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Harrisonburg Receives Bronze Bicycle Friendly Designation

Harrisonburg, Va. – The city was just recognized by the League of American Bicyclists with a Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) award.

With the announcement of 54 new and renewing BFC’s joining, Harrisonburg is part of a leading group in all 50 states that are transforming neighborhoods within their communities.

“We applaud these communities for making bicycling a safe and convenient option for transportation and recreation,” said Bill Nesper, vice president of Programs at the League of American Bicyclists. “We look forward to continuing work with these communities as we move closer to our mission of creating a Bicycle Friendly America for everyone.”

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. This bronze award recognizes Harrisonburg’s commitment to improving conditions for bicycling through investment in bicycling promotion, education programs, infrastructure, and pro-bicycling policies.

“The city is currently updating its 2010 bicycle and pedestrian plan and continues to lead the effort in implementing new shared use paths to connect neighborhoods, downtown, city parks, schools, and business places. One mile of the Bluestone Trail was constructed through Purcell Park in 2014 and more shared use paths are being planned,” said Thanh Dang, transportation and environmental planning manager for Public Works. “Being a bicycle friendly community is more than just infrastructure. We have many great community organizations like Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition and Sentara RMH Community Health who continue to lead the effort on bike education and encouragement in partnership with the city, Harrisonburg Police, Harrisonburg City Public Schools, local churches, retailers, employers, and many more.”

Harrisonburg was first awarded a bronze designation in 2011 and is one of 371 Bicycle Friendly Communities throughout the United States. For more information about Harrisonburg’s efforts, visit www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/biking-and-walking.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 50,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.



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