

Bicycle-Friendly Application 2015

Draft 7/14/2015

NAME OF COMMUNITY

Name of Community: Asheville
County: Buncombe
State: North Carolina

Has the community applied to the Bicycle Friendly Community program before?

Yes

If yes, what was the result of the last application?

Bronze

If designated, what year was your community first awarded a Bronze or higher award?

2012

Mayor or top elected official (*include title*) Mayor Esther Manheimer

Phone: 828-259-5600

Email: esthermanheimer@avlcouncil.com

Address P.O. Box 7148, Asheville, NC 28802

Community Website www.ashevillenc.gov

BFC CONTACT PROFILE

Note: This person will receive any future BFC related communication from the League.

Name of BFC contact : Barb Mee

Title: Transportation Planner

Department: Transportation Department

Employer: City of Asheville

Address: PO Box 7148

City: Asheville

State NC

Zip: 28801

Phone: (828) 232-4540

Email: bmee@ashevillenc.gov

Is the BFC contact also the Bicycle Program Manager?

Yes

If no, does your community have a Bicycle Program Manager?

Yes

No

(Not Applicable)

If different from above, what is the Bicycle Program Manager's contact information? Please include name, email and phone number.

If different from above, what is the contact information of the Director of your community's Department of Transportation (or equivalent). Please include name, email and phone number.

Ken Putnam, Director, City of Asheville Transportation Department
(828) 259-5405
kputnam@ashevillenc.gov

Applicant name and email, if different from BFC contact or Bicycle Program Manager contact

COMMUNITY PROFILE

1. Type of Jurisdiction (*Note: The application will be referring to your type of jurisdiction as "community" throughout the application, which does not include bicycle amenities, services and other resources outside your boundaries.*)

V Town/City/Municipality

- County**
- Metropolitan Planning Organization/Council of Governments**
- Regional Planning Organization**
- Rural Planning Organization**
- Census Designated Place**
- Indian Country**
- Military Base**
- Other**

If other, describe (*50 word limit*)

2. For purposes of comparison, would you describe your community as largely

V urban

- suburban**
- rural**

3. Climate

Average daytime temperature (*in °F*)

- Average temperature for January *in °F* 46/27
- Average temperature for April *in °F* 67/44
- Average temperature for July *in °F* 84/64
- Average temperature for October *in °F* 68/45

Average precipitation (*in inches*)

- Average precipitation for January *in inches* 3.07
- Average precipitation for April *in inches* 3.16
- Average precipitation for July *in inches* 2.97
- Average precipitation for October *in inches* 2.4

4. Size of community (*in sq. mi.*)

- Total area (sq. mi.) 45.52
- Water area (sq. mi.) 0.44
- Land area (sq. mi.) 45.08

5. Total Population 83,393

5a. College/University student population (*during semester*)¹

V 10% or less

- 10-25%**
- 25-50%**
- 50-75%**
- more than 75%**
- N/A**

6. Population Density (*Person per sq. mi. of land area*)
1,855.9 persons per square mile (U.S. Census quick facts, 2010)

7. Median Household Income
42,333 (U.S. Census Quick Facts, 2008-2012)

8. Age distribution (in percent)

Under 5	5.7%
Age 5-19	18.5%
Age 20-64	59.5%
Age 65+	16.3%
Totals (<i>should equal 100</i>)	

9. Race (in percent)

White	79.3%
Black or African American	13.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.3%
Asian	1.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.2%
Some other race	2.8%
Two or more races	2.6%
Totals (<i>should equal 100</i>)	100%
Hispanic or Latino (<i>of any race</i>)	6.5%

10. How many government employees (including the Bicycle Program Manager), *expressed in full-time equivalents (FTE)*, work on bicycle issues in your community? Learn how to calculate FTE here: anfponline.org/Resources/DMAResources/calculate_FTEs.shtml

5²

¹ 9.08% which is 7574 Accounting for half of ABTech enrollment (total is 11308 as per Factbook at http://www.abtech.edu/sites/default/files/users/allisonkseidel/curriculum_student_profile_annual_12-13.pdf;) and all of UNCA enrollment is 3840 as per <http://www.nccollegefinder.org/school/detail/44/unc-asheville>

² It was 3 last time. Counting two extra for new regional SRTS Coordinator position and portions of UNCA two positions, plus Asheville greenway planner

11. What percentage of the community's Bicycle Program Manager's time is spent on bicycling issues?

- 10% or less**
- 11-25%**
- 26-50%**
- 51-75%**
- 76-100%**
- N/A**

12. Do you have an officially recognized Bicycle Advisory Committee?

Yes, Asheville Bike Ped Task Force

12a. How often does it meet?

V Monthly or more frequently

- Every two months**
- Quarterly**
- Annually**

12b. How many members serve on the committee?

10

12c. Which of the following groups are represented or regularly attend the Bicycle Advisory Committee?

Check all that apply

V User Group

V Law Enforcement

Chamber of Commerce

V Public Health

V Planning Department

V Transportation Department

School Board

V Parks Department

V Recreation Department

Transit Agency

V Other

If other, describe (*50 word limit*)

ADA advocates/experts, French Broad River MPO, Neighborhood associations, Asheville area Bike Shops, University of North Carolina at Asheville, Transportation consultants, Greenway Commission, Fire/Rescue staff, and bicycle advocacy groups

12d. Name and email of Bicycle Advisory Committee Chair

Liz McLamb, lizmclamb@gmail.com

13. List all bicycle advocacy groups in your community

Blue Ridge Bicycle Club, Asheville On Bikes, Friends of Connect Buncombe, SORBA (Southern Off-

Road Bicycle Association), Trips for Kids, Friends of Hominy Creek Greenway

13a. List the name and email of the primary contact for each bicycle advocacy group. If a primary contact is the applicant or BFC contact, list an alternative contact.

