



Contact: Carolyn Szczepanski
Communications Director
League of American Bicyclists
carolyn@bikeleague.org
202.822.1333

Centre Region
Council of Governments
(COG)

Contact: Trish Meek
Senior Transportation Planner
Centre Regional Planning Agency
2643 Gateway Drive, Suite 4
State College, PA 16801
Email: tmeek@crcog.net
Phone: 814-231-3050
Fax: 814-231-3083

Press Release

State College – Centre Region is named a Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists

Washington, D.C. – May 15, 2012 – May is National Bike Month with hundreds of events and thousands of riders celebrating bicycling nationwide. And a growing number of U.S. communities are taking steps to encourage residents to ride all year round — including the Centre Region. The League of American Bicyclists has announced the latest round of Bicycle Friendly Communities (BFC) and the State College–Centre Region area was named a Bronze Level BFC. The Centre Region COG applied for the designation on behalf of six municipalities (the Townships of College, Halfmoon, Harris, Ferguson and Patton, and the Borough of State College).

The Centre Region Council of Governments is holding a brief ceremony to announce the Bronze level award as follows:

Date: Thursday, May 17, 2012

Time: 3:30 pm

**Place: Centre Region Council of Governments Building
2643 Gateway Drive
State College, PA**

“We are not surprised that this was the largest number of new and renewing applicants that we’ve ever had,” said League President Andy Clarke. “The popularity of this program is clear evidence that investment in bicycling is a major catalyst in creating the kind of vibrant communities people want to live, work and visit. The State College–Centre Region area recognizes that simple steps to make bicycling safe and comfortable pay huge dividends in civic, community and economic development.”

The BFC program is revolutionizing the way communities evaluate their quality of life, sustainability and transportation networks, while allowing them to benchmark their progress toward improving their bicycle-friendliness. With this impressive round, there are now 214 BFCs in 47 states across America. The Bronze Level BFC award recognizes the Centre Region's commitment to improving conditions for bicycling through investment in bicycling promotion, education programs, infrastructure and pro-bicycling policies.

Centre Regional Planning Agency Transportation Planner Trish Meek says: "For years, municipal officials, Penn State University, local businesses, and stakeholder groups such as the Centre Region Bicycle Coalition have been raising awareness about bicycling, and improving bike facilities. Through their efforts, residents enjoy over 65 miles of shared use bike paths, on-road bike lanes, and designated bike routes; and more projects are underway to expand that system. The hard work that local officials and citizens have committed to improving bike facilities and programs in the Region resulted in this award."

The BFC program provides a roadmap to building a Bicycle Friendly Community and the application itself has become a rigorous and an educational tool in itself. Since its inception, more than 500 distinct communities have applied and the four levels of the award – platinum, gold, silver and bronze – provide a clear incentive for communities to continuously improve. "The input we will receive from the League about our application will help local officials focus on those items that we need to continue working on so that we can reach an even higher level of designation," said Ms. Meek.

To apply or learn more about the free BFC program, visit bikeleague.org/community.

About the Bicycle Friendly America Program

The Bicycle Friendly Community, Bicycle Friendly State, Bicycle Friendly Business and Bicycle Friendly University programs are generously supported by program partners Bikes Belong and Trek Bicycle's One World, Two Wheels Campaign. To learn more about building a Bicycle Friendly America, visit

<http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/bicyclefriendlyamerica/>

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.

###