

From: John Holic
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 6:55 PM
To: Lori Stelzer <LStelzer@Venicegov.com>
Cc: Edward Lavallee <ELavallee@Venicegov.com>; Mercedes Pena-Barcia <MPena-Barcia@Venicegov.com>
Subject: Fwd: Venice named Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Community

Lori,
Please put this under council discussion unless Ed OK's Diane doing a 5 minute presentation.
Mercedes, please put hard copy in my folder.
Thanks,
John

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From: Edward Lavallee
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 4:55:28 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Angela Oliver
Subject: FW: Venice named Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Community

From: Lorraine Anderson
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 4:07 PM
Subject: Venice named Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Community

Today, the League of American Bicyclists recognized Venice, Fla., with a Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) award. Venice was part of the largest application round in the BFC program's 13-year history. In total, 140 communities applied for recognition, a 62 percent increase from the previous largest round of applicants.

With the announcement of 26 new and 77 renewing BFCs today, Venice joins a leading group of communities, in all 50 states, that are transforming our neighborhoods. There are now 404 communities currently recognized for their efforts to make biking better with a BFC award.

"The growth in our BFC program reflects great progress in our mission to create a Bicycle Friendly America for everyone," said Ken McLeod, State & Local Policy Manager at the League of American Bicyclists. "It is incredible to see the diversity of communities that applied, the communities that have been involved with the BFC program for years, and the grassroots efforts to improve conditions for bicycling throughout the United States of America."

Four years ago, dedicated city of Venice volunteers submitted a Bicycle Friendly Community application to the League of American Bicyclists, which honored Venice with its Silver designation. On July 27, a BFC application was again submitted to the League. The city's first attempt was submitted in 2008, when Venice received an Honorable Mention. The second was submitted in 2012, when the city bypassed Bronze status and went straight to the Silver designation. The Bike/Walk Venice volunteer team worked diligently along with City Engineer Kathleen Weeden and other city members to complete the 100-plus-

question form. The application covered five principal sections — education, encouragement, enforcement, evaluation and planning, and the biggest measure, engineering.

Venice has come a long way toward being bicycle-friendly and has made a lot of improvements since the last application submission, including installing new bike racks around the city, restriping bike lanes and crosswalks, resurfacing roads, and hiring a part-time bicycle pedestrian coordinator, Darlene Culpepper. Culpepper has launched a once-a-month, open-to-the-public 6-mile bicycle ride around the island of Venice, meeting in the City Hall parking lot at 10 a.m. The next ride is Dec. 14.

“I’m so happy to have been part of the renewal process,” Culpepper said. “We were able to keep our Silver status, and I feel that this shows to our community that the city is really working hard on trying to make it safer for cyclists.

“We were given some great feedback and from the League of American Bicyclists on areas we can improve and implement to work on achieving a Gold status. Part of that is education, which I have already been able to implement on my monthly bike rides. Before each ride we have a brief safety discussion and teaching these skills can build confidence. I look forward to working toward Gold status and making it safer for cyclists in the city.”

Said Bill Nesper, Vice President of Programs at the League of American Bicyclists, “We applaud these communities for making bicycling a safe and convenient option for transportation and recreation. We are encouraged by the growing number of leaders who see bicycling as a way to build more vibrant, healthy, sustainable and connected communities and be a part of the solution to many complex challenges faced at both the community and national levels. We look forward to continuing to work with these communities as we move closer to our mission of creating a Bicycle Friendly America for everyone.”

The Silver BFC award recognizes Venice’s commitment to improving conditions for bicycling through investment in bicycling promotion, education programs, infrastructure and pro-bicycling policies. The BFC program provides a benchmark for communities to evaluate these conditions and policies, while highlighting areas for improvement. The national scope of the program also promotes competition and comparison between communities — with 404 currently recognized BFCs, there is always a model for your community to be found. The BFC program 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 800 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

The Bicycle Friendly Community, Bicycle Friendly State, Bicycle Friendly Business and Bicycle Friendly University programs are generously supported by program partner Planet Bike. To learn more about building a Bicycle Friendly America, visit www.bikeleague.org/BFA

The League of American Bicyclists is leading the movement to create a Bicycle Friendly America for everyone. As leaders, our commitment is to listen and learn, define standards and share best practices to engage diverse communities and build a powerful, unified voice for change.

PHOTOS: Darlene Culpepper leads participants on a 6-mile bike ride around the island of Venice Nov. 9, leaving from the City Hall parking lot.

Lorraine Anderson
[City of Venice Public Information Officer](#)
401 West Venice Avenue
Venice, FL 34285
Via City Hall Switchboard: [\(941\) 486-2626 ext. 7401](#)
Direct: [\(941\) 882-7401](#)
[Like us on Facebook:](#) Venice, Florida Municipal Government
[Twitter:](#) @CityofVeniceFL



