

**CARSON CITY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
REQUEST FOR COMMISSION ACTION**

**Date Submitted:** March 31, 2010

**Meeting Date:** April 14, 2010

**To:** Regional Transportation Commission

**From:** Patrick Pittenger, Transportation Manager

**Subject Title:** Action to approve the Chair to sign the Action Plan for Bicycle Friendly Communities in support of pursuing designation for Carson City as a Bicycle Friendly Community.

**Staff Summary:** The signing of the Action Plan for Bicycle Friendly Communities is the first step in the application process toward designation for Carson City as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. A member of the group that is requesting that an application be submitted on behalf of Carson City will present the merits of the Bicycle Friendly Communities Campaign and describe the application process.

**Type of Action Requested:** (check one)

- (  ) None – Information Only
- (  ) Formal Action/Motion

**Recommended Commission Action:** I move to approve the Chair to sign the Action Plan for Bicycle Friendly Communities in support of pursuing designation for Carson City as a Bicycle Friendly Community.

**Explanation for Recommended Commission Action:** Signing of the Action Plan for Bicycle Friendly Communities would allow for Carson City to be designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community, subject to the approval of an application by the League of American Bicyclists. If the motion is passed by the RTC, a similar action will be requested from the Board of Supervisors at a subsequent meeting. Assuming approval by the Board of Supervisors, staff will proceed by submitting the preliminary application (Part I). If the League of American Bicyclists deems that the preliminary application has met the basic criteria, staff will be notified to begin Part II of the application process.

**Applicable Statue, Code, Rule or Policy:** N/A

**Fiscal Impact:** N/A

**Explanation of Impact:** N/A

**Funding Source:** N/A

**Alternatives:** Do not approve of the Chair to sign the Action Plan for Bicycle Friendly Communities.

**Supporting Material:** Action Plan for Bicycle Friendly Communities, example of an application for designation as a Bicycle Friendly Community.

**Prepared By:** Patrick Pittenger, Transportation Manager

**Commission Action Taken:**

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_ 1) \_\_\_\_\_ Aye/Nay  
2) \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Vote Recorded By)

## Action Plan for Bicycle Friendly Communities

We, the members of the Carson City Regional Transportation Commission, make decisions on a regular basis regarding the prioritizing and funding of transportation projects that affect the health and safety of our residents, the efficient conduct of commerce, the delivery of services, and the long term quality of life in our community.

Cities across the globe are managing diverse issues such as pollution, congestion, traffic safety, accessibility, social inclusion, and economic growth. Increasing urbanization and sprawl is generating extra demand for quality public spaces and recreational opportunities. A renewed emphasis on security and the costs of dealing with the emerging epidemics of obesity and physical inactivity are stretching limited resources even further.

Solutions to these many challenges are equally diverse and complex. This Action Plan recognizes one policy initiative that may help to address these challenges and contributes to many of the solutions necessary to improve the quality of life in our metropolitan areas: increasing the percentage of trips made by bicycle by making communities more bicycle-friendly.

We recognize that increasing bicycle use may have the effect of:

Improving the environment by reducing the impact on residents of pollution and noise, limiting greenhouse gases, and improving the quality of public spaces.

Reducing congestion by shifting short trips (the majority of trips made in cities) out of cars. This will also make cities more accessible for public transportation, walking, essential car travel, emergency services, and deliveries.

Saving lives by creating safer conditions for bicyclists and as a direct consequence improve the safety of all other road users. Research shows that increasing the number of bicyclists on the street improves bicycle safety by slowing the speed of travel.

Increasing opportunities for residents of all ages to participate socially and economically in the community, regardless of income or ability. Greater choice of travel modes also increases independence, especially among seniors and children.

Boosting the economy by creating a community that is an attractive destination for new residents, tourists and businesses.

Enhancing recreational opportunities, especially for children, and further contribute to the quality of life in the community.

Saving City funds by increasing the efficient use of public space, reducing the need for costly new road infrastructure, preventing crashes, improving the health of the community, and increasing the use of public transportation.

Enhancing public safety and security by increasing the number of "eyes on the street" and providing more options for movement in the event of emergencies, natural disasters, and major public events.

Improving the health and well being of the population by promoting routine physical activity.

