

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**Contact:**

Gina Douthat  
TANK  
(859) 814-2125  
[gdouthat@tankbus.org](mailto:gdouthat@tankbus.org)

## TANK's Bike Racks Popular with Commuters

*First year statistics show 7,081 bicycle boardings on TANK buses*

**June 11, 2007** -- Commuting to work has taken a whole new spin in Northern Kentucky since the Transit Authority of Northern Kentucky mounted bike racks on the front of all TANK buses in June 2006. The first year's results are in, and statistics show the popularity of the bike racks.

TANK had 7,081 bicycle boardings in the first 12 months of its Bike & Ride campaign. The use of the bike racks was steady throughout the year, with a big climb in bicycle boardings on TANK buses just in the past month. The 943 bike boardings in May 2007 – compared with 560 for the first month of the Bike & Ride campaign in June 2006 – indicate the growth in popularity of the bike racks on TANK buses.

TANK launched its “Bike & Ride” campaign last year to help commuters save gas, promote healthy lifestyles and improve air quality in Northern Kentucky. An average 30 commuters a day brought their bikes along as they rode the bus during the past year. In May, as days turned warmer, that number climbed to more than 45 commuters a day riding the bus with their bikes.

Jeff Salisbury, of Newport, is a fan of TANK's bike racks. “The racks give you more freedom in using the TANK system because you can take advantage of many routes without having to worry about making connections,” Salisbury said. “For example I rode my bike to the Covington Transit Center, loaded my bike on a bus and rode to the Crestview Hills Town Center for an eye appointment. I rode the bus with my bike back to Park Hills for lunch, and then rode my bike back home to Newport.”

Salisbury, 41, who works in downtown Cincinnati, bikes for recreation and transportation around town. “The bike racks on the TANK buses give my wife and me another transportation alternative and help us maintain our one car household.”

The most popular TANK routes for bicycle boardings were those with a number of connecting feeder streets to residential areas. A commuter can now leave his car at home, ride a bike to the bus stop and catch the bus to work, placing his bike on one of TANK's bicycle racks. The highest numbers of bicycle boardings in the past 12 months were on these TANK routes:

- Erlanger/Florence (Route No. 1) along Dixie Highway: **2,442** bicycle boardings.
- Rosedale/Latonia (Route No. 7) along Madison Ave./Pike: **830** bicycle boardings.
- Alexandria/Grants Lick (Route No. 25) along U.S. 27: **529** bicycle boardings.
- Dayton (Route No. 12) along Ky. 8: **449** bicycle boardings.
- Airport Express (Route No. 2X) along I-275 & I-75: **359** bicycle boardings.
- Ludlow/Bromley (Route No. 3) along Ky. 8: **280** bicycle boardings.
- Southbank Shuttle, on downtown streets, **255** bicycle boardings.

With gasoline at more than \$3 per gallon, commuters are looking for less expensive ways to commute to work. Government and civic leaders are also seeking ways to ease traffic

-More-

congestion and improve air quality. The Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) estimated that the installation of bicycle racks on TANK buses prevents more than 4 tons of carbon monoxide from being released into the atmosphere each year.

TANK applied for and was awarded a federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to pay for the costs of installing bicycle racks. The grant was awarded to TANK because bike racks have proven to increase transit ridership and decrease automobile usage. The grant paid for 80 percent of the cost of the racks, with the remainder paid by TANK.



How does TANK's *Bike & Ride* work? A commuter simply slips his bike on the rack on the front of a TANK bus, boards the bus and rides to the general vicinity of his destination, and hops on his bike again for the last leg of his trip. Each rack holds two bicycles at one time, and each rack is available on a first-come, first-serve

basis. No bicycles are allowed inside the buses. There is no charge for a passenger to use the bike rack.

A TANK passenger with a bicycle can easily load or unload his or her bike on the new racks in less than 10 seconds. The quick load does not affect the buses' scheduled running times. Bus drivers do not need to help bike riders with loading their bikes on the racks. The racks are designed for ease of use and for holding the bikes securely. They are strong and durable and designed to last the lifetime of a bus. When they are not in use, the racks fold tightly to the face of the bus, protruding only six or seven inches from the front bumper. When the rack is in use, it adds about 30 inches to the length of the bus.

TANK's Bike & Ride campaign has received overwhelming support from bicycle enthusiasts in Northern Kentucky, including members of the region's oldest not-for-profit bicycle club, Cincinnati Cycle Club, and the League of American Bicyclists.

### **Commuting on TANK**

TANK provides services to Kenton, Boone and Campbell counties, as well as downtown Cincinnati. It has an extensive network of 19 Park & Ride locations located throughout Northern Kentucky, making it easy for commuters to catch TANK buses near their homes. In addition, TANK operates the Southbank Shuttle along the downtown streets of Covington and Newport and in downtown Cincinnati.

Commuters can view all bus schedules on the TANK website at [www.tankbus.org](http://www.tankbus.org) or they can dial 859/331-TANK anytime between 6:00 am and 7:00 pm Monday through Friday or between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm. Saturday.

A TANK monthly pass is only \$45 and gives a rider an unlimited number of times during that calendar month to ride the bus. Regular bus fare is \$1.25 each way. Fare on the Southbank Shuttle is \$1.00 per ride.

For additional information about TANK, call TANK's information line at 859/331-TANK (8265) or log on to [www.tankbus.org](http://www.tankbus.org).

###

**Editor: See accompanying chart of TANK bicycle boardings.  
Call for interviews with bicyclists & TANK.**