Blue Ridge Bicycle Club Joe Sanders joesanders0522@gmail.com

Asheville on Bikes Mike Sule, mike@ashevilleonbikes.com

Friends of Connect Buncombe Ann Babcock annbabcock@gmail.com

Trips for Kids Stephen Janes Stephen@tripsforkidswnc.com

RideOnKids Lauren Tamayo laurentamayo@gmail.com

SORBA Rick Schrader rschrader56@hotmail.com

Friends of Hominy Creek Greenway Jack Igelman jack@igelman.com

Asheville Bicycle Racing Club, Mike Squires geostats1952@gmail.com

13b. List all advocacy groups that are working with you on this application

Blue Ridge Bicycle Club

Asheville on Bikes

14. What are the primary reasons your community has invested in bicycling?

Check all that apply

V Improved quality of life

V Improving public health

V Community connectivity

V Transportation options

V Reduce car-parking demands

V Climate change/environmental stewardship concerns

V Decrease traffic congestion

V Increase tourism

V Increase property values

V Cooperation with adjacent communities

V Public demand

V Economic development

V Support Smart Growth or other growth management goals

V Traffic and bicycle/pedestrian safety

V Meet local or state requirements

V Other

If other, describe (*50 word limit*)

Asheville culture values outdoor recreation and active transportation for a variety of health, environmental and economic reasons.

15. What was your community's most significant achievement for bicycling in the past 12 months? (500 word limit)

Asheville on Bikes has created a full-time staff position for its Director (currently filled by Mike Sule) in 2014. This results in a significant increase in person-hours dedicated to bicycle planning and advocacy in our community, including advocacy for on-street bicycle facilities and on-street bicycle parking. Asheville on Bikes is a very effective agent of change in local bicycle education and outreach. Asheville on Bikes hosts family and beginner-friendly rides throughout the year, where specific bicycle infrastructure improvements and planning initiatives are often highlighted. Asheville on Bikes also organizes a bicycle education program

for Asheville Middle School students, and provides volunteer-staffed bicycle parking corrals at major outdoor events throughout the year. Starting in 2015, Asheville on Bikes is taking the lead in marketing for BuncombeBikeEd series of adult bicycle education classes. Additionally, Asheville on Bikes volunteers and staff have been building relationships with the business community and fostering support for active transportation as a component of economic development. For example, in the summer of 2014 Asheville on Bikes and the Chamber of Commerce co-sponsored “chamber rides” once a month on Thursday afternoons taking place on city streets, open to riders of various skill levels.

16. If you have applied to the BFC program before, describe any improvements that have occurred for cycling in your community since your last application. (500 word limit)

Since the last application (Spring 2012), the City of Asheville has increased the network of bicycle facilities through installing sharrows in a variety of locations (Montford, Haywood Street), a link of Reed Creek Greenway which now connects to UNCA and to Montford neighborhood, and also a green lane/ climbing bicycle lane on Haywood Road, on a critical link between downtown, River Arts District and West Asheville. Haywood Road is an NCDOT-controlled roadway, and this creates a great example for the possibility of retrofitting some other NC roads in the City of Asheville.

Bicycle wayfinding signage has been installed along major bicycle corridors, such as from West Asheville to UNCA, UNCA to downtown and downtown to the River Arts District and to West Asheville. A grant of \$1000 from the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club has helped with installation of the wayfinding signage.

Several initial green bike lane demonstration projects have been implemented since 2012, including on South Lexington Avenue.

Hilliard Avenue, another important downtown bicycle link, has been resurfaced and bicycle lane markings have been updated with input from the bicycle advocacy community, to minimize conflicts at key intersections between turning vehicles and bicycle movement.

In addition, a couple more exciting developments are in progress. The City of Asheville has received a TIGER VI grant to implement Phase I of the Wilma Dykeman Riverway (also known as RADTIP project), which includes road improvements, on-road bicycle facilities and greenway on approximately a 1.1 mile section of roadway along the river. Additionally, TIGER VI project will include construction of two new greenways-Clingman Forest and Town Branch greenways, which will connect the River Arts District and WECAN to downtown.

Additionally, the City of Asheville has created a Multi-Modal Transportation Committee and initiated a Multimodal Transportation Study to initiate a more comprehensive look at bicycle, pedestrian, greenway and transit issues together instead of as separate planning initiatives.

17. What specific improvements do you have planned for bicycling in the next 12 months? (250 word limit)

On the west side of the river, significant work is underway to add bike lanes and a greenway along Craven Street, near the new New Belgium plant going in. Just south of New Belgium site, Duke Power company has donated an easement for a greenway along the river, which will

connect already existing greenway terminating at the French Broad River park to a new segment of greenway along Craven Street/New Belgium site. In combination, Craven Street and RADTIP/TIGER VI improvements will add significant bicycle connectivity in the area connecting the River Arts District to West Asheville.

