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Knoxville Earns Bicycle Friendly Community Honorable Mention

Washington, DC—December 15, 2005—The League of American Bicyclists is presenting Knoxville, TN with an honorable mention in its Bicycle Friendly Community program. The program rewards communities that improve conditions for bicycling and make focused investments in bicycling programs. An honorable mention indicates that the Knoxville urbanized area is heading in the right direction.

The honorable mention recognition marks Knoxville's growing commitment to improving conditions for bicycling. The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization's Regional Bicycle Program works with local governments and citizen groups to improve bicycling conditions and promote bicycling as a transportation option. The recent expansion of bike racks in the city, bicycle safety education in the elementary schools, and successful bike-to-work programs are significant factors in earning the distinction for Knoxville.

"The recent improvement for cyclists took Knoxville to the cusp of receiving an award," said Andy Clarke, executive director of the League. "We applaud how far Knoxville has come in a short amount of time, and we encourage them to continue strengthening their bicycling program."

League staff and reviewers consider several factors before granting a community Bicycle Friendly Community status, including:

- The physical environment for bicycling -- on-street facilities, trails, parking etc.
- Education programs to promote a "share the road" ethic among bicyclists and drivers
- Promotional initiatives to persuade people to ride or ride more often
- Enforcement of traffic laws for both motorists and bicyclists
- Future plans and evaluation techniques to improve conditions further

The League's Bicycle Friendly Community program has become a catalyst for positive change in communities across the country. "We encourage Knoxville to continue its steady work to improve conditions for bicycling—they were very close to bronze this time, and we feel confident they can achieve that designation, or better, with more work in the coming years," Clarke said.

The League's Bicycle Friendly Community Campaign is a national grassroots effort to increase the number of trips made by bike, promote physical fitness, and help make communities more livable. The Campaign works town by town and city by city to encourage bicycling and achieve a bicycle-friendly America. Visit www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org to learn more about the process and the communities the League has honored with the Bicycle Friendly Community award. The Bicycle Friendly Community program is supported by generous grants from the Bikes Belong Coalition (www.bikesbelong.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 and www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org.

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Bicycle-Friendly Communities 2005
Enhancing Cities Through Cycling

(* = A community designated in Oct. 2005)

Platinum

*Davis, Calif.**

Gold

Boulder, Colo.

Corvallis, Ore.

Palo Alto, Calif.

Portland, Ore.

Silver:

Chicago, Ill.

Eugene, Ore.

Folsom, Calif.

Fort Collins, Colo.

Gainesville, Fla.

Missoula, Mont.

Olympia, Wash.

Santa Barbara, Calif.

Scottsdale, Ariz.

Stanford University, Calif.

Tempe, Ariz.

Tucson, Ariz.

Bronze:

Ada County, Idaho

*Albuquerque, N.M.**

Ann Arbor, Mich.

Arlington, Va.

Ashland, Ore.

Auburn, Ala.

Beaverton, Ore.

Bloomington, Ind.

Bend, Ore.

Boca Raton, Fla.

Brentwood, Calif.

Brunswick, Maine

Burlington, Vt.

Carrboro, N.C.

Cary, N.C.

Chandler, Ariz.

Chattanooga, Tenn.

Chico, Calif.

College Station, Texas

Denver, Colo.

Gilbert, Ariz.

Lawrence, Kan.

Longmont, Colo.

Mesa, Ariz.

Miami Beach, Fla.

Mountain View, Calif.

Orlando, Fla.

Portage, Mich.

The Presidio of San Francisco, Calif.

Redmond, Wash.

Rockville, Md.

Schaumburg, Ill.

Shawnee, Kan.

*Vancouver, Wash.**

Washington, D.C.