



NEWS RELEASE

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 22, 2007

Sheriff Greg Hamilton Announces Cycling Safety Program

Sheriff Greg Hamilton will launch *RoadShare*, a program designed to increase awareness and lower bicycle/auto accidents, at a news conference on May 24, 2007 at 1pm, at the Sheriff's Office, 501 West 11th Street. *RoadShare* is a collaborative community effort to increase awareness of the cycling deaths and injuries on Texas roads.

"Texas has led the nation in cycling deaths every year since 2004. Today, I am challenging Travis County motorists and cycling enthusiasts to be aware, share the road and help save their fellow Texans' lives," Sheriff Hamilton said.

Flanked by officials from the program's community partners, including the Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Bicycle Coalition, Travis County Parks Department, Austin Mayor's Fitness Council and the City of Austin's Street Smarts Bicycle Safety Task Force and Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, Sheriff Hamilton said Travis County and Austin, as the state's capital, must lead by example and encourage other cities and counties to embrace the program's goals. He welcomed their partnership and commitment to help the Sheriff's Office get educational materials distributed all across Travis County and into the hands of cyclists and motorists.

"Most bicycle and motorist collisions are caused by failure to yield the right of way. Cyclists must obey all traffic laws and also use hand signals to alert drivers to their intentions. Motorists always need to be on the lookout before they turn and allow at least three feet when passing cyclists," Sheriff Hamilton said. "Cyclists and motorists need to follow the advice their parents gave them and follow the Golden Rule. On the road, these practices will help save lives."

"With the population explosion of the last decade in central Texas, it is now even more important for us to look out for our fellow Texans. Travis County is a friendly place. Let's keep it that way. Let's all share the road," Sheriff Hamilton said.

Contact persons for this news conference are Sheriff's Office Community Liaisons Carrie Fortner, 512-854-6615, and Andrea Buckley, 512-854-7786.

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