Therefore we, the members of the Carson City Regional Transportation Commission, declare that we support taking the following steps, in cooperation with the Carson City Board of Supervisors, to improve conditions for bicycling, thereby realizing the significant potential benefits of bicycling in our community. As an affirmation of our support, we hereby endorse, to the extent that resources and balancing other priorities permit, the following Action Plan for Bicycle Friendly Communities which includes:

1. Adopting a target level of bicycle use (e.g. percent of trips) and the improvement of data collection necessary to monitor progress.
2. Improving safe and convenient bicycle access to as many parts of the community as possible. Local cyclists and the general public should be involved in identifying maintenance needs and ongoing improvements.
3. Establishing information programs to promote bicycling for all purposes, and to communicate the many benefits of bicycling to residents and businesses (e.g. with bicycle maps, public relations campaigns, neighborhood rides, a ride with the Mayor)
4. Making the City a model employer by encouraging bicycle use among its employees.
5. Striving to keep city policies, plans, codes, and programs updated and implemented to take advantage of opportunities to create a more bicycle-friendly community.
6. Educating all road users about sharing the road and interacting safely. Road design and education programs should be combined to increase the confidence of all road users.
7. Working to improve the safety and comfort of all road users, with a particular focus on behaviors and attitudes that cause motor vehicle/bicycle crashes.
8. Developing programs to encourage bicycle use in communities where significant segments of the population do not drive (e.g. through Safe Routes to Schools programs) and where short trips are most common.
9. Promoting intermodal travel between public transportation and bicycles (e.g. by putting bike racks on buses), improving parking at transit locations, and improving access to public transportation vehicles.
10. Establishing a citywide, multi-disciplinary committee for non-motorized mobility that will submit to the Board of Supervisors a regular update on progress toward completion of the items in this Action Plan.

For the Carson City Regional Transportation Commission

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Shelly Aldean  
Chair

**The League of American Bicyclists  
Bicycle Friendly Communities Campaign**

*Thank you for your interest in becoming a designated Bicycle Friendly Community. **Please complete Part I on [www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org](http://www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org)**. Visit [www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org](http://www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org) or call 202-822-1333 for more information and resources.*

**APPLICATION PART I**

**CONTACT INFO**

Name of Community \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor or top elected official (include title) \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor's Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor's Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor's Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address line 2 \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Website \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

1. Population \_\_\_\_\_
2. Square mileage of municipality \_\_\_\_\_
  - Total area \_\_\_\_\_
  - Water area \_\_\_\_\_
  - Land area \_\_\_\_\_
3. Population density \_\_\_\_\_
4. Climate
  - Average temperature for January \_\_\_\_\_
  - Average temperature for April \_\_\_\_\_
  - Average temperature for July \_\_\_\_\_
  - Average temperature for October \_\_\_\_\_
  
  - Average precipitation for January \_\_\_\_\_
  - Average precipitation for April \_\_\_\_\_
  - Average precipitation for July \_\_\_\_\_
  - Average precipitation for October \_\_\_\_\_
5. Median income \$ \_\_\_\_\_
6. Age distribution
  - % under 20 \_\_\_\_\_%
  - % age 20-64 \_\_\_\_\_%
  - % age 65-84 \_\_\_\_\_%
  - % age 85+ \_\_\_\_\_%
7. Race
  - a. % Hispanic or Latino (of any race) \_\_\_\_\_%
  - b. % Not Hispanic or Latino \_\_\_\_\_%
  - c. % One race \_\_\_\_\_%
  - d. % White \_\_\_\_\_%
  - e. % Black or African American \_\_\_\_\_%
  - f. % American Indian and Alaska Native \_\_\_\_\_%
  - g. % Asian \_\_\_\_\_%
  - h. % Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander \_\_\_\_\_%
  - i. % Some other race \_\_\_\_\_%
  - j. % Two or more races \_\_\_\_\_%
8. If you have Journey-to-Work census data on bicycling to work, what percentage of people in your community bike to work? \_\_\_\_\_%

9. Do you have a Bicycle Master Plan?

(Yes) (No)

10. Do you have a written bicycle accommodation policy?

(Yes) (No)

11. What was your community's most significant investment for bicycling in the past year?

12. List current community activities that encourage/promote bicycling.

13. Bicycle Coordinator & Government Staff

- a. List your official bicycle/pedestrian coordinator or bicycle issues contact person on government staff.
- b. What department is the bicycle coordinator located in?
- c. How many hours are spent per year in this capacity?
- d. List all other government staff or contractors whose primary duties are devoted to bicycling issues.

