

[BELOW] Anthony Arevalo proudly raises his bike to salute the awesome Reno bike scene. Photo by Scott Craig. [RIGHT] Erik Prater sits on his cruiser outside Papa Wheelie's Bike Shop, after giving it a quick lube-n-tune. Photo by Mike Henderson.



Rolling to Bike Town

The Reno Bike Project

WRITTEN BY MIKE HENDERSON

Nothing clears the air better than a good rainstorm and a hefty wind blowing out of the Sierra – nothing except a bike-friendly city whose residents get around town pollution-free. That city doesn't necessarily exist yet, but the Reno Bike Project is aiming at making Reno the next great bike town in the West.

"I ride my bike everywhere," says Kyle Kozar, one of the founders of the Reno Bike Project. "And I like it when other people ride their bikes everywhere, too." So he, Noah Sil-

for their measurable ability to improve the air quality in Reno, thanks to their efforts to get more people to use bikes as urban transportation. If you look around, you'll notice lots of people riding around town. They're going to the store, work or the movies, or they're locking up to a mountain of bikes outside the Imperial. And many probably feature Reno Bike Project stickers over the original logos on

to ride bikes a lot more," says Mike Burke. "When it costs you \$50 to fill up your tank, it makes it a little hard for the average working people to really want to keep their cars."

Though the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection recognizes the Reno Sparks area as "suffer[ing] the effects of heavy vehicle usage, including air pollution," Reno is an ideal place to get around

Cars are complex, expensive to maintain and pollute even more when in disrepair, but bikes are cheap, easy to maintain and never pollute. At Papa Wheelie's, you can "buy it, get it fixed, learn to fix it and get to use the tools," says Kozar.

Stay Current

Keep up to date on RBP happenings via their blog at blog.renobikeproject.com or stop by the shop any time to talk with Noah, Kyle, Mike or Reid Morris, the knowledgeable mechanic on staff. The shop is now open four days a week: Wednesday and Thursday 1 to 8 p.m., and Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. ★

Mike rides bikes, Mike rides bikes, Mike rides bikes ... Sounds like a broken record, but yeah, he does.

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verman and Mike Burke did some investigating to see if anyone else thought a community bike shop was a good idea. "And as it turns out they did," says Kozar. The result was Papa Wheelie's Bike Shop, the RBP's hub, located at 250 Bell Street.

The Bike Project was recognized with a Silver Star Award

the recycled bicycle frame.

Urban cycling in Reno has been trending upward recently – this last May in particular. As Reno eased gingerly out of winter, urban cyclists poured onto the streets in impressive numbers on May 18th: Bike-To-Work day. "Fuel costs going up empowers people to want

by bike since it's mostly flat in town, the weather is suitable and roads are reasonably bike-friendly. The Reno Bike Project seeks to enhance those benefits by providing inexpensive, quality, recycled bicycles at prices ranging from \$40 to \$150. But you don't just get a bike — you learn things, too.

