

# MOMENTUM

## e-news



February 2017

IN MULTIMODAL NEWS

## HOW DO REDUCED LANES AFFECT BUSY STREETS?

**What's a road diet? Quite simply, "a road diet is anytime you take any lane out of a road" says traffic-calming expert Dan Burden in a recent video shot with [Streetfilms](#).**

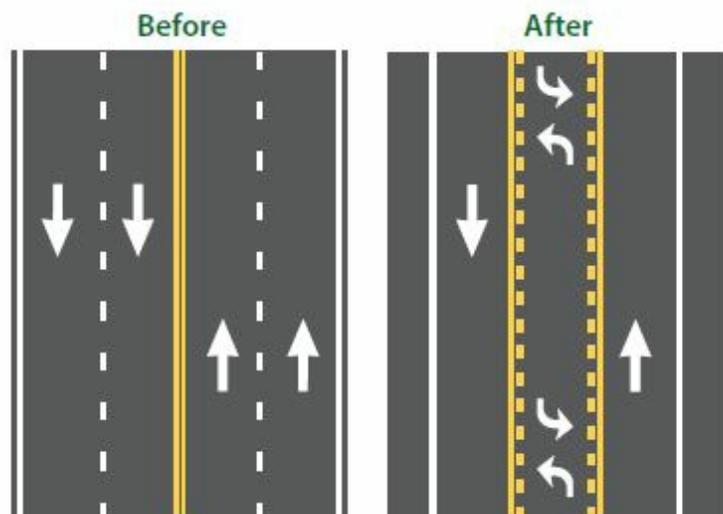
The first time people hear about a road diet, their initial reaction likely goes something like this: "How can removing lanes improve my neighborhood and not cause traffic backups?" It seems counter-intuitive, but taking away lanes can actually help traffic flow smoother while improving safety for everyone.

**Road diets are good for pedestrians:** They reduce speeding and make vehicle movements more predictable while shortening crossing distances, usually through curb extensions or center median islands.

**They're good for cyclists:** Many road diets shift space from car lanes to create bike lanes.

**They're good for drivers:** Less speeding improves safety for motorists and passengers, and providing left-turn pockets allows through traffic to proceed without shifting lanes or waiting behind turning vehicles.

And here's something to keep in mind during this era of lean budgets: road diets are a highly-effective infrastructure improvement that can be implemented quickly and at low cost.



Typical road diet basic design

A road diet is generally described as "removing travel lanes from a roadway and utilizing the space for other uses and travel modes" according to [Federal Highway Administration's Road Diet Information Guide](#). The most common road diet lane reconfiguration is the conversion of an undivided four lane roadway to a three-lane undivided roadway made up of two through lanes and a center two-way left-turn lane (TWLTL). The reduction of lanes allow the roadway to be re-allocated for other uses such as [\(protected\) bike lanes](#), pedestrian refuge islands, transit uses and/or parking.

Historically, road diets have been shown to enhance safety and access for all users, forming a welcome environment for various transportation modes and creating more livable spaces. According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), road diets typically reduce collisions by 19 to 47 percent.

Road diets have been done on roadways across the U.S. that carry [nearly twice the traffic volumes, up to an average daily traffic \(ADT\) of 23,000 vehicles per day \(vpd\)](#), as College Drive (10,558 ADT) and East 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue (13,629 ADT) in Durango.

They have been found to be more successful than the previously existing conditions in terms of improving business visibility and access, improving left-turn capabilities, maintaining and in cases improving traffic flow, reducing rear-end and sideswipe crashes, and improving bicycling conditions and safety, among other benefits ([Road Diet Handbook: Setting Trends for Livable Streets](#)).

**Watch this video to see how a road diet works in action:**

[Road Diet Video](#)



Durango is considering a road diet along College Drive from East 2nd Avenue to East 8th Avenue (where the Goeglein Gulch Trail intersects College Drive) and along East 8th Avenue from Santa Rita Drive to East 8th Street. This "L shaped corridor underwent a traffic study in 2016 to analyze the feasibility and potential impacts of implementing a road diet.

