



First of all, you read the subject line correctly. We are starting at 7:30 this Saturday for a couple of reasons:

- This is our longest ride of the season and the extra time should give you time to ride the full 74 miles.
- There is a ride that slightly overlaps part of our route and the early start will help minimize the overlap. (More on this coming in the Friday update)

Don't worry – we have already been monitoring the light and it will be plenty bright by 7:30.

### **Waller County Update (Important!)**

Many of you have written about the riders being issued tickets this past Sunday on the Bluebonnet Express Ride. We don't know all the specifics but key members of the cycling community are meeting with Waller County officials to review the issues.

Here are a few VERY IMPORTANT points you all need to remember:

- **Waller County has noted that their officers will be out observing riders in the county and issuing tickets.** Most of our ride this week is in Waller County and we have notified them of our route and the timing so it is very likely that there will be officers out observing and issuing tickets to riders who:
  - Fail to come to a complete stop at a stop sign
  - Ride more than two abreast
  - Fail to go to single file and allow traffic to pass if the road is wide enough for a safe pass (In Waller County, most roads we'll be on are wide enough so listen for traffic (or faster riders) and let them pass safely)
- In other words, if you have skipped the safety and courtesy tips I have been sharing, you better go back to the Ready2Roll Cycling archives (on our website, click Communications/Houston Training Series on the bar at the top) and review the Continuous Improvement notes.

- Review/know the Rules of the Road – here's a very useful page on the BikeTexas site: <http://www.biketexas.org/en/infrastructure/texas-bicycle-laws> Pay particular attention to section 551.103.
- I want to repeat – **it is VERY likely that there will be Waller County officers at one or more locations this Saturday observing riders and issuing tickets** so each of us needs to follow the laws and be respectful of the local community.
- This also means that just because you see officers at an intersection does not mean to ride through. You need to call out the intersection and you (and riders with you) need to slow down and prepare to stop. Then, each rider makes a full stop before proceeding. If the officers wave you through, call this to your group and proceed through at a steady, but moderate pace. And please thank the officers for keeping us safe.
- If you are two abreast, two riders can make a full stop together if they are side by side at the stop but the riders behind need to also make a stop.
- If you are in a line passing the stop sign, the riders who clear the stop sign ride slowly (staying to the right) until the entire group is safely past the intersection and regroup.
- KTRK (Channel 13) ran a story about this and the local resident they interviewed said: "I would just love to see them pull behind each other so that cars can safely pass...I think that would go a long way, I really do."
- The bottom line is if you have been demonstrating and appreciating how much safer and courteous Ready2Roll Cycling riders are since we emphasize this every week, then keep up the great work and let's show the community that it is possible for riders to pass through with minimal disruption.

-----

### **Useful Tip – Please Arrive on Time**

Over the last few weeks, I have noticed several riders arriving quite late, in some cases at, or after our ride start time. These riders are heading out after all our SAG vehicles are already on the road. This means they are missing out on two key pieces of our ride support:

- If they need mechanical assistance, none of the SAGs will know they

need assistance

- The turn signs will be gone as the very last SAG picks up the signs as they pass

I have mentioned this before but I need to repeat that our SAGs need to get on the road with the 99% of our riders who depart on time. **If you are late, please understand that you will need to carefully study the early part of the route and ride without SAG support until you are able to catch the back of the pack.**

-----

### **2016 Ready2Roll Cycling Training Series - Week 9 - Katy to Hempstead, March 19, 7:30 am**

This week is our longest ride of the series. This ride is designed to give us a good endurance tune-up ride. The long route will be 74 miles and the short route is 49 miles. The roads are flat to gently rolling. Our goal is to get some quality spinning miles in and get used to maintaining your steady, comfortable pace over a longer distance.

If you are planning to do one of the shorter options on Day 1 of the BP MS150 (Rhodes or Waller Stadium starts), then the 49 mile route is plenty to get you ready. If you are planning to do the 100-mile route from Tully Stadium on Day 1, then I suggest the 74 mile route this week if your schedule permits.

**NOTE – Rhodes Stadium will lock up at 4:00 pm so you do need to be back by 3:30 pm so you can be out of the parking lot by 4:00 pm.**

#### **Directions to Rhodes Stadium (from in town)**

Take I-10 to the Katy Fort Bend exit (742) which is just past the Grand Parkway. and make a LEFT turn on Katy Ft Bend Rd. Continue about a mile on the Frontage to Katy-Fort Bend Rd. Turn LEFT and drive about ½ mile. Just after passing Colonial Parkway on the right, you will see the entry to Rhodes Stadium on the left. The entry will be unlocked for us at 6:00 am.

The address for the stadium is: 1733 Katy Fort Bend Rd, Katy, TX 77493

There will be plenty of room for us on the east side of the stadium. We'll be lining up to depart out the east gate about 7:15 so you need to arrive by 6:30 to have time to park, sign in, etc. PLEASE arrive no later than 6:45 am this week.

There are three stops and two are recycled giving us a total of five stops on the 74 mile route and three on the 49 mile route. There is a stop every 11-12.5 miles. There will be law enforcement officers at RS1 and RS2 so please slow as you approach, be patient and obey the officers.

Note – The map for this week is already online – in PDF format for those who like to preview the route and GPX format for those of you with a GPS unit. Go to [www.ready2rollcycling.com](http://www.ready2rollcycling.com) and click on Communications/Houston Series. The maps for Ride 9 are at the top of the Maps section.

This is our longest ride of the season and it's also the shortest drive for most of us so you can actually sleep later than last week and still get an early start on a 49 or 74 mile ride! There is plenty of parking but please keep working on your carpooling because we have three rides left after this and parking will be a challenge if we abandon the great work most of you have been doing up to this point.

**Don't forget that you do need to be back by 3:30 pm!**

OK, I need to get to work on a few last details for next week's ride (69 hilly miles in the Bellville/Cat Spring area...).

Watch for a few ride detail updates this Friday.

Thanks!

**Stephen Moskowitz**

Ready2Roll Cycling

[SteveMoskowitz@Ready2RollCycling.com](mailto:SteveMoskowitz@Ready2RollCycling.com)

832-236-7307