

MMDA opens more bike lanes in QC

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) opened yesterday additional bicycle lanes along EDSA in Quezon City. ¹

MMDA Chairman Francis Tolentino said the newly opened lanes were painted red to make it visible to riders.

He said bike enthusiasts may ride their own bicycles on the lanes but the public can also use those provided by the MMDA for free under its "bike-sharing system."

Under this system anyone who wants to ride an MMDA bicycle on the EDSA bicycle

lanes must first register at the logbook of MMDA personnel at designated control areas at Magallanes, Pasay Road and Ayala Avenue. ²

Users of the MMDA bicycles should present a valid identification card to be issued a plastic card indicating the bike number. The issued card will then be surrendered at the control area where they will exit.

Tolentino said the EDSA bike lanes in Makati have traffic directional signs and safety features to aid bike riders as the lanes are designed

to be shared with pedestrians.

³ Earlier, the MMDA designated similar bike lanes along the University Avenue up to Tandang Sora in Quezon City

and at the Remedios Circle up to Paraiso ng Batang Maynila on M. Adriatico street. ⁴

The MMDA also opened a bike lane from the Santolan

Light Railway Transit Line 2 station to Imelda Avenue along the Marcos Highway in Marikina City. ⁵

— Perseus Echeminada

↓ QC - MMDA
- Bike lanes

QC bikers to get vests with license plate numbers

To separate them from criminals on motorcycles, bikers in Quezon City will be given vests, which show their vehicles' plate numbers, by the local police starting tomorrow, an official said yesterday.

Crimes perpetrated by suspects on motorcycles have given innocent motorcycle riders a bad reputation — just riding a motorcycle could make a person subject to suspicion, according to Quezon City Police District (QCPD) director Senior Superintendent Richard Albano.

"With the vests, the public would be easily able to separate the good (motorcycle-riders) from the bad ones," he said.

Albano said he no longer wants the term "riding in tandem" to be used in police reports about crimes perpetrated by those on motorcycles. The term is "unfair" to law-abiding citizens riding motorcycles, he said, adding that he would rather call the suspects "motorcycle-riding criminals."

QCPD deputy director for administration Senior Superintendent Joel Pagdilao said the plate number of the motorcycle being used by the rider would be shown on the back of his vest.

"That's way, the plate number would be easily seen," Pagdilao said.

According to Albano, they have also tapped motorcycle riders as tipsters and "force multipliers" against criminals on motorcycles. He asked them to immediately report crimes as they are the ones who are on the road.

— Reinir Padua

*QC bikers get vest with license
plate numbers*

GMA opens bike lane in Quezon City

By CHITO A. CHAVEZ

President Arroyo and other government officials formally launched yesterday the Metro Walk and Pedal Way with the opening of a 3.6-kilometer route in Quezon City.

Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Bayani Fernando, Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr., and several bicycle groups graced the simple launching at the intersection of Katipunan Ave. and Aurora Blvd.

MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno said the Epifanio delos Santos Avenue (EDSA) Katipunan Ave. bike route is the initial part of the planned 200-kilometer bikers' section that interconnects the 14 cities and three municipalities in Metro Manila.

The pilot route starts from EDSA in Kamias Road going to K-8th St. leading towards Xavierville Ave. all the way to Katipunan Ave.

Nacianceno noted the bike lanes built on inner streets and secondary roads are comparable to modern world standards complete with informative signs and brightly colored lane markings to segregate the bicycles from motorized vehicles.

Fernando remained optimistic that the whole bike route in the metropolis will be completed in due time with the unwavering support of President Arroyo.

He noted the launching of the pilot bike lane provides the agency with the cushion to make last-minute adjustments in the design or concept in case any problem crops up.

MMDA statistics show that the average individual travels between two to three kilometers daily to attend to his respective chores like going to work, attending classes, and shopping.

Fernando theorized that the average individual stands to save a minimum of P25 daily in fares by using the bicycle instead of the conventional mode of transportation in going to his destination.

The MMDA head, however, said the design of the bike lanes is far from perfect as studies are still being conducted to make it safer and convenient to users.

"Bike routes are new to us that is why we never stop looking for ways to improve the lanes for the safety of the users for us to convince more people to use the bicycle course," Fernando said.

oc bike lane - launching



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BIKE LANE OPENED. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo leads the launching of the Metro Padyakan Bike Lane in Quezon City with Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Bayani Fernando, Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte, and other Quezon City officials. (Ramon I. Samson)

Thank you.