

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advocates

4114 Bay Shore Road Sarasota, FL 34234
bike-ped-sarasota.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mike Lasché, Director, BPA, 941-544-7788, mikel.modem@verizon.net

MIKE LASCHE' APPOINTED TO STATE BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN COUNCIL

On May 19, Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos, of the Florida Department of Transportation, appointed Mike Lasché, of Sarasota, to the new Florida Bicycle and Pedestrian Partnership Council. Lasché has been appointed as the representative of the state cycling community. The Council's formation was announced on April 8. It will make policy recommendations to FDOT and transportation partners throughout Florida on the state's walking, bicycling, and trail facilities. The Council includes representatives from multiple state agencies, local governments and other stakeholders needed to make statewide improvements in safety and facilities integration, as well as recommendations on design, planning, safety, and other programs involving bicycle and pedestrian issues. The goal of the Council is to make Florida a national model for bicycle and pedestrian safety. The Council's first meeting will be on June 28, in Tallahassee,

Lasché currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Florida Bicycle Association and as its Legislative Chairman. He is the Director of Bicycle/Pedestrian Advocates and is a member of the Sarasota County Bicycle/Pedestrian/Trail Advisory Committee. Lasché graduated from New College of Florida with a public policy thesis on bicycle policy and economics in 1985. From 1985 to 1991, he served as Executive Director of the Spokespeople, a local/state/national advocacy group that led a broad community coalition that brought bicycle-friendly road design

to the City of Sarasota, City of Bradenton, and Sarasota and Manatee Counties. From 1987 to 1989, Lasché was the Florida bicycle lobbyist during which time he was the sole lobbyist behind passage of laws in traffic safety education, as well as working with others in safety and rails-trails legislation. In 1988, Lasché invited advocates from around the state to convene to form the Florida Bicycle Association.

In 1986, Lasché was appointed to the Florida Bicycle Council, which advised the Governor, but this council was not continued by later Governors. In 2009, Lasché proposed the creation of a new statewide council to the Florida Bicycle Association, which placed it on their legislative agenda. This was noticed by the Florida Rails-to-Trails Conservancy which actively advocated the idea, leading to eventual implementation by FDOT.