



Feedback on Tybee Island's application to be designated a Bicycle Friendly Community – Spring 2011

The League of American Bicyclists has designated Tybee Island as a Bicycle Friendly Community at the **bronze** level. Reviewers were very pleased to see the current efforts, potential and commitment to make Tybee Island a great place for bicyclists which can be seen in the growing number of cyclists.

Some of the highlights of the application are funding source to expand bicycle access to the Lazaraetto Creek Bridge, a Complete Streets Policy, road diets, Safe Routes to School at all schools, distribution and fitting of helmets, encouraging of bike registration, island-wide survey of bicycling, and bikes available for city employees to borrow.

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.

The four most significant measures the city should take to improve cycling in the community are:

- Conduct research on bicycle usage beyond the U.S. Census' Journey to Work report to more efficiently distribute resources according to demand. Consider implementing a trip reduction program/ordinance. See good examples at <http://bikepeddocumentation.org/> and <http://www.portlandonline.com/transportation/index.cfm?c=43801>
- Continue the planning and construction on the Lazaretto Creek Birdge to make the island's access point accessible to bicycles. Read the League's report on Bridging the Gap in the Bicycling Network: <http://www.bikeleague.org/resources/reports/pdfs/bridges.pdf>
- Offer a Cycling skills and commuter class on a *regular* basis. Ideally the instruction would incorporate a classroom portion as well as on-road training. Contact your local advocacy group to see if there are classes in your area. Or invite a League Cycling Instructor (LCI) to your campus to conduct the class. For examples of educational materials visit: <http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/education/> To find a local LCI go to: http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/education/course_schedule.php
- Consider launching a public bike sharing system that is open to the public. A bike share system is a convenient, cost effective, and healthy way of encouraging commuters to make short trips by bike. See what is being done across the country at <http://streetswiki.wikispaces.com/Public+Bike-Sharing+Programs>



Reviewers provided the following suggestions to further promote bicycling:

Engineering

- Ensure that new and improved facilities to accommodate bicyclists conform to current best practices and guidelines – such as the [AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities](#) and the DOT's own guidelines.
- Increase the amount of [secure bicycle parking](#) throughout the community – in addition implement a regulation that requires bike parking. See bicycle parking ordinances and guidelines for [Madison, Wisconsin](#) and [Santa Cruz, California](#) Bicycle Parking Ordinances and guidelines for choosing racks.
- Increase the number of arterial streets that have wide shoulders or [bike lanes](#). Continue to expand the bicycle network and increase network connectivity through the use of bike lanes, shared lane arrows and signed routes. On-street improvements coupled with the expansion of the off-street system will continue to increase use and improve safety. 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.
- Expanding the bicycle and pedestrian manager's time focused on these projects would help in scaling up your BFC efforts. Current work of the BPAC and TDM staff could be complemented by a full-time staff person devoted to acquiring bike/ ped grants and making the community bicycle-friendly. See this report on the importance of Bicycle & Pedestrian program staff.
http://www.bikeleague.org/resources/reports/pdfs/why_bike_ped_staff_april_2010.pdf
- Add bicycle accommodations at intersections to improve efficiency and discourage cyclists from running red lights. These include timing lights for bicycle speeds, incorporating [bike boxes](#), [loop detectors](#), or [bicycle signal heads](#).

Education

- Continue to expand public education campaigns to promote the share the road message and the rights and responsibilities of all users. 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>



- Improve the reach of the community's bicycle safety campaigns. Use 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>, PSA's <http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/bikemonth/psas.php> and the downloadable Bicycle Safety Tips for Adults video at <http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/education/shortversion.wmv>
- Continue to improve bicycling education opportunities for children and adults. *Smart Cycling* can be integrated into motor vehicle violation diversion programs, Safe Routes to School, as well as motorist education classes for city employees.

Encouragement

- Consider offering a 'Ciclovía' or 'Summer Streets' type event, closing off a major corridor to auto traffic and offering the space to cyclists, pedestrians and group exercise events. <http://cicloviarecreativa.uniandes.edu.co/english/index.html>
- Encourage local businesses to promote cycling to the workplace. During Bike to Work Week set up a commuter challenge or bike to work pit stop. For more information on encouragement ideas please visit <http://www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org/tech.htm> Olympia, Washington holds a Bike Commuter Contest during Bike Month and encourages people to participate in the month-long Contest to see who can ride the most number of days or miles in the month of May. The growth in participation has been stunning. Olympia also offers city employees a \$2 per day incentive for commuting by bike (as well as for walking, riding the bus or carpooling). Each year, approximately 50 to 60 of the City's 600 employees participate in the Bicycle Commuter Contest.
- Recreational bicycling can be promoted through facilities and programs like bike parks, velodromes, racing clubs and other riding groups.
- Reach children with bicycling education outside of school in recreation programs, bicycle repair co-ops, Trips for Kids events, and through youth bike clubs. Here is an example from Portland, OR - <http://www.communitycyclingcenter.org/index.php/programs-for-youth>

Enforcement

Evaluation & Planning

- 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.



- Consider conducting an economic impact study on bicycling in your community
http://www.altaplanning.com/App_Content/files/fp_docs/2008%20Portland%20Bicycle-Related%20Economy%20Report.pdf

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