In a different part of town, Beaucatcher Greenway is going to construction in 2015.

Claudia to help fill in here.

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Engineering

19. Does your community have

a complete streets policy?

a bicycle accomodation policy (a policy that requires the accommodation of cyclists in all new road construction and reconstruction and resurfacing)?

Neither

19a. When was it adopted?

June, 2012

19b. Provide a link or attach a copy of this legislation or policy. (250 word limit)

<http://www.ashevilenc.gov/Portals/0/city-documents/economicdevelopment/ped/PED%20Report-Complete%20Streets-15%20May%202012.pdf>

19c. How was it adopted?

Legislation

Resolution

Internal Policy

Other

If other, describe (250 word limit)

19d. What tools are in place to ensure implementation?

Check all that apply

Implementation Guidance

Design

Manual

Training

Other

If other, describe (500 word limit)

After passing the complete streets resolution, the City planned to undertake a review of its ordinances and engineering standards to make sure bicyclists were being properly considered. The City's Standards and Specifications manual was adjusted to include complete streets considerations. The city also hosts webinars for city staff on topics related to complete streets and its implementation and city staff attended NCDOT complete streets training and other training sessions for bicycle and pedestrian engineering issues.

The City is currently going through a Multi-modal Transportation Plan to combine roadway, transit, and bike ped needs into one cohesive document addressing complete streets.

20. How do you ensure your engineers and planners accommodate cyclists according to AASHTO and MUTCD standards?

Check all that apply

Training

Offer FHWA/NHI Training Course

Hire Outside consultants to train staff

Send staff to bicycle-specific conferences/training

Require project consultants to have bike/ped qualifications

Internal training or design manual

20a. Describe each checked (*200 word limit*)

Training- city staff attend a number of training sessions in order to be kept up-to-date on engineering requirements. MUTCD compliance is required for temporary closure permits and bicycle detours are required during construction on bicycle routes.

Send staff to bicycle-specific conferences/training- the NACTO conference was recently attended by members of the city's transportation department and were accompanied by members of the City Council.

Internal training- city staff frequently host training webinars and provide training materials as needed.

21. What percentage of bridges and tunnels in your community are accessible to bicyclists?

Enter a whole number, 0 or larger

98%

21a. What are the exceptions? (*500 word limit*)

US 70/Tunnel Road Tunnel: due to high cost of retrofit, this has not been a high-priority project; Meadows Road bridge over the train tracks--this is on the Asheville Bicycle Plan 2008 to be retrofitted with bicycle lanes; 19/23 Jeff Bowen bridge currently also carries I-240 and I-26 interstate traffic and is not accessible to bicyclists (although a protected pedestrian walkway exists on one side).

22. How do you ensure there are end-of-trip facilities for bicyclists?

Check all that apply

Bike parking ordinance

Bike parking ordinance for all new developments

Ordinance requiring showers and lockers

Building accessibility ordinance

On street bike parking

Ordinance that allows bike parking to substitute for car parking

Standards for bicycle parking that conform to APBP guidelines

Other

If other, describe (*500 word limit*)

In addition to on-street bicycle parking and bicycle racks required for all new commercial and multi-family developments (above a duplex size), the City of Asheville has installed bicycle lockers in all city-owned parking decks in the city; the lockers can be rented out a month at a time. There are currently 10 bike lockers in the city.

23. How many bike parking spaces are there in your community?

Answer all that apply

23a. Bike racks – 100+

23b. Bike lockers - 10

23c. Bike depot (i.e. Bikestation) - 0

23d. In-street bike parking - 0

24. Approximately what percentage of these locations have bike racks or storage units?

24A. Schools 30%

24B. Libraries 70%

24C. Transit Stations 100%

24D. Parks & Recreation Centers 100%

24E. Government Buildings 80%

24F. Office Buildings 50%

24G. Shops 50%

24H. Public Housing 100%

25. Does your community have transit service?

Yes

No

25a. Are buses equipped with bike racks?

Yes

No

25b. What percentage?

100%

25c. Are bikes allowed inside transit vehicles?

Yes

Sometimes

No

If yes or sometimes, describe (*100 word limit*)

At the bus driver's discretion. To allow a bicycle inside the bus, the bus driver needs to make sure that the space that might otherwise be occupied by a passenger in a wheelchair is available; if free, the bicycle can be strapped in with the straps that would otherwise be used to secure a wheelchair. This is a matter of safety so that a bicycle does not roll around and create a danger to other passengers.

26. What is the mileage of your total road network?

72.8 miles

27. What is the mileage of your total shared-use path network?

6.6 miles

28. List your current and planned bicycle accommodations?

Complete all that apply

a. Bike lanes

- Current – *11.6 miles*
- Planned – *32 miles*
- b. Shared lane markings
 - Current – *6.0 miles*
 - Planned – *15 miles*
- c. Bike boulevards
 - Current – *0 to be updated*
 - Planned - *0*
- d. Signed bike routes
 - Current - *48*
 - Planned - *0*
- e. Paved shared use paths (include New Belgium Greenway)
 - Current – *6.6 miles*
 - Planned - *15*
- f. Natural surface shared use paths
 - Current – *???*
 - Planned - *???*
- g. Singletrack
 - Current – *0.7 miles*
 - Planned - *???*

