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Thousands put pedal power to work on Bike to Work Day

By CADDIE NATH
The Aurora Sentinel

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AURORA | The weather was beautiful for the roughly 800 Aurora residents who were among 17,000 Coloradans who participated in the 2010 Bike to Work Day on June 23, organized by the Denver Regional Council of Governments.

"I think it went great. I had a lot of great feed back from all the volunteers that were out in the field," said Katie Clemens, a spokesperson for DRCOG.

Riders from 28 Adams County employers and 87 Arapahoe County employers commuted by bike as part of teams that registered with DRCOG.

Alliance Data won the Bike to Work Day business challenge in Adams County with all of their 30 employees riding to work. **Dean Evans and Associates took first in Arapahoe County for the third consecutive year after more than half their staff commuted by bike.**

"This event makes people realize how easy and enjoyable alternative transportation is," Bryan Peck, a Dean Evans and associate sales manager, said in a statement.

The City of Aurora had two teams and a total of 65 bike commuters on Wednesday.

Some employers encouraged employees to bike to work this year by providing showers and casual dress days, Clemens said.

Tom Tobiassen, president of Bicycle Aurora, said the turnout at the Treads Bicycle Outfitters breakfast station in Aurora this year was lighter than it was last year.

"We didn't advertise quite as much," Tobiassen said, "I think we'll probably need to do a better job next year getting the word out."

He said some more experienced Aurora bikers helped show their newer counterparts the ropes of bike commuting.

"The (regular cyclists) teamed and then they helped someone, to lead and show them the route. We had a bunch of (experienced) cyclists meet up at Treads and they met up with some of the new cyclists. They all took off together and rode towards Buckley (Air Force Base)," he said.

Adams, Arapahoe, Douglas, Denver, Broomfield, Boulder, Jefferson and Weld counties participated in Bike to Work Day this year.

The average commuter biked nearly 9 miles and together participants rode a total of 295,324 miles round trip, according to DRCOG.

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Aurora Sentinel
14305 E. Alameda Ave.
2nd Floor
Aurora, CO 80012
P: (303) 750-7555
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