



PRESS RELEASE  
Oct. 16, 2013

Contacts: Liz Lempert, 609-468-3317  
llempert@princetonnj.gov  
Elizabeth Murphy, League of American Bicyclists  
202-621-5458, liz@bikeleague.org

### ***Princeton Honored as Bicycle Friendly Community by League of American Bicyclists***

**Princeton, NJ – Oct. 16, 2013** – The League of American Bicyclists has named Princeton a Bronze level Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC), Mayor Liz Lempert announced today. Princeton joins 31 other communities nationwide receiving honors today from the League.

“We’re very pleased that the League has acknowledged our efforts to make Princeton a more bikeable and bike friendly town,” Mayor Lempert said. “The fact that Princeton is a walkable and bikeable town is intrinsic to its unique character and makes us a more livable community,” Lempert said.

“Princeton is playing a critical part in creating a truly Bicycle Friendly America,” said Andy Clarke, President of the League of American Bicyclists. “We know Princeton’s investment in bicycling will be returned many times over in the health, environmental, and quality of life benefits of a thriving community.”

Mayor Lempert thanked Princeton’s volunteer Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee and the town’s engineering department for working to make biking easier and safer in the community. She specifically pointed to the installation of “sharrows,” road markings that were put in place on town roadways over the past couple years as a major accomplishment. Sharrows mark roadways shared by bicyclists and automobiles, and help guide cyclists on the best and safest places to ride, especially when the roads are too narrow to accommodate separate bike lanes. The markings also serve to remind drivers to share the roads with cyclists.

“Bronze is the first of five levels of recognition, and we don’t expect to stop there,” Lempert said. “We have plans to extend new bike paths and develop other amenities for cyclists -- that will make Princeton even more bike friendly further down the road.”

Laurie Harmon, a member of the Princeton Pedestrian and Bicyclist Committee, was part of the team that put together the application to become certified. She said, “It’s great to be recognized for the progress we have made so far, and for the goals we have set toward making Princeton more bike friendly. Many of Princeton’s residents already bike to work, school, downtown, and the shopping center. As we make more improvements in bike accommodations and safety, even more people will choose to leave their cars at home.”

Lempert said that Princeton now can count itself among a total of 291 Bicycle Friendly Communities in 48 states recognized by the League to date. In New Jersey, only five communities have been designated as Bike Friendly Communities (all at the Bronze level). In addition to Princeton and Montclair, which were honored yesterday, Hoboken, Ocean City and West Windsor have previously been recognized as BFCs.

Lempert noted that Princeton University is currently the only university in New Jersey designated a Bicycle Friendly University (bronze level) and, as such, offers potential synergies to

the town's bicycle programs. In addition to the Bicycle Friendly Community and Bicycle Friendly University programs, the League of American Bicyclists also sponsors Bicycle Friendly State and Bicycle Friendly Business programs.

According to the league, the BFC program is intended to refocus the way communities evaluate their quality of life, sustainability and transportation networks, while allowing them to benchmark their progress toward improving their bicycle-friendliness. The BFC award program recognizes communities' commitment to improving conditions for bicycling through investment in bicycling promotion, education programs, infrastructure and pro-bicycling policies.

The BFC program also 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 five levels of the award – diamond, platinum, gold, silver and bronze – provide a clear incentive for communities to continuously improve.

### **About the Bicycle Friendly America Program**

Program partner Trek Bicycle generously supports the Bicycle Friendly Community, Bicycle Friendly State, Bicycle Friendly Business and Bicycle Friendly University programs. To learn more about building a Bicycle Friendly America, visit <http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/bicyclefriendlyamerica/>

For more information on the league, visit [www.bikelague.org](http://www.bikelague.org).

# # #