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**Introduction for Charlie Gandy**

Charlie Gandy is a nationally recognized leader and innovator in the livable communities and active living movements.

The bold statement made three years ago by the Long Beach City Council to become the “most bike-friendly city in America” attracted Gandy’s attention and ultimately lured him from Austin Texas to Long Beach to work on that progressive agenda as Mobility Coordinator for the City.

In this position he’s leading the city’s award winning “sharrow” experiment, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and Broadway national “protected bike lane” pilot program, and is delighted to be a part of the remarkable culture shift embracing both bicycling and walking and its significant rewards.

Gandy has worked as a political activist on the livable communities agenda professionally since 1990. He was one of the catalysts behind the creation of the Thunderhead Alliance, the Bikes Belong Campaign and several other state and local advocacy organizations. He was the founder and first executive director of the Texas Bicycle Coalition, and has worked nationally with such organizations as the Federal Highway Administration, New York’s Metropolitan Transportation Council and the AARP.

Gandy entered the public service stage at the age of 23 when he was elected as one of the youngest members to the Texas House of Representatives – back when politics was fun.

Please welcome, Charlie Gandy!