



Bike & Build, Inc.

www.bikeandbuild.org

6109 RIDGE AVE BLDG 2 • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19128 • T 267.331.8488 • F 661.752.9806

July 21, 2010

Dear members of the Bike & Build community,

It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of Paige Hicks. Paige, a Trip Leader on the 2010 Providence to Seattle program, was struck by a vehicle and killed yesterday while on a Bike & Build trip in South Dakota.

On behalf of the entire Bike & Build community, our thoughts and prayers go out to Paige's family. We all are shocked and saddened by these events. Paige was a committed member of Bike & Build, and was participating in her second Bike & Build trip; she completed the Providence to San Francisco program in 2009. Paige's dedication to our organization and affordable housing partners, her friendship and fellowship with members of our community, and her enthusiasm for and love of life were all qualities which endeared Paige to our community and which we will dearly miss.

Bike & Build's priorities in the aftermath of this tragedy will be to support and work with the Hicks family according to their needs, comfort and support the members of the P2S trip, communicate the news and our response to the Bike & Build community, and understand the circumstances of the accident. We intend to share as much information about our response as is possible and appropriate.

Below, we have outlined Bike & Build's response so far, and our intended actions for the immediate future. We have also included a summary of the accident; while it may be upsetting to review, we have chosen to include this information to provide as clear and transparent a picture as possible.

Accident summary:

Accounts from members of the P2S trip report the following:

Approximately 30 miles outside of Martin, SD, Paige and her riding partner, Brittany Maslowsky, had stopped in the shoulder of the west-bound travel lane of Route 18. Shortly after, a truck pulling an over-sized trailer attempted to pass both riders. Reports indicate that the driver saw the riders, and tried to swerve to avoid them. This action was too late, and the extra width of the trailer struck Paige, whom paramedics pronounced dead at the scene. Brittany was unharmed.

Bike & Build's immediate response:

- The Hicks family has been notified, and Bike & Build will continue to be in contact with Paige's parents to offer the organization's support in whatever capacity is needed.

- Executive Director Rosemary DiRita contacted members of the Martin, SD community, where the P2S group stayed last night. The community helped Bike & Build locate and make available grief counselors to the P2S group yesterday. We are looking into options to support the group going forward.
- Programming Director Kristian Sekse is traveling to meet the P2S group today. Kristian took the first available flight from Philadelphia connecting to Rapid City, SD, and expects to reach the group in the afternoon. Once with the group in South Dakota, Kristian will help attend to the needs of the P2S members and coordinate activities with trip members, the Hicks family, and Bike & Build.
- Bike & Build has begun the process of communicating this tragedy and our response to our community.

Memorial services and contact info for the Hicks Family:

Once plans have been determined for memorial services for Paige, we will communicate the information to you, as well as contact info for the family, should you wish to send notes or flowers. Bike & Build is looking into ways to transport P2S riders to the memorial services, and will provide logistic and financial support to those team members who wish to attend.

In time, we intend to be in touch with the Hicks family to discuss ways through which Bike & Build can honor Paige's memory.

There will be a number of questions and additional concerns going forward. We intend to share information with the community via our website (www.bikeandbuild.org) and other channels as appropriate.

If you have particular questions, would like to share memories of Paige, or are able to offer support to our community, Paige's family, or Bike & Build, please be in touch with us. The best way to contact Bike & Build is through email, at response@bikeandbuild.org. In the interest of directing our resources to best respond to these events, we ask that you refrain from calling, and have patience in hearing back from us. We will respond as quickly as possible.

We are all shaken by this terrible news, and this will be a difficult time for everyone in our community. We have solace in the strength of the Bike & Build community, which we will count on to support each other as we respond to this tragedy.

Marc Bush
Founder & Chair

Rosemary DiRita
Executive Director