



Moving Los Angeles Forward

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Contacts:

Monica Valencia/Reyes monica.valencia@lacity.org, (213) 473-7001

Bruce Gillman/LADOT bruce.gillman@lacity.org, (213) 972-8406

Reyes, Bicycle Advocates, Celebrate National “Bicycle Friendly” Status Awarded to L.A.

Los Angeles, the nation's second largest City, joins League of American Bicyclists ranks because of advocacy, infrastructure and growing bicycle community

(LOS ANGELES, CA) --The City of Los Angeles gained national designation today as a “Bicycle Friendly Community” by the non-profit League of American Bicyclists, Councilmember Ed P. Reyes, joined by City leaders and bicyclists, announced today at MacArthur Park.

"More and more people are leaving their car keys at home and taking advantage of L.A.'s bicycle-friendly streets," Reyes said. "We are leading the nation as a bicycle-friendly city, thanks to an active bike culture and bicycle advocates working with the City. I am honored to accept this prestigious award on the City's behalf."

Los Angeles, the nation's second largest City, received a Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community award because of its significant progress during the past five years in promoting bicycling, education programs, bike infrastructure, and the success of the 2010 Bicycle Master Plan. The Plan has led to the expansion of the bicycling network and the addition of 75 miles of bikeways in 2011 alone.

"Los Angeles is honored to be recognized by the League of American Bicyclists for our work making LA a more bike-friendly city," said Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. "From building 1,600 miles of bikeways over the next 30 years to increasing the number of bike racks in the City by 80 percent, we're making it simpler and safer for Angelenos to ride around on two wheels."

A strong bicycle culture has emerged in Los Angeles because of individual bicyclists and advocacy organizations, including the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition (LACBC), the Bicycle Kitchen, Multicultural Communities for Mobility and C.I.C.L.E. and many others, Reyes said. He was joined today by Romel Pascual, Deputy Mayor for

Energy and the Environment, Andy Clarke, President, League of American Bicyclists, Jay Slater, Chair, Los Angeles Bicycle Advocacy Committee, Eric Bruins, Planning & Policy Director Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition and Jaime de la Vega, General Manager, Los Angeles Department of Transportation.

"The Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition thanks the Mayor, City Council, and City departments for their dedication and leadership to achieve this award," Bruins said. "The staff of LADOT and LAPD regularly go above and beyond to serve people who bicycle. We look forward to continuing to work with the City to implement the Bicycle Plan and realize our shared vision of a better, more bike-able Los Angeles."

The League of American Bicyclists is a non-profit that advocates for improved cycling conditions in communities nationwide, representing the interests of 57 million bicyclists nationwide in addition to its 300,000 members and affiliates. The Bicycle Friendly Community Program (BFC) provides incentives for communities that actively support bicycling.

"The latest round of BFC awards proves yet again that any city -- regardless of size or geography -- can take cost-effective steps to increasing bicycling in their community," said League President Andy Clarke.

As of 2012, 500 communities have applied, but only 215 have been awarded a Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum designation. This is the first time the City of Los Angeles, ranked a Bronze status, has been awarded a designation of any type. L.A. has supported the cycling community in recent years with the approval of the 2010 Bicycle Master Plan. This has led to the addition of 75 miles of bikeways in 2011 alone and sets the stage for 1600 miles of bikeways over the next 30 years. The City has also aggressively increased bicycle parking, incorporated bicycle friendly streets, and has tried out innovations like green bike lanes and bicycle corrals. In addition to bicycling infrastructure, Los Angeles has also supported the widely successful semiannual CicLAvia and recently received National Recreation Trail recognition for the Los Angeles River Bicycle Path. This Award is in recognition of these efforts.

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