

Message from MaryEllen Thibodeau, Interim Executive Director

**Invitation to Attend
10th Annual League of American Bicyclists National Bike Summit
March 9-11, 2010
Washington, D.C.**

The League will hold its 10th Annual National Bike Summit March 9-11, 2010 in Washington, D.C. Last March, I attended the National Bike Summit for the first time. I was impressed with the extremely high quality of the presentations, the large variety of informational sessions, and the great energy of the participants and presenters. Speakers included Secretary of Transportation LaHood, and Congressmen James Oberstar and Earl Blumenauer.

An important part of the Summit is meeting with your state's Congressional delegation on Capitol Hill to educate them on the many benefits of bicycling and urge them to support legislation that promotes bicycling as a viable alternative form of transportation. Unfortunately, there were only two Summit attendees from Connecticut making it more difficult to argue that there is great support for that type of legislation among Connecticut voters. If we expect our elected officials to support programs we want, we have to show them we are a force to be reckoned with.

I will be attending the conference again this year and, at the request of LAB, will serve as Connecticut's legislative visit organizer, helping to schedule visits with each member of Congress from Connecticut, including Senators Dodd and Lieberman. We need constituents from each Congressional district to make this work.

To get more information about the Summit and to register, go to www.bikeleague.org. Bike shops who are members of the NBDA should ask NBDA about scholarships. Others interested in keeping costs to a minimum can take advantage of home stays, carpooling or using Amtrak or bus. The cost of the Summit includes a seated dinner and lunch as well as two continental breakfasts and a cocktail reception, covering almost all meals during your stay.

Feel free to contact me directly at methibodeau@connbike.org if you would like more information. Please pass this along to other cycling.

By the way, Washington has become a very bike friendly place and there is easy access to bike rental facilities. The wrap-up for the Summit is an optional bike ride to Capitol Hill on March 12 – I regret that I did not participate in it last year. I plan to join the ride this year.