

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## STATE OF BIKE BOOM IN LONG BEACH TO FUEL MAY “DOWNTOWN DISCUSSIONS”

*May 25 webinar to feature local cycling business, policy, and community leaders during National Bike Month*

**(LONG BEACH, CA – May 18, 2021)** The Downtown Long Beach Alliance (DLBA) today announced a wide-ranging lineup of cycling advocates and community experts for its upcoming [Downtown Discussions](#) series edition dedicated to Bike Month. The panel discussion will be held on Tuesday, May 25 at 11:00 AM (PDT). The virtual Zoom session will also be livestreamed on DLBA’s Facebook account [@downtownlongbeach](#).

May’s webinar will explore how cycling contributes to a healthy Downtown and urban core. Panelists will discuss a variety of topics including how to continue the pandemic bike boom, best practices for our bicycling community investments, and equity issues.

According to discussion moderator and Executive Director of BIKEable Communities Allan Crawford, Long Beach has seen an explosion in biking over the past several years. “The City has focused on adding bike infrastructure to make it easier and safer for our residents and visitors to bike in our community. The result has been an increase in the use of bikes for commuting, going to and from our business districts, and recreation. Especially over the past year, we have experienced a tremendous biking boom due to the pandemic,” said Crawford.

Panelists are listed below, and the respective biographies are provided at the end of this press release.

**Moderator:** Allan Crawford PhD, *Executive Director, BIKEable Communities*

### Panelists:

- Charlie Hockett, Community Engagement/Partnership Development Specialist, Sound Transit
- Ricardo Light, Transportation Planner, City of Long Beach
- Chris Nolte, Founder, Propel Bikes
- Johnny Tully, Founder/CEO, Pedal Movement
- Brenda Yancor, Community Engagement Manager, Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition

“May is national Bike Month, so it is a natural fit to bring together a panel with deep knowledge of the role bicycling plays in a healthy urban community,” said DLBA President and CEO Kraig Kojian. “The discussion offers a wide array of perspectives from the city, county, businesses, community organizations and cycling enthusiasts. It highlights the importance of the great bike-friendly footprint in Downtown which aligns with the DLBA’s vision for the community to have safe and multimodal transportation.”

To participate in the free Zoom webinar, register [here](#). A question-and-answer session will follow the roundtable discussion. Viewers on Zoom may submit questions through the Q&A feature, and viewers on other platforms may post their questions as comments on the livestreamed video.

Downtown Discussions is a monthly free virtual webinar series hosted by the DLBA. Its goal is to connect the community with experts on topics of importance to them, from racial inequities to economic development, the digital divide, and more.

## **Participant Biographies**

**Allan Crawford, PhD:** Executive Director, BIKEable Communities. Allan also is a consultant with KOA Corporation. In these roles, he has the enviable task of helping move Long Beach and the surrounding communities toward becoming some of the most bike friendly cities in the US. He has a strong background as a bicycling planner, advocate, and community liaison/facilitator. Prior to taking his current position, he was bike coordinator for Long Beach where he helped move the City to Silver Status as a bike friendly city. He was a co-founder of Bikeable Communities, a Long Beach based 501(c)(3) dedicated to promoting safety and access for all bicyclists. He is actively involved in the California Bicycle Coalition, the League of American Bicyclists and serves as a media advisor to Women on Bikes California.

**Charlie Hockett:** Community Engagement/Partnership Development Specialist, Sound Transit. Charlie is a Long Beach native working in the field of transportation related community engagement. After completing a degree in Urban Geography from the University of Oregon, Charlie completed a cross-country bicycle tour while filming *Westward Wheels*, a documentary focused on efforts across the country to make urban areas more healthy, livable, and environmentally friendly. Charlie went on to manage statewide engagement campaigns for Cascade Bicycle Club in Seattle, WA, and worked as the NW Marketing Manager for JUMP Bike Share.

**Ricardo Light:** Transportation Planner, City of Long Beach. Ricardo's primary focus is on bicycle and pedestrian programs and safety improvements. In particular, Ricardo is working on several projects including implementing new protected bike lanes, safer crosswalks, and a traffic safety education campaign. Since May 2020, he has been closely involved in the City's Open Streets Initiative which has provided over 110 businesses with temporary outdoor dining spaces, or parklets, as a COVID-19 relief measure. Ricardo has worked for the City of Long Beach since completing the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program at UC Irvine in 2018.

**Chris Nolte:** Founder, Propel Bikes. Chris founded Propel in 2011 to accelerate the role of E-bikes in transforming transportation as we know it and enriching lives. He currently oversees two storefronts and warehouses in Long Beach, CA and Brooklyn, NY. His background includes several years in the tech space and five years in the U.S. Army Reserves where he drove fuel trucks, including in Kuwait and Iraq, to supply military ground forces. After suffering a disabling back injury, the disabled combat veteran returned home to find a passion that he turned into a new career. He plays an active role in advocating for the responsible use and integration of electric bikes in Long Beach and NYC.

**Johnny Tully:** Founder/CEO, Pedal Movement. Johnny is a lifelong Long Beach resident and cyclist, and is CEO and co-owner of Pedal Movement, a company that operates the 1000+ Long Beach Bikeshare program as well as various alternative transportation programs throughout the city. Pedal Movement has showcased his passion for investing in the community and creating a more inclusive urban biking culture. With roots in an underserved community himself, he understands what resources are needed most and what actions truly transform people's lives for the better. Never faint hearted, his favorite exploits include outdoor education, climbing mountains, and riding bikes long distances.

**Brenda Yancor:** Community Engagement Manager, Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition. Brenda is a daughter of immigrant parents and grew up in Southeast Los Angeles County. She received a BA in History and minor in Latin American studies from UCLA in 2008. Brenda started using bicycles to get around town in 2009. She has experience working in bike mechanic cooperatives, used her bike to get from Los Angeles to Guatemala in 2012, and became a League Cycling Instructor with the League of American Bicyclists in 2013. Brenda has a professional background that includes bicycle safety education for youth & adults, taking youth out on rides throughout Los Angeles, planning group bike camping trips, sustainable food production and land management, and leading youth and adults on hiking trips.

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**About Downtown Long Beach Alliance:** DLBA is a non-profit, community-based organization whose mission is to cultivate, preserve and promote a healthy, safe, and prosperous Downtown. By balancing the interests of the residents, as well as businesses, the DLBA creates tangible progress by way of vested interest and solidified partnerships across local, municipal, and commercial lines. For additional information, visit [www.downtownlongbeach.org](http://www.downtownlongbeach.org), or follow on Facebook @downtownlongbeach, and on Twitter and Instagram @DLBA.