29. What other innovative ways have you improved on-road conditions for bicyclists?

Check all that apply

- Road diets**
- Area wide traffic calming**
- Cycle tracks**
- Contra-flow bike lanes**
- Speed limits 20 mph or less on residential streets**
- Bike cut thrus**
- Way-finding signage with distance and/or time information**
- None**
- Other**

If other, describe (*500 word limit*)

In addition to road diets and low speed limits (for example, a well-functioning road diet on Haywood Road in West Asheville, which is a heavily-used bicycle corridor), the City of Asheville has been installing roundabouts, which serve as traffic calming and allow cyclists two options to travel through the roundabout: either by merging into regular traffic, or by temporarily getting onto the sidewalk and crossing with pedestrians. Additionally, there are buffered bike lanes on Haywood Road bridge between the River Arts District and West Asheville, to make cyclists feel more protected from the cars. At major festivals around the city, when car parking is scarce, there are typically bicycle parking corrals available, with help from Asheville on Bikes volunteers.

30. What percentage of arterial streets have bike lanes or paved shoulders?

About 5%

31. What percentage of natural surface, trails and singletrack are open to bicyclists?

90%

31a. What are the exceptions? (500 word limit)

The Biltmore Estate (privately-owned)

32. What maintenance policies or programs ensure *bike lanes* and *shoulders* remain usable and safe?

Answer all that apply

32a. Street sweeping

Before other travel lanes

Same time as other travel lanes

Weekly

Monthly

Quarterly

Annually

Never

Other

If other, describe (250 word limit)

The bicycle lanes are swept twice as often as regular streets.

32b. Snow clearance

Before other travel lanes

Same time as other travel lanes

Same time as other travel lanes

Within 48 hours of storm

Never

Other

Not applicable

If other, describe (500 word limit)

Snow in Asheville is not as frequent as up north and rarely stays on the ground beyond 24 hrs.

Many businesses and all schools shut down when there is snow. There is not currently a standard policy on snow clearance of bike lanes.

32c. Pothole maintenance

Within 24 hours of complaint

Within one week of complaint

Within one month of complaint

Never

Other

If other, describe (500 word limit)

The City of Asheville has also developed “The Asheville App” which allows users to report problems with infrastructure to city staff via their smart phone or other digital device.

Users can take pictures of potholes or other problems with infrastructure, show the problem’s location, and receive updates from city staff concerning its resolution.

32d. Other Maintenance policies or programs for bike lanes and shoulders (describe) (500 word limit)

When resurfacing a bike lane, the joint is ensured to not be in the bike lane. The local

“adopt a street” program includes maintenance of bicycle facilities.

33. What maintenance policies or programs ensure *shared-use paths* remain safe and usable?

Answer all that apply

33a. Path sweeping

- Weekly**
- Monthly**
- Quarterly**
- Annually**
- Never**
- Other**

If other, describe (*250 word limit*)

There are volunteer efforts to help clear the paths of leaves and other debris that may be hazardous to the safe travel of bicyclists, but these efforts are often infrequent.

33b. Vegetation maintenance

- Weekly**
- Monthly**
- Quarterly**
- Annually**
- Never**
- Other**

If other, describe (*250 word limit*)

The parks department schedules vegetation maintenance to be done monthly during the growing season.

33c. Snow clearance

- Before roadways**
- Same time as roadways**
- Within 48 hours of storm**
- Never**
- Other**
- Not applicable**

If other, describe (*250 word limit*)

33d. Surface repair

- Within 24 hours of complaint**
- Within one week of complaint**
- Within one month of complaint**
- Never**
- Other**

If other, describe (*500 word limit*)

As needed.

33e. Other Maintenance policies or programs for shared-use paths (describe) (*500 word limit*)

Click here to enter text.

34. How do you accommodate cyclists at intersections in your community?

Check all that apply

- All /Most signals are timed for bicyclists
- All /Most signals are timed
- Loop detector markings
- Video detection
- Advance stop line or Bike Box
- Bicycle signal heads
- Other
- None of the above

If other, describe (*500 word limit*)

Video detection of bicyclists has been installed at the Craven Street Bridge in the city's River Arts District. There are also bike detection markings on Chestnut Avenue.

35. Are there other infrastructure improvements in your community to promote bicycling?

- Yes
- No

If yes, describe (*500 word limit*)

The city has installed two bicycle fix-it stations for bicyclists to have easy access to tools along popular routes, another fix-it station has been installed at the University of North Carolina-Asheville's campus. The city has also developed a "toolbox" for neighborhoods to educate neighborhood groups and residents on strategies that can be used to make their neighborhoods safer for bicyclists and pedestrians. Finally, the city undertook a restriping/repaving of Hilliard Avenue and modified bicycle facilities to better suit the behavior of bicyclists. Community input played a key role to identify and address hazards and opportunities along the route.

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EDUCATION

37. What percentage of your public and private schools offer bicycle education, e.g. through a Safe Routes to School or similar program?

