

Princeton named a Silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists

Recent investments in bicycle-friendly infrastructure and planning pay off

Today, the League of American Bicyclists honored the efforts of Princeton to build better places for people to bike with a Silver-level Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) award. Princeton joins 485 communities across the country in the movement for safer streets and better bicycling for everyone, and is one of only 6 communities in New Jersey awarded this level of accomplishment in this round. The award recognizes Princeton for its commitment to creating transportation and recreational resources that benefit its residents of all ages and abilities while encouraging healthier and more sustainable transportation choices.

“During one of the toughest years in recent memory, we have seen so many Americans turn to biking during the pandemic for fun and for necessary transportation options. It’s so important that communities like Princeton have laid the groundwork over several years to make biking a safe, accessible option for people when we all need as much health and happiness as possible,” said Bill Nesper, executive director of the League of American Bicyclists. “This Bicycle Friendly Community award is the culmination of years of work put in by Princeton and its citizen advocates for better biking. This award round, Princeton joins 51 new and renewing Bicycle Friendly Communities in the movement toward healthier, more sustainable and connected places. As we turn the page on 2020 and look ahead to 2021, we’re proud that Princeton and communities like it are embracing bicycling as a solution to our collective recovery.”

The League of American Bicyclists’ Bicycle Friendly America program sets the standard for how communities build and benchmark progress toward making biking better. This round of awards includes 51 new and renewing awardees, joining a total of 485 current Bicycle Friendly Communities in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The Silver BFC award recognizes Princeton’s commitment to improving conditions for all people who bike through investments in bike education programs, regular bike events that promote and encourage people to choose biking, pro-bike policies, and bike infrastructure.

“We are grateful that our recent bike-friendly initiatives such as installation of 10 miles of bike boulevards in town; passage of a bicycle parking ordinance for private development; installation of upgraded “Safe Routes to School” traffic signals; promoting and enhancing bicycle safety education in our schools; and purchasing and installing much-needed seasonal public bike parking corrals in the center of town have been recognized by the League of American Cyclists. Much remains to be done, and we hope the future will allow us to reach ever higher levels of bicyclist comfort and confidence as they move around Princeton.”

More than 850 communities have applied for recognition by the Bicycle Friendly Community program, which provides a roadmap to making biking better for communities of all shapes and sizes. While the award process considers very visible elements such as bike infrastructure, other essential elements include efforts around adult and youth bike education, encouragement through events like Bike to Work Day, evaluation mechanisms, and enforcement all through the lens of equity. The rigorous application process is an educational tool in itself, and includes an opportunity for local bicyclists and active transportation advocates to provide input on their experiences and perceptions of bicycling in their community.

The five levels of the BFC award – diamond, platinum, gold, silver and bronze, plus an honorable mention category – provide a clear incentive for communities to continuously improve. Awarded communities must renew their status every four years to ensure that they not only maintain existing efforts, but also keep up with changing technology, national safety standards, and community-driven best practices.

To learn more about the BFC program, visit bikeleague.org/community.