



Feedback on **Minneapolis's** application to be designated a Bicycle Friendly Community – Spring 2011

The League of American Bicyclists has renewed Minneapolis's designation as a Bicycle Friendly Community at the **gold** level. Reviewers were once again pleased to see good efforts and potential to build a world-class cycling city.

Some of the highlights of the application are the great support of Mayor R.T. Rybak members of city council and city staff, the Nice Ride bike share system, programs and results as part of the Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program, education and encouragement efforts of the Bike Walk Ambassadors program, performing monthly bike counts, numerous youth biking programs, cycling promotions within local business community and Safe Routes to School programs at all elementary schools. We were also impressed with your innovative infrastructure including colored bike lanes and bike signal heads.

The BFC review team expects great things in the future given the good local team and the coming improvements to the network and programs. Reviewers provided the following suggestions to further promote bicycling.

Reviewers recommend the following actions to further improve conditions for bicycling in the community:

- Continue to expand the bicycle network and increase network connectivity through the use of bike lanes, shared lane arrows and signed routes. Focus on on-street improvements in addition to growing the off-street system. Expand the percentage of arterials streets with bike lanes. These improvements will also increase the effectiveness of encouragement efforts by providing a broader range of facility choices for users of various abilities and comfort levels as well as raise the visibility of bicycling to other vehicle drivers.
- Adopt a Complete Streets policy and offer implementation guidance. Every street should accommodate bicyclists, pedestrians, motorists and transit users of all abilities and ages. Current accommodation policies are good but a complete streets policy with guidance will lead to a stronger and broader bicycling network.
- Improve and expand the training offered to police officers regarding traffic law as it applies to bicyclists. See the video put out by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/menuitem.810acae50c651189ca8e410dba046a0/> Here are some Law Enforcement Products
 - [Law Enforcement's Roll Call Video: "Enforcing Law for Bicyclists"](#)
 - [Enhancing Bicycle Safety: Law Enforcement's Role \(CD-ROM Training\)](#)



- Expand your [Safe Routes to School program](#) in all middle and high schools to emphasize bicycling and encourage all schools to get involved.
- Start a bicyclist and motorist ticket diversion program. Those given citation are offered an opportunity to waive fees for violations by attending a bicycling education course. This should include a classroom and on-road component. See what Pima County has done: [http://bikeped.pima.gov/Safety%20\(pdf\)s/April%20-%20May%202011%20Bicycle%20Diversion%20Class%20\(No%20Locations\).pdf](http://bikeped.pima.gov/Safety%20(pdf)s/April%20-%20May%202011%20Bicycle%20Diversion%20Class%20(No%20Locations).pdf)
- Continue to expand public education campaigns to promote the share the road message and the rights and responsibilities of all users. Work with MNDOT to use and improve the statewide Share the Road campaign to realize improved awareness of bicyclists and their rights. There are some new tools for you to use. See a new motorist education video at <http://bikelib.org/video/index.htm> It is vital to make motorists and cyclists aware of their rights and responsibilities on the road. Also, see the excellent Look Campaign from New York City: http://www.nyc.gov/html/look/html/about/about_us_text.shtml and use the valuable information from the League's Ride Better Tips in your outreach education and encouragement efforts. See the Ride Better Tips pages at <http://www.bikeleague.org/resources/better/index.php>
- Increase the number of police officers patrolling on bike. This increased interaction between enforcement and the bicycling community should also include targeting motorist infractions and positive enforcement ticketing. Also, expand the educational opportunities related to bicycling for officers.
- Work with the [mountain biking community](#) to develop a plan for off-road access and increase opportunities for [single-track](#) riding within the city
- Fully implement the [comprehensive bike plan](#) and continue to close gaps in the cycling network. Also, expand the encouragement, education, and enforcement programs to increase usage. Set an ambitious, attainable target to increase the percentage of trips made by bike in the city.

For more ideas and best practices please visit the [Bicycle Friendly Community Resource Page](#)