14. Do you have a Bicycle Advisory Committee, Ped/Bike Council or other venue for citizen input?

- a. List the name of the Chair and their contact information.

*After submitting this general community profile online, the League will inform you if you have met the basic criteria to begin Part II of the application process.*



LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS  
 1612 K St., NW, Suite 800  
 Washington, DC 20006-2850  
 WEBSITE [www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org](http://www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org)  
 EMAIL [bikeleague@bikeleague.org](mailto:bikeleague@bikeleague.org)  
 PHONE 202.822.1333  
 FAX 202.822.1334

**The League of American Bicyclists  
 Bicycle Friendly Communities Campaign**

[www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org](http://www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org)

*Part II is a detailed audit of the engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, evaluation and planning efforts in your community. **Complete this application on [www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org](http://www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org).** This comprehensive inquiry is designed to yield a holistic picture of your community's work to promote bicycling. Technical assistance for completing Part II is available at [www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org](http://www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org) or by calling the League at 202-822-1333.*

**APPLICATION PART II**

**ENGINEERING**

1. Do you have a policy that requires the accommodation of cyclists in all new road construction and reconstruction and resurfacing? Please include a copy of this legislation or policy.
2. Have you provided training for your engineers and planners on how to accommodate cyclists? Please describe. Is there a mechanism to provide training on an on-going basis?
3. How many bridges are in your community? How many are closed or inaccessible to cyclists? Of those accessible by bike, how many have shoulders, bike lanes, wide curb lanes, or multi-use paths?
4. Do you have a bike parking ordinance? If yes, please include a copy of your ordinance:

5. Are there bike racks or storage units at:

Schools	(All)	(Most)	(Some)	(Few)	(None)
Libraries	(All)	(Most)	(Some)	(Few)	(None)
Transit stations	(All)	(Most)	(Some)	(Few)	(None)
Recreation centers	(All)	(Most)	(Some)	(Few)	(None)
Government buildings	(All)	(Most)	(Some)	(Few)	(None)
Office buildings	(All)	(Most)	(Some)	(Few)	(None)
Retail centers	(All)	(Most)	(Some)	(Few)	(None)
Public spaces and parks	(All)	(Most)	(Some)	(Few)	(None)



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6. If your community has transit service:
  - a. Are buses equipped with bike racks? (All) (Most) (Some) (Few) (None) (N/A)
  - b. Can bikes be brought inside transit vehicles?
7. How many miles of bike lanes do you have? How many miles of bike lanes are in your bicycle master plan? What is the mileage of your total road network? In rural communities, rideable paved shoulders may also be considered.
8. What percent of arterial streets have bike lanes or paved shoulders?
9. How many miles of designated bike routes do you have? How many miles of signed bike routes are in your bicycle master plan?
10. Please describe any maintenance programs or policies that ensure bike lanes and shoulders remain usable.
  - a. Routine maintenance
  - b. Capital improvements
11. Please describe initiatives your community has taken to ensure or improve bicycle access, safety and convenience at intersections, including bicycle detection, signing and marking.
12. How many miles of paved or hard surface trails (e.g. asphalt, concrete, crushed rock) do you have? How many miles of paved or hard surface trails are in your bicycle master plan?
13. How many miles of natural surface trails (singletrack) do you have? What is the total mileage of natural surface trails that are open to mountain bikes?
14. What is the estimated acreage of open space and public lands within the community (city, county, state, and federal public lands)? Are these areas open to cyclists?
15. Please describe maintenance programs or policies for your Multi-use Paths.
  - a. Routine maintenance
  - b. Capital improvements
16. Does your community have an ordinance or local code requirement for employers to provide bicycle parking, shower facilities, etc.? If yes, please describe or include a copy.
17. Please describe recreational facilities for cyclists such as low traffic rural roads and signed touring routes.
18. Are there other facilities that have been created to promote bicycling in your community? If yes, please describe.



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## EDUCATION

1. How do you educate motorists to share the road with cyclists? Please describe. How many community motorists do you reach with these efforts?

