



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Transportation Policy Advisory Committee

DATE: July 27, 2015

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to the League of American Bicyclists for renewal of the Bicycle Friendly Community Status.

Recommendation

Accept this report authorizing the City Manager to submit an application to the League of American Bicyclists to redesignate Concord as a “Bicycle Friendly Community”.

Background

By Resolution No. 2170, adopted March 10, 2008, the City Council created the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) which was specifically charged to develop policy related to city-wide traffic and transportation systems including long-range multi-modal transportation planning, bicycles, and pedestrian facility planning as well as public transportation services and high speed rail.

TPAC has created working subcommittees with a focus on pedestrian facilities, bicycle facilities, public transportation, and neighborhood traffic management for the purposes of developing a comprehensive policy. The Bicycle subcommittee worked with its membership, other bicycle organizations, and the general public to implement the Bicycle Master Plan that was accepted by City Council in March of 2011.

By Resolution No. 8387, adopted July 10, 2010, the City Manager was authorized to apply to the League of American Bicyclists to be designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community. Concord was subsequently awarded Bicycle Friendly Community status, the first in New Hampshire, at the “bronze” level for a period of four years. It is now time to reapply to renew Concord’s Bicycle Friendly Community status.

Discussion

The City of Concord has made significant progress towards supporting bicycling activities including an update of the Comprehensive Transportation Policy, near completion of the US Route 3 Corridor Improvement Project, the reconstruction of Main St, and the striping of bike lanes along Clinton Street, Pleasant Street, South Main Street, and Water Street, and reducing the width of the travelled lanes, thereby increasing the shoulder width along many other streets.

Beyond general infrastructure improvement projects, other community involvement the annual Central New Hampshire Bicycling Coalition Bike Swap fundraising event, educational opportunities for refugees and underserved individuals, and special programs including “bike to work days”. Concord has also pioneered a bicycle and pedestrian traffic counting program, run largely by volunteers.

The TPAC Bicycle Subcommittee recognizes these efforts and wishes to apply to be redesignated as a Bicycle Friendly Community. The BFC status is a designation by the League of American Bicyclists intended to educate and reward communities for actively supporting bicycling. The league of American Bicyclists is a non-profit organization with a stated mission “to promote bicycling for fun, fitness and transportation and work through advocacy and education for a bicycle-friendly America”. The League of American Bicyclists is a leader in bicycling advocacy nationwide. Four years ago, the designation of Concord as a Bicycle Friendly Community proved to be motivating, and the feedback received from the League of American Bicyclists was insightful and useful. With two other New Hampshire Communities following Concord’s lead and becoming Bicycle Friendly Communities since that time, there is a desire to reassert Concord’s place as a leader, and a desire to further advance Concord as a Bicycle Friendly Community. By reapplying for this designation, there are no further financial obligations required relative to this application.

Therefore, the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee recommends that City Council authorize the City Manager to submit an application to the League of American Bicyclists to redesignate Concord as “Bicycle Friendly Community”.

jaw/ELR
attachment