



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Topeka Metro Bikes hosts Great Topeka Bike Fest

Topeka – The Great Topeka Bike Fest, hosted by Topeka Metro Bikes in partnership with Visit Topeka, is set for September 29 and 30, 2018 on Jackson Avenue in downtown Topeka.

This year's festival starts Saturday night with the return of its most popular event, the Glow Ride, and continues Sunday with a full day of biking events geared for all ages and riding abilities. All events are free and Topeka Metro Bikes will be available to try for free at the festival.

"We're continuing the momentum from the Cyclovia events, and bringing back a Topeka classic from 20 years ago — The Great Topeka Bike Race," said Karl Fundenberger, director of bicycle operations at Topeka Metropolitan Transit Authority. "Remember riding your bike as a kid? Come downtown on the 30th and relive that feeling."

Sunday's event lineup features a kids' bike rodeo, youth bike races, guided excursion rides, and a rideable pump track. At 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., bikes and riders will be flying through the air during two live stunt shows from professional BMX riders by the NoWear BMX Team from Lincoln, Nebraska.

Throughout the day, a pop-up pocket park will be on display to demonstrate the concept of incorporating the Better Block concept into community planning.

In addition to the Glow Ride, which departs from the north stairs of the State Capitol grounds after a 7:45 p.m. safety check, there are two guided excursion rides on Sunday. Both rides depart from downtown, one at 10:00 a.m. for brunch at Billard Airport and one at 1:00 p.m. for an easy ride down the Shunga Trail. Fundenberger said all guided rides are slow-paced and no rider will be left behind.

"A biking culture is an inclusive environment," said Fundenberger. "From transportation to sports and recreation, we want everyone to feel welcome."

More information about the festival schedule can be found on the Bike Fest event page www.biketopeka.com.

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