(All) (Most) (Some) (Few) (None)

2. Are there other bicycle education opportunities for adults? Please describe.
3. Do you have a bicycle safety program for children in schools? How many schools participate?  
(All) (Most) (Some) (Few) (None)
4. What other types of bicycle safety and education opportunities are available for children? Please describe. How many children participate?
5. Do you make bicycle safety materials available to the public? Please describe.
6. Do you have a bicycle ambassador program that educates community members on local opportunities for bicycling and answers their questions?
7. Do you have League Cycling Instructors in your area? Please list active instructors.
8. Is bicycle safety education included in routine local activities (e.g. tax renewal, drivers licensing and testing, or inserts with utility bills each month)? If so, please describe.



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## ENCOURAGEMENT

1. How do you promote National Bike Month in May (or another month)? Please describe.
2. How many people do you reach with events and activities during this celebration?
3. Do you actively promote Bike to Work Day or other bicycle commuting incentive programs? Please describe. What portion of the community workforce do you reach?  
(All) (Most) (Some) (Few) (None)
4. Is there an annual bike tour or ride promoted to the general public in your community? Please describe.
5. Are there community road or mountain bike clubs, bicycle advocacy organizations or racing clubs? Please describe.
6. How many specialty bicycle retailers (i.e. bike shops, not big box retailers like K-Mart or Wal Mart) are there in your community?
7. Are there other bicycling areas or facilities such as BMX tracks, velodromes or mountain biking centers in your community?
8. Does your trails system have a unit of the National Mountain Bike Patrol? Patrollers inform, assist and educate mountain bikers and other trail users.
9. Are there opportunities to rent bicycles in your community or other recreational opportunities involving bicycling? Please describe.
10. Do you have Safe Routes to School program that includes bicycling? How many schools are involved?  
(All) (Most) (Some) (Few) (None)
11. Does your community have youth recreation and intervention programs that are centered around bicycling?
12. Do you publish a bike map and keep it up to date?
13. Do you publish a map of mountain bike trails?
14. Please describe any other efforts in your community to encourage cycling.



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## ENFORCEMENT

1. Is your local police department addressing the concerns of cyclists in your community? Is there a liaison that communicates with the bicycling community?
2. Do you offer specific training to police officers regarding traffic law as it applies to bicyclists?
3. Do you use targeted enforcement to encourage cyclists and motorists to share the road safely?
4. Do you have public safety employees on bikes? Indicate the number of employees on bike as well as the size of the entire staff.
5. Do you have a mandatory helmet law? If so, is the requirement a state law or local ordinance? To what ages does it apply?
6. Do you have a mandatory sidepath law? If so, is the requirement a state law or local ordinance? Is it enforced?



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## EVALUATION & PLANNING

1. Do you have any information on the number of trips by bike in your community including census data? Please describe.
2. How many cyclist/motor vehicle fatalities have occurred in your community in the past five years?
3. How many cyclist/motor vehicle crashes have occurred in your community in the past five years?
4. Do you have a specific plan or program to reduce these numbers?
5. Do you have a system in place that allows bicyclists to submit ideas and concerns to public officials? Please describe.
6. Do you have a comprehensive bicycle plan? Please include a copy. When was it passed or updated? Is it funded? What percentage has been implemented?

(All) (Most) (Some) (Few) (None)

7. Do you have a trails master plan that addresses mountain bike access, and are there ongoing relations between the mountain biking community and the community recreation and planning staff.
8. Is your bicycle network part of broader development plans, land use plans and ongoing development projects? How many trails, bike lanes, paved shoulders, and bike routes connect with each other to provide seamless transportation options?

(All) (Most) (Some) (Few) (None)

9. Have you evaluated your transportation network and prioritized bicycle improvements based on hazards and needs?
10. What specific improvements do you have planned for bicycling in the following year?
11. What are the three primary reasons your city deserves to be designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community?
12. What are the three aspects of your community most in need of improvement in order to accommodate bicyclists?



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## FEEDBACK

1. How has completing this application affected your awareness of improvements which may be made for bicyclists?
2. Are you planning any new projects based on your involvement with the Bicycle Friendly Community program? Please describe.
3. How do you foresee this designation affecting your community's outlook on bicycling?
4. How do you foresee this designation affecting future bicycle improvement efforts?
5. Are you aware of other communities which should be involved with this program? Please list below.