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Thursday, September 21, 2017, 16:43

300 take part in national bike ride



Updated Monday 11am with BAG comments

Some 300 cyclists today participated in the National Bike Ride cycling from Floriana to Mosta and back.

The run started from in front of the Ministry for Transport in Floriana and took the participants to Hamrun, Santa Venera, Attard, Mosta, Birkirkara and Msida.

The ride was one of the activities held to mark the European Mobility Week. The theme for this year's edition is "Sharing gets you further."

The Malta National Electromobility Platform within Transport Malta organised the Bike Ride with the help of the police, Transport Malta enforcement officers and St John's Ambulance.

The Bicycling Advocacy Group noted that sources within the local bicycle industry estimated that there were some 7,000 bike sales a year, in Malta. While many people start with the best of intentions, a lot of bicycles

"While many people start with the best of intentions, a lot of bicycles end up in garages and washrooms and come out for escorted events like this or the 4,000 strong Zabbar Pilgrimage once a year, when people who do not usually feel that the roads are safe enough to participate.

"Clearly making the roads safer to cycle to work on or down to the shops, would help some people switch, to avoid using their cars, helping to reduce congestion. Currently Malta imports some 3,000 vehicles a year according to the NSO onto Malta's already crowded roads."

The group also called for pedelecs to be treated as normal bicycles. Transport Malta gave five pedelecs away in a raffle at the end of the event.

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17 Comments

Times of Malta

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rita schembri • 17 hours ago

"300 ! We are Spatar ! " Well not me personally but a big well done to all involved.

 |  • Reply • Share ›



George Debono  rita schembri • 13 hours ago

And I second that ! Prosit to all of you

 |  • Reply • Share ›



David Zammit • 17 hours ago

Just 300? Are these the same people who want to cover the island with cycle lane and who complain and make a fuss on a daily basis. Maybe because today is not work day so they did not use their bikes since there are "a lot" that cycle to work in day out.

 |  • Reply • Share ›



George Debono  David Zammit • 13 hours ago

These are the cyclists who were opted to go. I wished to join them but

couldn't.

Your anyway use an invalid argument - there few bicycle users in Malta exactly because nothing is done to encourage people to use a bike. If Malta was "covered with cycle lanes " then many, many more people would ride a bike.

It is a chicken-and-egg situation --- make it safe and people will ride, thanks to the sort of sneering intolerance from motorists you show in your remark, people find it dangerous to ride in our roads,

I presume you speak as a car-driver. What have you got against bikes?

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



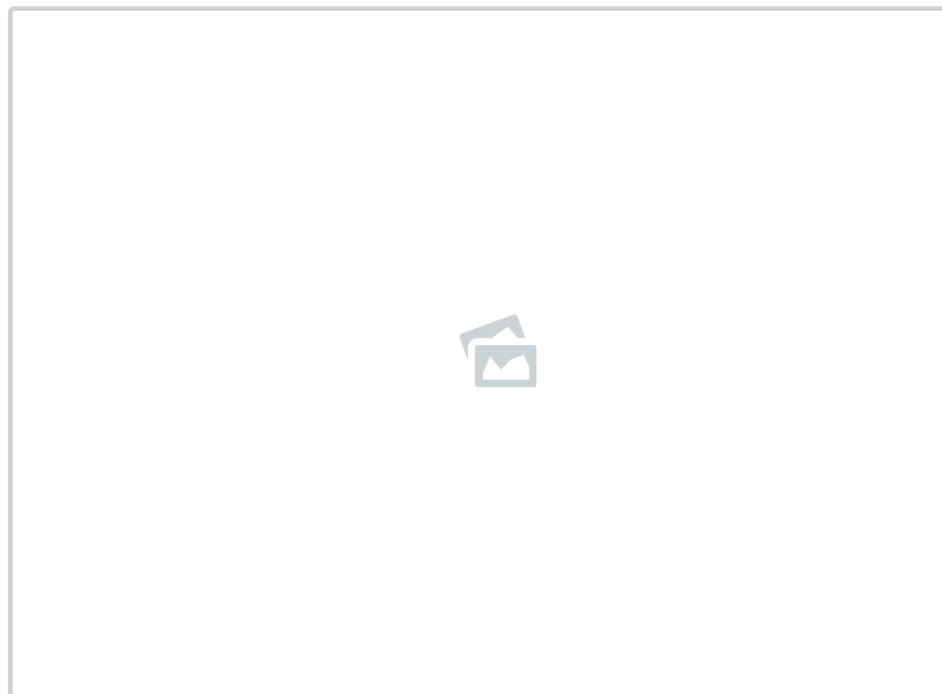
David Zammit → George Debono • 4 hours ago

I am an ex bike rider...I just don't think cycle lanes are the answer a think that bikes and cars don't mix and that a bike rider expects the same rights as a car driver on roads designed for cars and that cycling to work that you advocate is a myth and just an excuse to practice your hobby or sports at the expense of others.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Jim Wightman → David Zammit • 4 hours ago



1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Jim Wightman → David Zammit • 4 hours ago

This is a really sad attitude and part of the reason why we are stuck all the time in traffic in cars (and yes I am also a car driver). Roads should be designed for everyone. if you do th

...they work. If you just design for cars, that's all you get, more cars and look where that has got us? Cycle to work every day I can, both me and the country are better for it.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



christopher richard → David Zammit • 4 hours ago

I spend just over half the year in Switzerland, Germany and Norway working. I am a biker and I assure you bike lanes work!!its the mentality of a the Maltese that doesn't work regarding bike lanes. And yes you said it "ex biker". There la the clue!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



David Zammit → christopher richard • 2 hours ago

Mentality and space and topography of the land and dangers and weather etc.... I just gave up and decided to use what I pay for mostly ... The car. Leave it at home or use it, I still ha to pay do might as well use it...to many cons to use bike.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



D.A. Joseph → David Zammit • 4 hours ago

Same rules, same rights.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



David Zammit → D.A. Joseph • 2 hours ago

Not same

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Simon Muscat → David Zammit • 13 hours ago

What makes you think that all cyclists showed up at 8 AM in Valletta? There are thousands of cyclists in Malta. The bicycle advocacy group alone has 2,400 members on Facebook.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



David Zammit → Simon Muscat • 5 hours ago

That's a new one ..virtual cycling

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Filomeno Santos → David Zammit • 2 hours ago

I'm one of them, I wanted to participate but had to work. Nev the less still cycled to work, 4,5Km is just stupid do it anothe

way...

I spent less time cycling to work, than anyone finding parking in Gzira where I work.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Noel Seguna → David Zammit • 12 hours ago

Yes, just 300. That is why you are always stuck in traffic....

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Bill Khan → David Zammit • 12 hours ago

No harm in trying out the cycle lanes. London is full of cycle lanes and people use these lanes to cycle for miles every day. Cycling is a healthy ride. Does not use any petrol thus helping the economy and saving population from pollution too. Cycling should be encouraged from an earlier age.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Kurt Mifsud → David Zammit • 11 hours ago

Don't worry, I cycle everyday while you're sitting down bored af in traffic. I can salute you if you want

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

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