

Operating Plan
Safety Measures for COVID-19
4th Annual Race the Rails
September 12

Description of Event

Race the Rails pits cyclists against the steam train in an event that combines history and athletics. Both mountain bikers and road cyclist both load their bikes onto the passenger cars of the Nevada Northern Railway for a 6-mile (45 min) ride to the end of the line. Upon arriving at the old mine site of Ruth riders unload from the train and prepare to race the train back to the station in Ely, NV. The mountain bike course is approximately 10 miles and consists of mostly dirt roads and 2-track roads. The road course is 25 miles and is utilizes the new bike lanes on Hwy 50 as well as the designated bike routes through town back to the train station. This is considered a casual race where you can try to beat the train or not. Riders will all receive t shirts, prize packs, and finishers medal. In the past a banquet and raffle was held at the train station. This year the end of race banquet will be modified to comply with state guidelines for COVID – 19.

The Nevada Northern Railway has required safety measures in place for their grounds and on the train (See Attached). Those safety measures include wearing a mask, social distancing, and hand sanitation. The race directors for this event will require all participants follow the safety measures put in place. In addition, the race directors will in act the following safety measures throughout the event.

Attendance

We expect 50 or less participants at this event.

Volunteers and Staff

ALL volunteers and staff will be required to wear masks when interacting with the public. ALL volunteers and staff will have their temperatures taken to ensure no one who interacts with the public is exhibiting a fever.

Registration

At the registration table all staff and personnel will be wearing masks. Participants will also be asked to wear their masks in the registration line. Hand sanitizer will be provided at the table. To ensure social distancing there will be lines on the ground 6 feet apart that encourage participants not to hover in line. Each participant will be scanned with a touchless thermometer to assess if anyone has a fever. If a

participant registers a temperature of 101.4 degrees or higher they will not be allowed to participate. Participants will be encouraged to wear their masks as they wait for loading of the train.

On The Train

Train personnel will handle the onboarding of the bikes and the passengers (See Attached). Personnel will be masked and will sanitize their hands before and after handling bikes. The train staff goes will thoroughly clean high touch areas, like hand rails, seats, tables, and restrooms. Everyone is required to wear a mask on the train.

On The Course

Train personnel will handle the unloading of passengers and bikes on to the course. The start of the race is the only time riders have the potential to be close together on the course. Riders will line up at the start 6 ft apart. The race begins when the train sounds the whistle. The course is designed to naturally spread out riders from the start. Riders will not be required to wear masks while competing.

Aid Stations

There is one Aid Station on the course that is accessible by both mountain bike and road cyclists. Volunteers at the Aid Station will be required to wear masks and use hand sanitizer. The aid station will provide water, Gatorade, and prepackaged snacks. Volunteers will serve items to competitors. Competitors will not be allowed to serve themselves in order to keep the amount of people touching the items in this area to a minimum.

Finish Line

The finish line is stretched across 11th Ave and Avenue A for approximately 2 hours. Contestants will ride across the finish line and be handed a finishers medal from one of 2 volunteers who will be masked up. Medals are individually wrapped to prevent scratching and a waste basket is provided to dispose of wrapping. Riders do not mingle at the finish line but volunteers will watch for groups of 6 or more forming or not practicing social distancing and encourage them to disperse.

Banquet

The banquet for Race The Rails is usually held inside the Freight Barn and offers buffet style dining and refreshments. This year to ensure participant safety, we will be offering outdoor picnicking on the grounds of the Nevada Northern Railway. Food provided will be premade and packaged from a licensed caterer and handed to participants from one of our volunteers. Volunteers will of course have a mask on and will utilize hand sanitation. Participants will be encouraged to practice social distancing in line for food and refreshments as well as while dining outside. Tables will be placed a minimum of 10 ft apart