37a. Elementary

- None
- 1-25% (Rainbow Mountain Elementary School-after-school bike program)**
- 26-50%**
- 51-75%**
- 76-99%**
- All
- Not applicable

37b. Middle School

- None
- 1-25%**
- 26-50% (33%) (Rainbow Mountain and Asheville Middle)**
- 51-75%**
- 76-99%**
- All

Not applicable

37c. High School

V None

1-25%

26-50%

51-75%

76-99%

All

Not applicable

38. Outside of schools, how are children taught safe cycling skills?

Check all that apply

x Youth bike clubs

x Bike clinics or rodeos

x Youth recreation programs

x Helmet fit seminars

x Safety town

x Trail riding classes

x Other

None of the above

If other, describe *(250 word limit)*

The Blue Ridge Bicycle Club has a program to put on bike safety skills programs in several schools and for community events. There is a Trips for Kids WNC organization which takes children, who don't get the opportunity to ride, on mountain biking rides and they review skills on a regular bases. Lauren Tamayo, a US Olympic cyclist who lives in Asheville has started a program called "Kids Ride On". She holds clinics for kids on our cycling track in the spring, summer and fall, giving kids the experience and skills needed for cycling.

39. Do you have a ticket diversion program?

Check all that apply

For motorists

For cyclists

V No (Not allowed to have a ticket diversion program)

40. What have you done in the last 18 months to educate motorists and bicyclists on sharing the road safely?

Check all that apply

V Public service announcements

V Share the Road educational videos on community website/TV channel

V Community newsletter/magazine article

Information in new resident packet

Utility bill insert

Flyer/handout

Info sessions/lunch seminars

Bicycle ambassador program

Newspaper column/blog on bicycling

X Dedicated bike page on community website (Asheville on Bikes and Blue Ridge Bicycle Club)

Billboards

x Share the Road Signs

Share the Road information in driver's education

x Other

None of the above

If other, describe *(250 word limit)*

A sub committee has been formed to assist the city in developing a neighborhood speed reduction program including a pace car component. We expect the pilot to will be launched in spring 2015.

Note: some of the outreach activities will take place after WatchForMeNC campaign is launched on August 4, 2015.

41. How many times per year are the following adult bicycling education classes held within your community?

Answer all that apply (in numbers)

Traffic Skills 101 classes or equivalent (full-day training course, including classroom and on-bike instruction) 3-4 times per year:

Cycling Skills classes (three to four hour classroom training courses)

Commuter classes (one to two hour classes) 2-3 times

Bicycle maintenance classes or workshops- Ongoing at various bicycle stores and REI-10+ per year

42. Do you offer regular bicycle skills courses for your city engineers and planners that include on-bike instruction and in-traffic cycling?

No Three of our transportation & local planners are already certified LCI's

43. Has your community hosted a League Cycling Instructor seminar in the past two years?

Yes

No x

43a. How many League Cycling Instructors are there in your community? We have 13 LCI instructors locally. *Tip: Enter your community name under "Connect Locally" at bikeleague.org. Then click "Find League Cycling Instructors in the top right corner of the map to see a list of active instructors.*

43b. List League Cycling Instructors that have taught *at least one class during the past 12 months. (250 word limit) Ten instructors have been involved in at least one class or bike rodeo in the last 12 months.*

44. Which of the following groups of professional drivers have training that includes information on sharing the road with cyclists?

Check all that apply

City staff

Taxi drivers

x Transit operators

School bus operators

Delivery drivers

Other

None of the above

If other, describe (100 word limit)

Two of our LCI instructors lead a training for the transit operators and we hope to continue this on at least a yearly basis.

45. Describe any efforts your community has made to ensure your education programs reach traditionally underserved populations of all age groups, particularly seniors, women, youth and adult minorities and non-English speakers, and persons with disabilities. (250 word limit) *We have been working with the Asheville Police Dept. to bring our bike rodeos to underserved neighborhoods and one of the police officers is registered for a TS101 in preparation for becoming a certified LCI.*

46. Describe any other education efforts in your community that promote safe cycling. (500 word limit) *The Western NC Bicycle Dealer's Association has been giving the Asheville Police Department a number of front and rear lights to hand out to bike riders that they find riding without lights and talk with the individuals regarding the regulations including using lights after dark.*

ENCOURAGEMENT

47. How do you promote National Bike Month/your own dedicated Bike Month?

Check all that apply

Official Proclamation

Community Rides

Mayor-led/Council-led Ride

Public Service Announcements

Videos promoting bicycling on community website/TV channel

Publish a guide to Bike Month Events

Bike Month Website

Commuter Challenge

National Bike Challenge

Bike Commuter energizer stations/breakfasts

Car-free days

Open Streets/Ciclovia/Sunday Parkways

Mentoring program for new riders

Bike valet parking at events

Bike to School Day

Bicycle-themed festival/parade/show

Public education campaign relating to cycling (e.g. with a focus on public health or environmental benefits)

Trail construction or maintenance day

Other

No promotion

If other, describe (250 word limit)

Last year we hosted our first Kidical Mass Ride. There was a small turnout but will continue to offer and expand on it.

47a. What percentage of the population participates in Bike Month events? We have had a challenge in capturing the numbers of individuals participating in these events. We imagine it is about 1% of the population.

47b. Do you actively promote Bike to Work Day or other bicycle commuting incentive programs?

Yes x

No

If yes, describe (500 word limit)

Thru print media, web site, social media, posters and highly engaging activities. One of these activities was the crosstown rumbler which was a commuter challenge between four city council members commuting by bike, bus and car. Another creative event was the transportation story slam which has great participation.

47c. Approximately what percentage of the community workforce do you reach on Bike to Work Day?

