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TheCityFix Picks, January 28: Mighty Motorcycles, Cheap Carbon-Free Gas, Plural for Prius?

Submitted by Garrett Bradford on January 28, 2011



The 2010 Urban Mobility Report found that Americans burned 3.9 billions gallons in wasted fuel while waiting in traffic on U.S. roadways. Photo by Steve Minor.

Welcome back to **TheCityFix Picks**, our series highlighting the newsy and noteworthy of the past week. Each Friday, we'll run down the headlines falling under TheCityFix's five themes: mobility, quality of life, environment, public space, and technology and innovation.

Mobility

United States transportation infrastructure is in <u>desperate need of repair</u>, according to House Transportation Committee Chairman John Mica.

The U.S. Federal Transit Administration <u>cleared the way</u> for construction of Honolulu's first rail system. The 20-mile elevated rail system will include 21 stations that will connect communities to the Hawaiian capital's downtown.

Snow storms pounded many east coast cities in the United States this week, hitting New York City's transit systems <u>particularly hard</u>.

Cars and buses do not rule Jakarta's streets. Instead, motorcycles are king of the Indonesian capital's roadways. With private vehicle use on the rise, one Jakarta Post writer fears the <u>death of public</u> <u>transportation</u> in the city.

Quality of Life

Your odds of dying in a motor vehicle crash vary dramatically based on where you live. A United States



ciudad que vive bajo un concepto de individualidad que ya no responde a las necesidades de las megalópolis del Siglo XXI. Es preciso desarrollar un diseño inteligente de sistemas de transporte público que permitan la reducción de emisiones contaminantes. Las soluciones parciales, focalizadas, no sistémicas, envían el falaz mensaje de "resolver el problema de movilidad", empero...

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Some Progress Made By Meter Jammers' Creative Campaign

Mumbai is a hectic metropolis infamous for its traffic chaos. The hundreds of thousands of tiny black and yellow cabs and rickshaws that criss-cross the streets have caused plenty of frustration for the city's 14 million

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Pedestrian Killed at Dangerous Intersection, Despite Efforts to Improve Safety

Two recent incidents involving careless drivers and bikers in the D.C.-Maryland-Virginia region have area residents wondering whether the new and proposed bike routes and safety measures are actually generating on-the-ground results. Natasha Pettigrew, who was running ...

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road safety study found that urban roads are much safer than rural roads.

Congestion pricing is possibly <u>back on the table</u> as a solution for New York City's clogged streets. "Politicians are quietly resurrecting plans to charge drivers up to \$10 to enter lower Manhattan on weekdays," the NY Daily News says.

"Things have to change," Texas lieutenant governor David Dewhurst says on how to deal with the clogged urban roadways of the Lone Star state. He suggested congestion pricing may help but is not a panacea.

Environment

The United States would derive <u>no meaningful military benefit</u> from increased use of alternative fuels to power its jets, ships and other weapons systems, according to a recent study.

Major world cities such as New York, London and Shanghai contribute <u>less pollution per capita</u> than places like Denver and Rotterdam, especially if those cities have public transportation systems.

American drivers wasted <u>3.9 billion gallons of gas</u> stuck in traffic congestion in 2009, according to a new study from Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University.

Public Space

Detroit is suffering from a plague of potholes brought on by bad weather and unaided by bruised budgets.

A New York firm's design submission for a <u>wildlife crossing</u> over Interstate 70 near Vail, Colo. was selected at the Transportation Research Board's 90th Annual Meeting this week. The ARC International Wildlife Crossing Infrastructure Design Competition aims to help prevent collisions between cars and wildlife wandering onto the highway.

Technology and Innovation

A new camera-based "Find Your Car" system in a Santa Monica, Ca. shopping center helps shoppers locate their vehicles, but some people have raised <u>concerns about privacy</u>.

Mazda will now enter the electric vehicle game. The Japanese automaker <u>showcased the Demio</u> in Tokyo. The vehicle can travel 200 kilometers on a full charge.

The U.S. Department of Transportation launched a competition seeking new ideas on how cars should talk to each other in an effort to increase safety, sustainability and congestion.

More than 6,300 bus stops displaying 10,000 posters were <u>equipped with QR codes</u> allowing passengers to search the streets of Seoul, track real-time bus arrival times and find downtown sightseeing information.

A British energy firm made a <u>breakthrough in synthetic fuel production</u> and predicts fuel costs could fall to \$1.50 per gallon in the United States as a result of using the new zero-emission fuel.

Toyota is adding new members to its Prius family with the expansion of a five-passenger minivan, a smaller hatchback and a plug-in Prius. But, the company asks, "what exactly is the plural for Prius...Prii, Prium, Priuses, Prien, or is it just Prius?" Vote for your favorite name <u>here</u>.

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Garrett is involved in Online Outreach at EMBARQ and a contributor to

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TheCityFix.com. His interest in transit-oriented development was born out of firsthand use of Transantiago, the public transportation system of Santiago, Chile, while living and working as a communications and media coordinator at a local church. After his time in Santiago, he took a 36-hour bus ride across the continent to Brazil and spent six months working in a similar role in the city of Itu. In October 2009, he began a trip across Latin America from Santiago to Cancún utilizing only land transport (for the most part). Garrett holds a degree in Marketing from Texas A&M University and can't wait to see the development of a high speed rail network across the United States.

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