

## Long Beach By Bike Tour Hosted by Charlie Gandy



Photo: Allan Crawford – left Long Beach Council Member Robert Garcia, and right Vice Mayor Suja Lowenthal; tour the separated bike lanes in downtown Long Beach

I have always traveled to learn and be inspired. As an eighteen-year-old experiencing Copenhagen by bike in 1976, I discovered and was touched by its urban civility and beauty. The city was intelligently designed; its publicly shared streets and spaces nurtured safe and simple personal interactions between its citizens and businesses.

Leaders in Long Beach, California are taking a similar intelligent and inspirational approach to urban design for their next generation. We are creating a safe, healthy and a serendipitously attractive experience for residents and visitors, inspiring affection for the city along the way.

Long Beach By Bike Tour is a slow speed, one day sampling of this extraordinary place and strategies Long Beach leaders are using to create it. Like my experience in Copenhagen some 35 years ago, visitors who take the Long Beach By Bike Tour come away changed.

We invite you to the change.

### **Logistics:**

Long Beach By Bike Tour is scheduled twice a month, usually on Fridays from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm. The contact person is Melissa Balmer at [wobsocal@gmail.com](mailto:wobsocal@gmail.com) or (562) 612-0197. There is no charge for the basic tour.



Photo: Charlie Gandy – Sculptor Patrick Vogel and Bike Advocate Mark Bixby install Vogel’s “Penny Farthing” sculpture at City Hall. Our tours begin underneath this sculpture.

For logistical reasons our tour size is limited to 20 people and reservations are necessary. Please bring your own bike and helmet. We have a small number of hybrid bikes from the city’s fleet for those who need to borrow a bike for the day. **Please let us know when making your reservation.**

The tour route is approximately eight miles long and is done at a slow pace with frequent stops to talk, observe, and ask questions. It is designed to comfortably accommodate those who haven’t been on a bike in a while to those hardcore cyclists who want to learn how to slow down.

We meet at 10:00 am, on the Plaza of Long Beach City Hall, 333 West Ocean Blvd., at the main entrance next to bike racks, lockers and the famous Penny Farthing Sculpture mounted on the building. After all are fitted with bikes and we have organized ourselves on the plaza, the tour begins down Broadway on the cycle-track. We stop at the brand new state of the art Bikestation, visit a cutting edge bike shop, get a briefing on bike corrals, all in the first half-mile of the day.

Heading east through a streetcar scale neighborhood riding in bike lanes, our tour drops off the bluff overlooking the beach and ocean down to the beach bike path. A mile or so of beach bliss then we cruise into the bike beautiful neighborhood of Belmont Shore. Quiet streets take us into one of southern California’s most successful retail districts and the home of the famous “Green Sharrow Lane.” Here we will experience the power of this urban design innovation then have lunch at one of the fabulous restaurants along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.



Photo: Mark Plotz – The 4<sup>th</sup> St. Retro Row parklette will be shown on the tour

Heading west after lunch, the tour takes the Vista Bike Blvd. back towards downtown. Traffic calming strategies using roundabouts, small traffic circles and other specialty techniques are presented. Carroll Park is a unique historic residential development we will pass through on the way to another popular retail district, 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Retro Row. Economic development strategies such as BFD's (Bike Friendly Districts) are shared.

The tour will travel back into downtown on a recent road diet that provided space for new bike lanes. We will reconnect with the separated bike lanes on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and arrive back to city hall about 3:30 pm.

### **About Your Host Charlie Gandy**



Charles Gandy is a nationally recognized expert in community design, trail planning and design, and bicycle and pedestrian advocacy. He is a popular consultant, speaker and lecturer. Most recently as the Mobility Coordinator for Long Beach California's Bike Long Beach program (now the city's Mobility Adviser) Gandy is delighted to be a part of the

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remarkable culture shift in Long Beach embracing both bicycling and walking and its significant rewards. Gandy has overseen community outreach for Long Beach's award winning "sharrows" project and the "separated bike lanes," as well as creating the concept for the "Bicycle Friendly Business" (BFD's) Districts.

Gandy founded and served as the first Executive Director of the Texas Bicycle Coalition, and the Director of Advocacy Programs for the Bicycle Federation of America. In 1998 Gandy began his private consulting as Livable Communities Inc. and works with government agencies, community organizations, and design firms across the U.S. and Canada.

Known for his story telling flair, Gandy is a favorite with the media for his pithy sound bites and demystifying successful active living advocacy. In July of 2011 he spoke at TEDxSoCal in Long Beach on "Creating Charismatic Communities." Find out more about Charlie at [www.charliegandy.com](http://www.charliegandy.com).

**Please note:** members of the media are welcome but please let us know in advance you're coming and which publications you're affiliated with. Customized tours are available focused on your interests. To find out about fees please contact Melissa Balmer at (562) 612-0197 or via email at [wobsocal@gmail.com](mailto:wobsocal@gmail.com).