

LTS Celebrates Multimodal Transportation with a Day of Free Bus Service

Lafayette Transit System (LTS) will offer a “No Pay Bus Day” on Friday, May 19, 2017 in celebration of other transportation awareness initiatives happening in the month of May, including Mobility Awareness Month, National Infrastructure Month and Bike to Work Day.

With the increasing traffic volume on the roadways, LTS hopes to alleviate congestion and reduce the stress to drivers who would otherwise be navigating crowded streets. “Let us do your driving for you in a safe, comfortable and convenient manner this Friday,” said Michael Mitchell, LCG Transit & Parking Manager. The No Pay Bus Day promotion applies to all three transit services, including Daytime, Night Owl, and Para-transit.

This day of free bus service coincides with Bike Month and National Bike to Work Day, also celebrated on May 19. For citizens interested in a multi-modal route, they can both bike and bus to work on this day. Cyclists can take advantage of the free bus day by riding to a transit stop and then transporting their bicycles on racks attached to the front of each bus. Simple instructions on the racks show cyclists how to easily load, lock and unload their bikes themselves. There is no additional fee for cyclists to transport bikes on a bus, making this a great bike/ride option on any regular transit day.

For more information on Lafayette Transit System, including all rates, routes for day and night-time service, para-transit service and more, visit www.ridelts.com.

At the May 16 City-Parish Council meeting, Lafayette Mayor-President Joel Robideaux declared May 2017 to be Bike Month recognizing cycling as an “environmentally and family-friendly form of transportation and recreation that provides a key quality of life amenity which attracts residents, businesses and tourists.” In the proclamation, Robideaux also acknowledged the need to increase public awareness of the rules of the road “to ensure the safety and comfort of all road users.”

This Saturday, May 20, Lafayette Consolidated Government, Bike Lafayette and Broussard & David, LLC aim to do just that with the second annual Bicycle Safety Festival. Hosted at Parc Sans Souci from 9 a.m. until noon, the aim of this event is to help cyclists and motorists become more knowledgeable about bicycle safety and the rules of the road. Bicyclists of all ages are invited to participate in the free event which will feature bicycle safety instruction, bike helmet fitting, and bicycle inspections.

Free youth and adult, certified bicycle helmets will be given away to the first 300 participants, as well as free bike lights and tee shirts while supplies last. Festival goers who complete a short bicycle safety course, led by trained volunteers, will be eligible to win a free bicycle valued at \$300, courtesy of Hub City Cycles and Bike Lafayette.

Attendees who ride to the Festival or bring their bikes can register for free with the Lafayette Police Department, compliments of Broussard & David, LLC. In the event a bicycle is lost or stolen, registration makes owner identification easier when the bike is found or recovered.

This family-friendly event will also include fun activities like a bike obstacle course for kids, complimentary food and refreshments and musical entertainment.

The Bicycle Safety Festival will also serve as the launching point for Ride for Rox, which includes multiple distance rides to benefit the Diabetes Foundation and TRAIL (Transportation Recreation Alternatives in Louisiana). Ride for Rox includes a four mile, family ride with safety escorts, making the ride ideal for Festival participants at almost any age and skill level.

For more information on this free Bicycle Safety Festival, visit www.facebook.com/BikeLafayette/event.