Hi all,

We just wanted to share some news, some winter biking tips, and some other updates before the holiday break…

**News**

Start saving your cycling receipts! Beginning in 2013, bicycle commuters at Harvard (staff only) are eligible for **tax-free reimbursement** of up to $20/month at a maximum of $240/year for the costs associated with bicycle purchase, improvement, repair and storage.  For more information please visit:  <http://www.campusservices.harvard.edu/commuterchoice/bicycling/bicycle-commuter-benefit>.

**Hubway** closed on November 28th. Visit [www.thehubway.com/news](http://www.thehubway.com/news) to learn when your stations will be re-opened in the spring.

A **bicycle repair station**, funded through Harvard's Office for Sustainability Student Grant program, will be installed somewhere in the Longwood Medical Area in spring 2013. The Harvard Longwood Bicyclists will be hosting a breakfast and trainings so we can all get the most out of it. More to come…

**Winter biking tips**

**Stay Visible**

Winter means less daylight and possibly commuting home in the dark. At the very least, have a white light in front and a red flashing light in back. Now that it’s cold enough to wear a few layers, fluorescent yellow or reflective outerwear is a great option, including vest, leg bands, and arm bands.

**Stay Warm**

Layering is key in the cold. The best layering combination is a base layer that wicks away sweat, a middle layer that insulates by trapping your body heat, and a windproof, waterproof outer shell.

**Stay Safe**

Winter weather means lower driving visibility, stressed drivers, and poor road conditions. Drivers may not be expecting to see you on the road in winter and may have forgotten to clear the snow from their side and rear windows. Remember to check the weather before you head out and if the road conditions will be bad, use alternate transportation. You can always bike at the gym or inside on your trainer.

It’s time to put on your snow tires – change your thin, smooth road tires for cyclocross tires or wider tires with better traction. As always, make sure your brakes are working and your chain is lubricated. Take your time and leave a bit earlier so you’re not rushing. Brake earlier too – the roads may look clean but black ice is tough to see, especially in the dark! Leaves are also slippery and they can hide potholes and ice.

**Winter Gear**

* Helmet with hat *or* helmet cover
* Balaclava
* Goggles *or* sunglasses
* White flashing front light and rear flashing red light
* Wind- and water-proof jacket, gloves, and pants
* Reflective tape
* Bell
* Warm socks
* Waterproof boots or neoprene booties *to cover your shoes*
* Studded snow tires *(cost 2-3 times more than regular tires)*
* Local stores: [REI](http://www.rei.com/stores/boston.html), [Giant Cycling World](http://www.giantboston.com/)

**Advocacy**

**Help fix Boston's bike lanes.**Report locations across the City where utility cuts have eradicated a lane, line, or sharrow, so the city of Boston can notify Public Works for repair. If you see one – email [CitizensConnect@cityofboston.gov](mailto:CitizensConnect@cityofboston.gov) and provide the address or cross street. Or you can go to <http://www.cityofboston.gov/online_services/default.aspx> and click on “Transportation, Streets & Sidewalks” and then “Request New Bike Lane Marking” or “Report a Biking Hazard” under Bikes.

A Harvard student created this website to help **track stolen bikes** in the Boston area: [www.bikenapped.com](http://www.bikenapped.com). Check it out!

If you live in **Somerville**, consider [signing this petition](http://bostoncyclistsunion.org/campaigns/beacon-petition/) to improve a main bike corridor.

Best wishes for the holiday season,

Harvard Longwood BIcyclists