



CREATING A BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

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Bike Walk Mississippi

ADVOCACY | BICYCLE FRIENDLY AMERICA | NATIONAL BIKE CHALLENGE | NATIONAL BIKE MONTH | NATIONAL BIKE SUMMIT | SMART CYCLING | WOMEN BIKE

WHAT IS THE BFC PROGRAM?



League of American Bicyclists

- » Started in 1996 with the BFC program
- » Updated program in 2002
- » 5 Award levels: Diamond, Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze
- » Program recognizes communities for bicycle friendliness and provides roadmap and assistance to become better



APPLICATION CRITERIA



- » Engineering
- » Education
- » Encouragement
- » Enforcement
- » Evaluation & Planning

Online application
bikeleague.org/community



AWARD LEVELS



Process:

After a deadline, the applications are first sent to local reviewers for comment. Local reviewers usually have 2-3 weeks to submit an online review of the applicant. Once all local feedback is received, it is shared with the judging panel. Each judge then takes about 2-3 weeks to review each application, together with any supplemental material and the local feedback. Applications that receive a range of award suggestions are discussed during a review meeting.

Silver Status:

- Silver communities are somewhat welcoming to bikes and are easy to navigate for intermediate and experienced cyclists. But there is still a lot of work left to do in 2 or 3 of the Es.

Bronze:

- Bronze communities might not necessarily feel bike friendly. These communities may only have a couple bike lanes in place and motorists may not yet be aware that they need to share the road with bicyclists. However, important steps are being taken in all five E's but particularly in one or two Es. For example, a community might have several cycling instructors that give regular cycling skill classes for adults and there is a Safe Routes to School program at most schools.

Honorable Mention:

- Applicants in the Honorable Mention category are just starting to address the needs of cyclists. There are probably few cyclists on the road and most of them will be very experienced. However, there may be a popular shared use path cutting through the community, a popular community-wide bike event or a new bike plan.

GET STARTED

Go to: bikeleague.org/community

- » Download the latest application
- » **Skim application and circle all low-hanging fruit and questions.**
- » Send application to appropriate city staff and advocates for input on particular items of interest.
- » Work with Bike Walk Mississippi to create a short-term action plan for low hanging fruit before applying.



QUICK ASSESSMENT

The Bicycle Friendly America program is more than an assessment. All applicants get customized feedback on their applications and access to technical assistance. If you aren't bicycle-friendly yet, we'll help you get there. With our Quick Assessment, we give you the tools to see if your Business, Community or University is ready to apply for a program designation.

COMMUNITY [success]

1 ENGINEERING

Does your community have a comprehensive, connected and well-maintained bicycling network? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Do bike parking readily available throughout the community? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Do you have a complete streets ordinance or another policy that mandates the accommodation of cyclists on all road projects? ☐ YES ☐ NO

2 EDUCATION

Is there a community-wide Safe Routes to School program that includes bicycling education? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Are there bicycling education courses available for adults in the community? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Does your community educate motorists and cyclists on their rights and responsibilities as road users? ☐ YES ☐ NO

3 EVALUATION

Is there a specific plan or program to reduce cyclist/motorist vehicle crashes? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Does your community have a current comprehensive bicycle plan? ☐ YES ☐ NO





OXFORD, MS
BRONZE



HATTIESBURG, MS
BRONZE



RIDGELAND, MS
BRONZE



OVERVIEW OF ENGINEERING ACTIVITIES:

- Complete Streets policy with implementation guidance, staff training, police checklist, compliance procedure and performance measures.
- Intersections are safe and convenient for bicyclists.
- Standards for bicycle facility design and implementation that meet or exceed the AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities and NACTO Urban Bikeway Design guides.
- Regular training opportunities on best practices and funding bicycle projects for engineering and planning staff.
- There are convenient ways for the public to comment on maintenance, safety and other issues impeding bicycle accessibility.
- High speed or high volume streets have designated bicycle facilities to enable bicyclists of various skill levels to reach their destinations quickly and safely.



EDUCATION



OVERVIEW OF EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

- There is a local Safe Routes to Schools Program.
 - Bicycle Safety education is part of primary and secondary school education and the surrounding neighborhoods are safe and convenient for biking.
- There are bicycle education opportunities for children OUTSIDE of school through bike rodeos, youth education programs and helmet fit seminars.
- There is a public safety awareness campaign using Public Service Announcements and other media to make both motorists and cyclists aware of their rights and responsibilities (*Partner with Bike Walk Mississippi for resources).
- There are regular opportunities for adults to develop their bicycling skills (partner with LCI training programs through Bike Walk Mississippi)
- There is a motorist education program (for new and professional drivers).



ENCOURAGEMENT



OVERVIEW OF ENCOURAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:

- There is an active, engaged bicycle advocacy group representing the interests of bicyclists and potential bicyclists (Partner with Bike Walk Mississippi).
- Bike Month, Bike to Work Day, Bike to School Day are all promoted in partnership with local bike clubs and advocacy groups.
- Individualized marketing and bike challenges promoting bicycling.
- Mayor or City Council host or participate in bike rides and support community bicycling events.

