



Next stop is downtown Detroit.

10-speed city

by **Michael Jackman**
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If a bunch of cycle fans have their way, Detroit will be only for one day a year. On the morning of Friday, May 19, the city is challenging commuters to trade their six-cylinders for downtown for Bike to Work Day.

In a place the world knows as the Motor City, it may seem like these pedal-pushers have a point: Detroit is a great place to live. Trends of road-building and depopulation have left bicyclists few options. From spoke roads to secondary thoroughfares, it's hard to get there without dodging cars. And though Detroit may not be New York or Chicago, bikes add just enough range to the D's denizens.

"This is especially important in light of the fact that we've been considered one of the fattest cities in the country," Detroit Bikes! organizer Alex Froehlich says.

The ride is a project of Detroit Synergy, which aims to promote a favorable view of Detroit. In the past, they've sponsored fun runs, pub crawls, dinner clubs and other events to get people walking around the city, where they could see things. The bike event is a natural fit for the group.

Froehlich says, "Going through a city at 40 mph, you don't get a sense of what's there, what you never see the details. When we ride as cyclists, our perspective is by this new way of seeing." The event promises to be a challenge. Organizers want everyone to wear a helmet, and the traffic laws.

Froehlich hopes the event will inspire others to imitate.

"This is the first one. We're trying to start a tradition. I want it to get bigger, and I'm hoping people take it upon themselves to organize my own ride next year."





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Begins at Farmers' Market in Royal Oak at 6:45 a.m. arriving at 8:15 a.m. in Campus Martius. (Troy Street around 7; Woodward entrance to State Fairgrounds, Highland Park, 7:30; Second Avenue and West Grand 7:50; Wayne State University Welcome Center, 8.) R Martius at 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit detroitbikes@detroitssynergy.org.

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