

Riding in solidarity

BY MARWA SIAM, THE GAZETTE AUGUST 5, 2012



Antoine Ancelin is in serious but stable condition in a hospital after he was run over by a Jeep Cherokee in downtown Montreal Thursday morning. Cyclists from across the island rode together today in solidarity to Ancelin, hoping to start a dialogue over violence on the roads and promote the slogan "share the road."

Photograph by: Marwa Siam, The Gazette

MONTREAL - A group of approximately 60 cyclists and couriers gathered in downtown's Philips Square on Friday evening to show support for Antoine Ancelin, a bike courier who was run over and severely injured after an altercation with a motorist on Thursday morning.

Organizers handed out flyers to cyclists that read "you never ride alone."

The organizers described the incident as "tragic and disappointing."

Organizer Cameron Novak, also a courier, said that roads are shared among cyclists, pedestrians and drivers. The event's goal, he said, was to generate discussion about the frequent tensions on the roads between cyclists and drivers, rather than to express rage or defy anyone. "Anyone trying to get from point A to point B is part of the same community, we're trying to minimize road conflict. There's no specific category of participant here. Cyclists, supporters and enthusiasts are all participating in this event."

Organizers advised the participants to ride "with respect, no racing and no speeding.

The ride began on Aylmer and Ste. Catherine Sts. and ended in Westmount Park.

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