The traffic study showed that level of service on the roadways will maintain an acceptable level of service (projected to to 2030) with a road diet. **This means that traffic can flow at current levels even with a road diet.** The road diet project will provide the opportunity to implement necessary pedestrian crossing enhancements to improve access across East 8th Avenue at 3rd Street (Horse Gulch Medical Campus) and along College Drive, and improve overall safety for all road users. Moreover, the project was identified in the 2012 and 2016 Multimodal Transportation Plan and as such moved towards project implementation in the 2017 budget cycle.

The recommendations from the City of Durango's Traffic Study align with FHWA conclusions as the safety study suggests that 24% of the total traffic collisions during the study period are preventable by a road diet.

## GEAR UP FOR THE 7TH ANNUAL WINTER BIKE TO WORK DAY JOIN THE WINTER EDITION BUSINESS COMMUTER CHALLENGE

**WHAT:** Winter Bike to Work Day is a fun celebration of winter commuting, complete with coffee and breakfast snacks, free bicycle tunes, lots of free giveaways and a whole lot of fun!



**WHEN:** Friday, February 24, 7-9 AM

**WHERE:** In front of Studio &, 1027 Main Avenue

Stop by and see us at the Winter Bike to Work Day station in front of Studio & between 7-9 AM on Friday, February 24.

Our friends at [San Juan Cycles](#) will be on hand for free micro-tunes! Enjoy free coffee donated by [Carver Brewing Co.](#) and breakfast snacks from [bread](#). Free t-shirts will be available first-come, first-served (and they go fast!).

Enter the raffle for a chance to win [Hydroflask](#) products, [Sock Guy](#) socks, [Buffs](#), [Klean Kanteens](#) and [Smith](#) winter products!

Enter your organization in the [Winter Business Commuter Challenge](#)! The Business Commuter Challenge is a friendly competition among local businesses to see who can walk, bike, bus or carpool

the most during the week leading up to Winter Bike to Work Day (Monday, February 20 - Friday, February 24).

Please note that Monday, February 20 is President's Day and many companies will be taking the day off. Therefore eligible trips will include work commutes, social outings, errands and appointments that are made by walking biking, riding the bus or carpooling. (Please do not include recreational bike rides, hikes or runs for exercise.)

You can sign up for the Winter Business Commuter Challenge by calling (970) 375-4901 or emailing your organization's name and total number of employees to [GetAroundDurango@durangogov.org](mailto:GetAroundDurango@durangogov.org).

## WAY TO GO! TOGETHER ENCOURAGES WORKPLACE WELLNESS



The City of Durango's new commuter program, **Way to Go! Together**, was launched last month at the first quarter breakfast meeting.

**Way to Go! Together** is a free program designed to develop or enhance existing commuter programs for organizations in Durango. Clean commuting has community-wide benefits such as reducing traffic congestion, mitigating parking issues and improving air quality. Individual benefits include reduced chance of diseases and obesity, less stress and more! Employers can play a significant role in encouraging sustainable commuting and **Way to Go! Together** is the perfect tool to help get a commuter program started at your organization.

If you're interested in improving the wellness of your workplace through encouraging sustainable and active transportation, read more [here!](#) You can see step-by-step actions for getting involved and access the Employer Assessment to get started.

For more information, call (970) 375-4901.

## FEBRUARY COMMUTERS OF THE MONTH

Betty Willis, 92, and Laverne Nelson, 93, met on a Durango Transit bus, over a year ago.



Transit bus over a year ago.

Laverne: "I go to the Strater every morning for coffee and every day I would notice this lady with a cane. Finally one day all the seats in the bus were taken except for the one beside me. I have a hard time remembering names these days, so when she said her name was Betty, I came up with 'It's Better with Betty' to remember her. And that's been true ever since! When I first asked her to lunch, she said she had to think about it."

Betty: "I've never said yes at once!"

Laverne: "Where I come from, Saturdays and Wednesdays are date night. So now every Wednesday, we both get on the bus at noon and go to lunch."

Betty: "Thank God for buses and drivers!"

Betty and Laverne have planned a trip to Hawaii this spring.