None

x 1-25%

26-50%

51-75%

76% or more

48. How do you promote bicycling *outside* of your official Bike Month?

Check all that apply

x Community and charity rides

Mayor-led/Council-led Rides

x Videos on bicycling on community website/TV channel

x Public Service Announcements

x Trail construction or maintenance day

Open Streets/Ciclovia/Sunday Parkways

Commuter Challenge

National Bike Challenge

x Business program that provides discounts for customers arriving by bicycle

x Triathlons and bicycle races

Bike commuter events

Car-free days

Publish a guide to community bicycle events

x Mentoring program for new riders

x Bike valet parking at events

x Bike to School Day

x Bicycle-themed festivals/parades/shows

x Public education campaign relating to cycling (e.g. with a focus on public health or environmental benefits)

Community celebration/ride each time a bicycle project is completed

Other

No promotion

If other, describe (250 word limit)

49. List the signature cycling events that occur in your community. (250 word limit)

The Blue Ridge Bicycle Club puts on an annual fund raiser called the Fletcher Flyer in June of each year. Last year's event hosted 915 riders. This ride is also a national ride for the Cancer & Lymphoma Society. Money raised from this event is used to fund bicycle improvements in the community. They also host weekly regular scheduled recreational

rides throughout the year. Asheville on Bikes is another advocacy organization that works on develop bicycle culture in the Asheville area. They hold valet parking at area events and put on several themed rides a year like, pumpkin peddler, summer cycle, st patricks day ride, bright lite biker and bike love. The New Belgium Clips of Faith event has taken place over the last four years and those funds are used to improve conditions for biking. There are a number of road and mountain biking events that are held in the area. Many are fund raisers

49a. How does the municipality sponsor or actively support these events?

Check all that apply

- Organize the event**
- Fund event**
- Contribute in-kind funding (i.e. police presence, closing roads, etc)**
- Assist in promoting the event**
- Other**
- No support/ Not applicable**

If other, please describe *(100 word limit)*

50. Does your local tourism board or chamber of commerce promote bicycling in your area?

Yes

If yes, describe *(250 word limit)*

Last year Asheville on Bikes in partnership with the Asheville Chamber of Commerce hosted a monthly after work casual ride around Asheville that was well received. The plan is to continue this program.

51. Are there cycling clubs in your community?

Check all that apply

- Recreational bike clubs**
- Mountain bike clubs**
- Friends of the Trail groups**
- National Mountain Bike Patrol**
- Racing clubs or teams**
- Other**
- No**

If other, describe *(100 word limit)*

Tri club

51a. List the names of the clubs.

(500 word limit) Blue Ridge Bicycle Club, Asheville on Bikes, Pisgah Area SORBA, Asheville Bicycle Racing Club, Pedal Punks, Asheville Tri Club.

52. How many for-profit specialty bicycle retailers (shops dedicated primarily to selling bikes and bike-related equipment) are there in your community?

52a. List their names.

(250 word limit) Liberty Bicycles, Inc., Motion Makers, Youngblood Bicycles, Ski Country, Epic Bicycles-West, Beer City Bikes, Chain Heart

7

53. Which of these bicycling amenities do you have in your community?

Check all that apply

- BMX track**
- Velodrome**
- Cyclocross course**
- Mountain bike park**
- Pump tracks**
- Themed Loop route(s) around the community**
- Other**
- None**

If other, describe (100 word limit) Asheville has a temporary Cyclocross course that is set up for an annual Cyclecross race.

Asheville has received funding for a feasibility study to look at bringing a bikeshare program in our RiverArts District. The questions being explored are whether a bikeshare program will work with our terrain and connecting with arterials.

53a. Is there a skate park in your community?

Yes

No

If yes, do bikes have access to the skate park?

- Always**
- Sometimes**
- Never**

54. Are there opportunities to rent bicycles in your community?

Yes

No

55. Does your community currently have a bike sharing program that is open to the general public?

Yes

No

55a. If yes, please provide details about the system below.

How many bikes are in the system?

How many stations are in the system?

How many trips are being made annually?

56. Do you have any current League of American Bicyclists designated [Bicycle Friendly Businesses](#) in your community?

Yes

No

If yes, list the names of the businesses and their award level. (250 word limit) Liberty Bicycles, Inc

57. Do you have any current League of American Bicyclists designated [Bicycle Friendly Universities](#) in your community?

Yes

No

No institutions of higher education

If yes, list the names of the institutions and their award level. *(250 word limit)* UNC Asheville does not currently have Bike Friendly status but is in the process of applying.

58. Does your community have a bike co-op or non-profit community bike shop?

Yes -Recyclery

No

If yes, describe its services (250 word limit). The shop in a non-profit volunteer-run organizations that offers parts and tools to assists individuals in building their own bike. Parts are primarily recycled or have been donated by local for-profit shops and the space has been donated by the local food coop in an unused section of their building.

58a. If yes, does the co-op/non-profit community bike shop receive support from the local government?

Grants

Free or subsidized property/space for a duration of at least 5 years

Contracts for services, e.g. bicycle skills or maintenance education, event support, etc

Free bicycle safety accessories for distribution, e.g. helmets or lights

Provision of abandoned or impounded bicycles for resale

Free PSA or advertizing space

Other

If other, describe *(250 word limit)*

If the local government provides grants and/or free/subsidized property/space to the co-op/non-profit community bike shop, please list the annual value for each *(in Dollar)*.

