

INVITATION

Jon Wertjes, P.E., PTOE
Director of Traffic & Parking Services
Department of Public Works
City of Minneapolis

August 25, 2009

Dear Jon Wertjes,

I am writing to invite the City of Minneapolis to the chartering of the Progressive Bicycle Cities Coalition. The meeting and related events will take place in Portland, Oregon from Thursday, October 1st to Saturday, October 3rd. We hope that a city representative will come and share Minneapolis's recent accomplishments in developing its bicycle infrastructure, as well as learn from the experiences of other progressive bicycle cities. We request your city's participation in helping establish a framework for this coalition to advance technology and innovation in the development of urban bicycle transportation systems, and guide national policy, standards and best practices to support these systems. Our collaboration is needed to create a model for U.S. cities to illustrate how providing quality bicycle infrastructure and programs can provide transportation options, promote healthier citizens and reduce the effects of global climate change.

As host, Portland invites you to visit our bicycle-friendly city, meet with representatives from other cities, and participate in bicycle-related events that will be occurring during this time. Some of the concurrent events include:

- Private preview of the Danish 'Dreams on Wheels' exhibit featuring the art and function of the bicycle;
- Singer/ songwriter/ bicycle activist/ and author David Byrne book release event;
- Lecture by Niels Jensen, from the City of Copenhagen;
- Discussion with representatives from the Netherlands and Denmark regarding international best practices for bicycle infrastructure; and
- Tour of Portland's bicycling facilities, including an opportunity to ride on Portland's first 'cycle track.'

In addition to interacting with representatives from coalition cities (Boston, Chicago, Minneapolis, New York, Portland, San Francisco and Seattle), we have invited three renowned bicycle advocates to participate and discuss federal reauthorization opportunities, and provide coalition guidance. They include Tim Blumenthal of the Bikes Belong Coalition, Randy Neufeld of SRAM and Andy Clarke of the League of American Bicyclists.

We realize that the time frame for planning this event is relatively short, and that this is a challenging time to request expenses. We are currently doing all that we can to secure funding to assist PBCC representatives with their travel expenses. City of Portland staff is available to help you with local hotel arrangements, ground transportation, bicycle rental, or any other issues that would help make this trip possible for you.

We sent an invitation letter to Mayor R.T. Rybak requesting your city's participation in this important event. We will continue to coordinate with you regarding your city's interest in providing a bicycle facilities representative. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Todd Borkowitz. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Catherine Ciarlo
Transportation Director
City of Portland - Office of Mayor Sam Adams

Todd M. Borkowitz, ASLA
Planning & Policy Staff Assistant
City of Portland - Bureau of Transportation