



NEWS ADVISORY

May 14, 2012

For immediate release

City Wins Bicycle Friendly Community Gold Status

It's official: The City of Missoula's achievement of the Gold standard as a Bicycle Friendly Community is touted nationwide today by the League of American Bicyclists.

Missoula joins only 15 other communities at the Gold Level. It has been a Silver Level city since 2003 and has worked hard to achieve the Gold. In making the award, the League cited Missoula's recent additions of protected bike lanes, path system signs and new bike parking, along with a population of more than 7 percent who commute by bicycle. The City of Missoula just completed its 21st annual Bike Walk Bus Week and Commuter Challenge, which drew participation from 101 businesses, 864 employees and hundreds of citizens throughout the city.

With the latest round of awards, there are 214 Bicycle Friendly Communities in 47 states.

Missoula competed with almost 500 other communities by application. The application process was led by the City of Missoula's Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board with the Bicycle/Pedestrian Program; the City of Missoula's Parks and Recreation Department; Bike Walk Alliance for Missoula; and the Missoula Institute for Sustainable Transportation. Missoula has worked on bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and programs for more than 30 years, with leadership from Mayor John Engen and previous mayors; the Department of Public Works; the Missoula City Council; the Missoula Office of Planning & Grants; and citizen advocacy groups.

Bill Nesper, director of the Bicycle Friendly America Program for the League, visited Missoula the last week in April and took an 18-mile tour of Missoula by bicycle with a dozen riders from City of Missoula staff, advisory board members and bike advocates.

See the League of American Bicyclists' news release here:

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs059/1102316596448/archive/1109984926140.html>

People available for interviews about the award today are:

Phil Smith, City of Missoula Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Manager, 552-6352

Ethel MacDonald, Bike Walk Alliance of Missoula board member, 549-9722; cell 274-8648

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board Chairman Bob Wachtel will celebrate the Gold Level award at Monday evening's Missoula City Council meeting at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at 140 W. Pine St.

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Ginny Merriam, Public Information/Communications Director, 552-6007; 546-7692