

## News Release

*For Immediate Release:*

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For Additional Information Contact:

Dennis Hoffarth, Executive Director, Atlanta Bicycle Campaign

404 881 1112

### **Atlanta Worst for Cycling!**

Atlanta is rated the worst big city in North America in which to ride a bike, according to *Bicycling Magazine*. In their November 2001 issue, the magazine unveiled a major assessment of the best and the worst. Atlanta shared "worst" honors with Houston Texas.

The magazine ratings were based on comparing bicycle facilities and accommodations between cities. When comparing Metro Atlanta with less than 50 miles of bicycle accommodations to highly rated cities like Portland, Oregon, which boasts over 200 miles of bike lanes, bike boulevards and paths, or Seattle, WA which commits millions of dollars an each year to bicycle facilities, it is easy to understand why Atlanta was chosen last.

Here is what *Bicycling* had to say: "Atlanta has the right ingredients for good cycling conditions: warm weather and a healthy group of cyclists and advocates. And with lousy air quality, it would make sense for the city to get people onto bikes. But no: There are paltry few bike lanes in the whole city, none where they're really needed. A shame: 120 bike racks (\$40,000+ worth, procured for the 1996 Olympics) have been sitting in a warehouse for the last five years. There are a scant 100 racks on the streets now. The rack situation sums up Atlanta's commitment to bikes - plenty of resources, zero effort"

Other cities rated poorly in past years have taken the ranking as a challenge. In response, they have increased funding for bicycle projects, hired new bicycle coordinators, and worked directly with grass roots groups of cycling advocates.

"It makes you mad to see in black and white how unaccommodating our local governments have been," said Dennis Hoffarth, Executive Director of the Atlanta Bicycle Campaign. "But Atlanta cyclists already knew it. We see this as an opportunity to focus on long-overdue bicycle facilities in the city and the entire metro area. We hope to be back in *Bicycling Magazine* soon, listed as a city which turned it around!"

**Bicycling Magazine is the world's largest consumer cycling publication with over 1.8 million readers.**