David Hitchcock, member of the Bike The Woodlands Coalition Steering Committee. “Anyone who rides a bike wants to ride where they can do so safely. Having these major corridors will help ensure that we achieve a goal of zero traffic fatalities for cyclists and pedestrians alike. Any death or injury due to unsafe conditions is simply unacceptable.”

“We thank cyclists, sponsors, volunteers, elected officials and dignitaries who came out in the rain to support Bike to Work Day,” John Powers, The Woodlands Township. “The support from all participants is appreciated, and signifies their willingness to adopt a sustainable, low-cost, healthy commuting option.” This year’s major sponsors include Huntsman Corporation, Jones & Carter, Whole Foods Market, and Black Walnut Restaurant.

We also want to thank our exhibitors including HARC, The Woodlands GREEN, WCC, Bike Land, Cycles TX, and House of Tandems.

We expect next year's event to be bigger and better. Here's to next year, rain or shine.