OVERVIEW OF ENCOURAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:

- There is a cyclovia or “Open Streets” event, closing off a major corridor to automobile traffic and offering the space to cyclists, pedestrians and group exercise events.
- There are bicycle themed community celebrations or social rides each time a bicycle related project is completed showing the community’s efforts and introducing new users to the improvements (*there is a current disconnect between bicycling community and city/county government activities*).
- The tourism board or local chamber of commerce promotes bicycling in the area to boost the local economy.
- Promotion of and inclusion of Bicycle Friendly Businesses and Universities.
- Bike Shops, Community Bike Shop or opportunities to rent or loan bikes.
- Youth programs such as “Earn a bike” programs.
- There is a local bike map printed and online that addresses diverse needs and skill levels.
- Recreational bicycling is promoted through amenities such as mountain biking, cyclocross and BMX.
- Short themed-loop routes around the community with appropriate way-finding signage.



ENFORCEMENT



OVERVIEW OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES:

- Promotion, education and signage related to the state's mandatory 3 feet passing law.
- Promotion and education related to the state's anti-texting law.
- There is a police bike patrol and designated law enforcement point person who interacts with the bike community.
- Law enforcement officers are offered regular education on the rights and responsibilities of bicyclists and traffic laws as it applies to bicyclists and motorists.
- Law enforcement officers use targeting enforcement and information sharing to encourage motorists and cyclists to share the road safely.
- Law enforcement officers report cyclist crash data and potential hazards to the public works department, traffic engineers and transportation planners.



EVALUATION AND PLANNING



OVERVIEW OF EVALUATION AND PLANNING:

- There is a Bicycle Advisory Committee that meets several times a year to make policy and program recommendations and ensure the bicycle program is held accountable to citizens (Contact Bike Walk Mississippi for best practices).
- Designate staff to lead and coordinate the Bicycle Friendly program in close cooperation with the Bicycle Advisory Committee.
- There is a current, comprehensive bike master plan with dedicated funding, specific targets for ridership and safety and tools for evaluation and monitoring progress.
- There is a mechanism that ensures that bicycle facilities and programs serve the entire community equitably.



STRATEGIES FOR MOVING FORWARD:

Next Steps:

- Community Input meetings

- Create a short term action plan

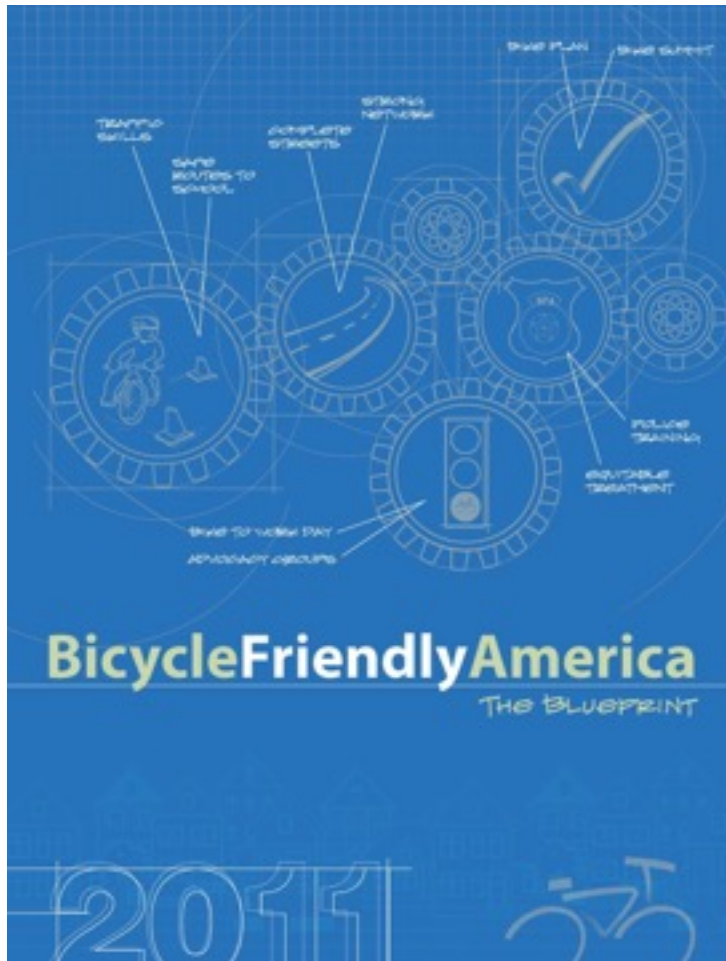
- Establish easy goals to implement quickly while building the case.

- Start showing the local demand & identify any potential roadblocks.

- Establish a committee to start developing a long term plan

ONLINE RESOURCE LIBRARY:

WWW.BIKELEAGUE.ORG/CONTENT/RESOURCES



2012 **bicycle friendly america** guide

**TRUE LIFE
STORIES**
and real-world **TOOLS**





Email me!

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