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## Editorial: A timely Bike Month

### Two-wheel ways to skin the I-5 cat

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Caltrans is preparing to shut down a downtown section of Interstate 5 for repairs on May 30, leaving thousands of commuters wondering how they will get to work.

As it happens, today is the start of the Sacramento region's annual bicycle commute month. That makes May a good time for workers to consider the option of bicycle commuting, and exploring possible routes in advance of the Big Fix.

Depending on where you live, bicycling into downtown can be easier than you think. The multiuse trail on the American River Parkway allows people to cycle into the city center on one of the state's most scenic commuting corridors. It's a lot more fun than the rush-hour grind on Highway 50.

Commuters who normally drive in on the southern section of Interstate 5 can cycle downtown on bike trails and lanes that parallel the Sacramento River. It's not a perfect setup – property owners have long blocked a bike trail through Little Pocket – but it's a manageable way to get to work.

You can also use a mixture of cars and/or transit to ease your bicycle commute, as Mark Doty of Elk Grove plans to do. Featured in The Bee Wednesday, Doty plans to drive his bicycle to Interstate 5 and Fruitridge, and then bicycle the remaining four miles to his job in West Sacramento. For ideas on other routes, go to the interactive bicycle maps at [www.mayisbikemonth.com](http://www.mayisbikemonth.com).

While bicycling is not for everyone, hundreds of current car commuters might be encouraged to use bikes during the six-week construction work on Interstate 5, if they had the right incentives.

That's where employers come in. Starting this month, state government offices and downtown employers could make clear they will provide secure bike parking, more flexible work hours and other perks for employees who cycle to work. They could offer cash to workers in lieu of free or subsidized parking, as a way to encourage use of transit and bicycles. If nothing else, the Big Fix should spur some imaginative thinking. That thinking should start now.

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