59. Does your community have youth recreation and/or intervention programs centered on bicycling?

Check all that apply

V Trips for Kids chapter

Earn a Bike program

Create a Commuter program

V Other:

None

If other, describe *(100 word limit)*

Middle School after school bike program with support from AoB. Lauren Tamayo, a US Olympic cyclist who lives in Asheville has started a program called "Kids Ride On". She holds clinics for kids on our cycling track in the spring, summer and fall, giving kids the experience and skills needed for cycling.

60. What mapping and route finding information is available for your community, which has been updated in the last 18 months?

Check all that apply

Web-based route finding service

Smart phone app

Printed/digital bicycle network map

Printed/digital mountain bike trails map

x Printed/digital greenways and trails map

None of the above

61. Describe any other programs or policies your community has to encourage cycling. (500 word limit)

ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement Contact: Meg Pigman, mpigman@ashevillenc.gov

Additional contact: Evan Coward, ecoward@ashevillenc.gov

62. How does your police department interact with the local cycling community?

Check all that apply

V A police officer is an active member of bicycle advisory committee

Identified law-enforcement point person to interact with cyclists

No current formal interaction

Other

If other, describe (100 word limit)

63. What kind of training is offered to police officers regarding traffic law as it applies to bicyclists?

Check all that apply

V Basic academy training (note: every police officer attends basic training)

V International Police Mountain Bike Association training (this training is available to those who are interested)

Law Enforcement Bicycle Association training

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Law Enforcement Training

V Completion of Smart Cycling course by one or more officers

Presentation by League Cycling Instructor or local cyclist

Institute for Police Training and Development bicycle training

No training offered

64. What enforcement programs that target improving cyclist safety are in place?

Check all that apply

Helmet giveaways

V Light giveaways

Bike lock giveaways

Targeting motorist infractions (this will be in place if WatchForMeNC campaign is approved-April 2015?)

Targeting cyclist infractions (this will be in place if WatchForMeNC campaign is approved-April 2015?)

Positive enforcement ticketing

Share the road campaigns (this will be in place if WatchForMeNC campaign is approved-April 2015?)

V Other

None of the above

If other, describe (100 word limit)

Neighborhood Speed Reducation pilot program is now in place (as of summer 2015) which includes neighborhood signs, neighborhood residents acting as a "pace car" to travel at or

below the speed limit, and police outreach and education in the community, including enforcement; plus before and after surveys.

65. What percentage of patrol officers are regularly on bikes?

None

1- 10% (note: Police Bike Team has 10-12 members when full; currently only 8 members; targeting CBD, festivals)

11-20%

21-30%

31-40%

41-50%

More than 50%

66. Are any other public safety (e.g. EMS) employees regularly on bikes?

Yes—Fire has bikes for use during festivals (only 2 currently); EMS workers' presence currently not required as part of festival permits although they have additional bikes

No

If yes, describe (*50 word limit*)

67. Do police officers report cyclist crash data or potential hazards to traffic engineers and planners to identify sites in need of safety improvements for cyclists?

Yes-There is a statistician housed within the Asheville Police Department in charge of statistical analysis to look for hot spots; if bicycle hot spots are identified, those are forwarded to the City of Asheville Transportation Department (rare-pedestrian hot spots more typical)

No

68. Which of the following safety services and amenities are available in your community?

V Emergency call boxes/phones along trails

Trail watch programs/ Trail patrols

V Street lighting on most arterials

V Street lighting on most non-arterials

Lighting of most shared-use paths

Stolen or impounded bikes recovery system or assistance

Non-mandatory bike registration

None of the above

69. Are there any local or state ordinances that protect cyclists?

Check all that apply

Specific penalties for failing to yield to a cyclist when turning

V It is illegal to park or drive in a bike lane (intersections excepted)

Penalties for motor vehicle users that 'door' cyclists

Ban on cell phone use while driving

V Ban on texting while driving (statewide in North Carolina)

Photo enforcement for red lights and/or speed

Vulnerable road user law

Safe passing distance law

It is illegal to harass a cyclist

- Other
- None of the above

If other, describe (250 word limit)

70. Do your local ordinances place any restrictions on cyclists?

Check all that apply

- Local law requires cyclists to use side paths regardless of their usability**
- Local law requires cyclists to use bike lanes when provided**
- Local law requires that cyclists are required to ride as far to the right of the road as practicable without exceptions**
- Local or school policies restrict youths from riding to school**
- Other**

V None of the above

If other, describe (100 word limit)

71. Describe any other enforcement programs or policies relating to cycling.

(500 word limit)

International Police Mountain Bike Conference is coming to Asheville in April of 2016-the event will be hosted at Crowne Plaza. The host committee has to send a representative to 2015 conference. Asheville is applying to NCDOT for WatchforMeNC campaign, application due in March 2015. Program would be implemented in 2015-2016. Asheville Police has a bike team.

Bicycle-Friendly Application 2015

EVALUATION AND PLANNING

72. Does your community have a comprehensive bicycle master plan or similar section in another document?

Yes-currently under update as part of Multi-Modal Transportation Study, Asheville in Motion. http://www.ashevillenc.gov/Portals/0/city-documents/communityrelations/progress/20140819_MobilityPlan2.pdf

72a. If yes, please provide details about the plan below.

Provide a link to the plan or describe. (250 word limit)

When was it passed or most recently updated?

Is there a dedicated funding source for implementation?

