

## **BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY**

### **Award Levels and General Guidelines for Local Reviewers**

#### **2009 awards determinations**

#### **No Award**

The community does not yet exhibit the characteristics of a bicycle friendly community described in the award levels outlined below. A community must demonstrate significant achievements in each of the five categories in order to be considered for an award.

#### **Honorable Mention**

Communities that do not yet exhibit the characteristics of a BFC may be recognized with an honorable mention designation because:

- a) The community recently implemented significant improvements for bicycling but sufficient time has not yet passed for this to develop characteristics of a BFC.
- b) The community has a remarkable project or program, but the impact or influence of this has yet to extend throughout the community.

Examples of honorable mention characteristics for the various categories include:

- **Engineering** Community recently instituted a policy to engineer streets with the consideration of bicyclists and/or is beginning to develop a trail network. Facilities conform to the currently recognized safety standards.
- **Education** Community holds some type of bicycle safety event.
- **Encouragement** Mayor proclaims Bike Month or local club opens events to the public
- **Enforcement** Officers are familiar with laws relating to bicyclists.
- **Evaluation & Planning** The community is familiar with and responsive to the needs of cyclists. Bicycle mode share is at least an average level for U.S. communities.

#### **Bronze**

Communities exhibit a strong commitment to cycling that is still in its beginning stages. There is certainly “room to grow” but notable steps are being made in the right direction.

- **Engineering** Community recently implemented a policy to engineer streets with the consideration of bicyclists and/or is beginning to develop a trail network. Facilities conform to the currently recognized safety standards.
- **Education** Community holds bicycle safety events, provides opportunities for bicycle education.
- **Encouragement** Community hosts a Bike to Work Day or community ride.
- **Enforcement** Officers are familiar with laws relating to bicyclists.
- **Evaluation & Planning** The community is familiar with and responsive to the needs of cyclists. A bicycle master plan or chapter in another document has been developed and approved. Bicycle mode share is above average for U.S. communities.

### Silver

Silver level communities are particularly strong in 2 or 3 of the 5 parts of the application.

- **Engineering** Community has made a significant investment and is on its way to an integrated network. Facilities conform to the currently recognized safety standards.
- **Education** Educational materials are published and distributed, children receive in-class instruction on bike safety, classes are available for adults.
- **Encouragement** Community celebrates cycling through a number of events. There is significant involvement in other encouragement efforts as well such as publishing a map, working on Safe Routes to School, etc.
- **Enforcement** Officers are knowledgeable concerning laws relating to bicyclists.
- **Evaluation & Planning** Community has a bicycle master plan. Bicycle mode share is well above average for US cities.

### Gold

Gold level communities are impressive in virtually all aspects of their application.

- **Engineering** Community has an integrated network for bicycling. There is ample bike parking. The community has well-designed streets and off-street facilities. Engineering standards exceed the currently recognized safety standards.
- **Education** Children receive on-bike training. Classes are available for adults and there is a Safe Routes to School program in place.
- **Encouragement** There are a variety of community events and incentive programs.
- **Enforcement** Officers have received specific training on the relationship between bicycling and law enforcement.
- **Evaluation & Planning** Community has a well-developed and mostly implemented bicycle master plan. Percentage of bike trips significantly exceeds the U.S. average and specific targets are set to increase that percentage.

### Platinum

A truly exemplar community for bicyclists. This community is consistently referred to as an example of how to “do it right” in virtually all aspects of cycling. There is a strong community program as well as local advocacy groups and clubs supporting cycling. Impressive bicycle mode share.

- **Engineering** The community’s master plan is referred to by others across the country. Community maintains its own design standards that reflect the state of the practice.
- **Education** Safe Routes to School and Bike Ed programs reaching significant numbers of people.
- **Encouragement** A variety of community events, commuter programs and incentive programs.
- **Enforcement** Officers are well versed in laws pertaining to bicyclists, and use targeted enforcement relating to motorists and cyclists.
- **Evaluation & Planning** Community uses Multi-Modal LOS to plan transportation improvements or similar level of sophistication and integration of bicycling.