*If you or someone you know would make a great Commuter of the Month, please email your nomination to [GetAroundDurango@durangogov.org](mailto:GetAroundDurango@durangogov.org).*

## IN TRANSIT NEWS

### UPCOMING FREE TRANSIT DAYS

On Free Transit Days, ride Durango Transit for FREE all day long thanks to our sponsors!

**Wednesday, February 8**

*San Juan Basin Public Health*

**Wednesday, February 22**

*San Juan Basin Public Health*

**Tuesday, February 28**

*Methodist Thrift Store*



[See the Rider's Guide here!](#)

Free Transit Day Sponsorship provides an excellent opportunity for your business to give back to the community.

By sponsoring a Free Transit Day, your business will provide fare-free transit service to the public, which is also a great advertising tool for your business.

For information on sponsoring a Free Transit Day, call (970) 375-4945 or [click here](#).

## IN PARKING NEWS

### FRIENDLY REMINDERS FROM YOUR PARKING DIVISION



The Durango Municipal Code is adopted by City Council and made into law through a public process of readings and publications. The Parking portion of the Municipal Code is in Section 24: Parking Administration and Regulations. Section 24 also provides for the adoption of penalties for violation of the various portions of the Code.

The most common violation of the Parking Code is for overtime at the meter section 24-61: "No person shall permit a vehicle within that person's control to be parked in any such parking meter space during the restricted and regulated time applicable to the parking meter zone in which such meter is located while the parking meter for such space indicates by signal that the lawful parking

meter is located within the parking meter for such space indicates by signal that the lawful parking time in such space has expired."

The Code is very straightforward. It has no variance for folks who were only going to be a minute or were just a couple minutes late. The officers who enforce this law do not know how long a meter has been expired -- they only know that the meter says time is up. The officers always stop and take time to look at the situation by walking around the vehicle, taking pictures and filling out the vehicle and location information. All of this takes at least a couple of minutes.

Meter enforcement is between 8 AM and 6 PM, Monday through Friday. There is no meter enforcement on the weekends or after 6 PM. Please put time on your meter. If you are uncertain how long you will be or think that you might be delayed, put extra time on the meter. An extra 25 cents adds between 15 and 20 minutes of buffer time to avoid a \$25 ticket.

## IN SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

# DURANGO RECOGNIZED AS GREEN POWER FRONT RUNNER



Durango has once again been recognized as a national Green Power front runner. Residents, businesses and other organizations across the city continue to demonstrate a commitment to clean energy that is unrivaled in our region. La Plata Electric Association's (LPEA) "Just One Block" marketing campaign and affordable green power block price is encouraging more and more Durango residents to purchase renewable energy and power for their homes and businesses sustainably.

The EPA recognizes Green Power Communities as those which collectively exceed guidelines for the percentage of renewable electricity used within a defined community boundary. In order to qualify, Durango must show that at least 3% of energy consumed within city limits is procured from environmentally beneficial renewable sources.

In 2016 our community exceeded

EPA guidelines 5 times over, purchasing 26,100 MWh of green power through LPEA. This accounted for 15% of all electricity used within city limits and effectively avoided over 24,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e that would have been emitted generating that electricity using traditional fossil fuels.

In addition, the City of Durango continues to support sustainable energy by purchasing 100% Green Power through LPEA's "Just One Block" program. In 2016, the City purchased 9841 MWh of Green Power, enough to offset all electricity used in municipal buildings, facilities and City operations.



## WHAT WE ARE READING

### [Like economic development? Support public transit.](#)

Public transportation fosters economic development, real estate investment and local job creation. [Read more.](#)

### [This is what defunding transit looks like.](#)

Unlike death and taxes, funding for transit is never guaranteed. [Read more.](#)

### [How I helped to change commuting culture at Lyft.](#)

Despite higher gas prices, climate change fears and new technology, the vast majority of Americans are still opting to drive alone to work instead of using public transit or carpooling. Why? [Read more.](#)

### [Cultivating a sense of place.](#)

The soft tinkling of piano keys waft gracefully through open windows, eliciting head turns, smiles and a pleasant break from otherwise routine afternoon commutes. [Read more.](#)

### [Seven ideas for safer streets in 2017.](#)

When it comes to bicycle and pedestrian fatalities, there are proven strategies and resources to improve safety. [Read more.](#)

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