



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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**The League of American Bicyclists Announces Ann Arbor
as a Spring 2009 Bicycle Friendly Community**

Washington, DC - May 7, 2009 – The League of American Bicyclists is proud to announce the City of Ann Arbor as one of our prestigious silver-level 2009 Bicycle Friendly Communities. “The League is delighted to recognize the City of Ann Arbor for its efforts to welcome bicyclists and make bicycling safer and more enjoyable,” stated League President Andy Clarke. “We applaud Ann Arbor and our other BFC winners for their willingness to invest over the long-term in creating a better, more livable environment for their citizens.” The League is recognizing 13 new Bicycle Friendly Communities and three BFC renewals.

The BFC award recognizes Ann Arbor’s commitment to improving conditions for bicycling and its practice of making focused investment in bicycling programs and facilities. Clarke noted the impressive advances of all BFC applicants and stated, “This round of applications had more communities with newer and stronger bike plans than all previous reviews.”

The City of Ann Arbor is a stand-out community in Michigan for their initiative and progress to become more bicycle-friendly. The BFC’s reviewers were impressed with the following city achievements related to improving bicycle usage and safety in Ann Arbor:

- **Engineering** - The city has prepared plans to bring the entire existing bike-lane system up to standards for signage and pavement markings. It also will be adding nearly 10 miles of new bike lanes.
- **Education**: The city maintains a bicycle informational website www.a2gov.org/bike, which includes many resources for bicyclists in the city. There also is a panel about cycling safety on the city's bike map.
- **Encouragement**: May is Commuter Challenge month in Ann Arbor. Led by getDowntown, employees who work in the downtown are encouraged to try an alternative form of transportation to get to work this month. In addition, May 15 is “Bike to Work” day.
- **Evaluation**: Did you know that 10 of 20 intersections counted in the city's bike data collection program have more than 300 cyclists over a 12 hour period? All in all, more than 7,500 cyclists have been counted in the city during the past three years. The City of Ann Arbor has seen increased reliance on biking as a mode of travel in the city through its data collection efforts.

The BFC program is revolutionizing the way states and communities evaluate their quality of life, sustainability and transportation networks, while allowing them to benchmark their progress and work toward improving their bicycle-friendliness. The application process to become a BFC is rigorous; currently only 108 of the 274 applicants have a BFC four-year designation. The renewal process and four levels of the award – platinum, gold, silver and bronze – provide a clear incentive for communities to continuously improve. The new and expanded BFC program began at the League in 1995, and in the past 14 years it has evolved into the tool it is today – evaluating, recognizing and improving cities, states and businesses.

The BFC program is generously supported by program partners [Bikes Belong](#) and [Trek's One World Two Wheels Campaign](#). Applicants complete a detailed on-line form with numerous questions in five key areas: engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation/planning. Local cyclists, national experts, and League staff review the applications.

To learn more about the League's Bicycle Friendly Community program, visit <http://www.bicyclefriendlyamerica.org>. For media inquiries, contact Meghan Cahill at 202.822.1333 or at meghan@bikeleague.org, or City of Ann Arbor Transportation Manager Eli Cooper at 734.794.6430, extension 43701, or ecooper@a2gov.org.

The League of American Bicyclists promotes bicycling for fun, fitness and transportation, and works through advocacy and education for a bicycle-friendly America. The League represents the interests of America's 57 million bicyclists, including its 300,000 members and affiliates. For more information or to support the League, visit www.bikeleague.org.

Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and was named the No. 1 Healthiest Hometown in the U.S. by AARP The Magazine in 2008. Other notable recognitions include: No. 27 of the top 100 U.S. cities to live in by CNN/Money Magazine in 2008, as well as the fourth smartest city in the U.S. by Forbes Magazine. The city's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters, fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.

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