Yes

V No

If yes, describe the funding source and designated amount (250 word limit)

What percentage of the current plan has been implemented?

13.8% (based on 25 miles out of 180 miles)

Are you meeting annual target goals for implementation?

No-No target goals were set

73. Do you have a trails master plan that addresses mountain bike access?

No

74. Is there formal cooperation between the mountain biking community and the community recreation and planning staff?

Yes

Trail maintenance at Richmond Hill Park is performed by SORBA volunteers.

75. Does your community have an on-going bicycle counting and/or survey program that allows for long-term trend analysis of cycling trips (e.g. participation in the [National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project](#))?

Yes

Yes, the City of Asheville has a volunteer bicycle count program (manual) paired with automated bicycle count collections with assistance from the FBRMPO staff. The counts have been collected since 2010. The list of priority locations is currently being refined, with a goal of targeting the same key locations every year.

75a. If yes, do the counts capture the gender of cyclists?

Yes, in 2014, the following break-down of cyclists by gender was observed: 29% female and 71% male.

76. Does your community routinely conduct pre/post evaluations of bicycle-related road projects?

The City of Asheville has started involving groups of volunteers to help review design of significant bicycle improvement projects.

If yes, please describe the results. *(250 word limit)*

The first example was for Hilliard Avenue, which was getting resurfaced in the fall of 2014 and presented an opportunity for bicycle lane restriping. As a result of volunteer input, striping pattern for bicycle lanes has been modified to improve the ease of merging maneuvers and to protect bicyclists from right turn hook where possible.

77. Does your community establish target goals for bicycle use, e.g. a certain bicycle mode share level?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe *(250 word limit)*

Yes, as part of collaboration with Buncombe County Community Health Impact project, several target goals are being set related to physical activity and bicycling.

78. What is the most current journey-to-work data for your community? *Tip: Search for topic B08301 (Means of Transportation to Work) for your community on the [American FactFinder](#) website (Advanced Search). Choose the most recent data set available for your community. Divide total number of cyclists ("Bicycle") by total number of commuters ("Total") and multiply by 100. Repeat for pedestrians ("Walked") and transit users ("Public transportation [excluding taxicab]").*

Bicycling *(in %)*

0.9% using U.S. Census ACS 5-year estimate for 2009-2013. 1.1% using ACS 5-year estimate for 2008-20012.

Percentage of bicycle commuters who are women *(See topic B08006. Choose the*

most recent data set available for your community. Divide the total number of women bicycle commuters by the total number of bicycle commuters and multiply the result by 100.) 25% using U.S. Census ACS 5-year estimate for 2009-2013.

Walking (in %) 4.1% (ACS 5-year data, 2009-2013)

Transit (in %) 1.6% (ACS 5-year data, 2009-2013)

79. What is the average commuting distance to work for residents of your community? *Tip: This data is not available nationally and needs to be collected locally (or estimated).*

Less than 2 miles

2-5 miles

5-10 miles

Above 10 miles

Note: As per WNC Household Travel Survey results (2013), average trip length for commute to work-drive alone is 9.47 miles; average trip length for commute to work-bike is 5.1 miles. This is in the 5-county region.

80. What percent of children commute to school by bicycle? *Tip: This data is not available nationally and needs to be collected locally.*

Elementary (in %)

Middle School (in %)

High School (in %)

Terri to help fill in those data

81. How many cyclists have been involved in a crash in your community in the past five years involving a motor vehicle?

Based on NCDOT figures, there were 95 bicycle crashes during the 2008-2012 period.

81a. How many cyclist fatalities have occurred in your community in the past five years involving a motor vehicle?

Based on NCDOT figures, there were 2 fatalities during the 2008-2012 period.

81b. Do you have a specific plan or program to reduce these numbers?

Yes

No

If yes, describe (250 word limit)

Yes, The Blue Ridge Bicycle Club and Asheville on Bikes host Raod 1 classes the second Saturday of each month. The classes are hosted at University of North Carolina, UNCA. The second Saturday program started in 2015.

The Blue Ridge Bicycle Club hosts a variety of bicycle rodeos at area schools throughout the school year and Asheville on Bikes hosts an afterschool bicycle program at Asheville Middle School in the Fall and Spring trimesters.

Most recently, the City of Asheville was awarded a "Watch for Me NC" grant which aims to reduce pedestrian and bicycle injuries and deaths through a comprehensive, targeted approach of public education and police enforcement. Blue Ridge Bicycle Club and Asheville on Bikes will support the program through outreach and providing volunteers. The Western

North Carolina Bike Dealers Association provides bike lights to Asheville Police Department so that officers can provide cyclists with lights should they be needed.

82. Do you measure the Bicycle Level of Service of roads and/or intersections?

V Yes

No

If yes, please describe your methodology and recent results. (250 word limit)

As part of Blue Ridge Bicycle Plan (2013), Bicycle Level of Service was calculated for some of the key roadways in Asheville and Buncombe County, as well as in the surrounding counties. Bicycle LOS methodology for street segments was used, based on NCHRP 616: Multimodal Level of Service Analysis for Arterial Streets. Approximately 1/3 of streets had no resulting LOS due to lack of roadway characteristics data. The resulting maps may be viewed at http://www.landofsky.org/pdf/LGS/BRBP/Level_of_Service.pdf

83. Do you have community-wide trip reduction policies or programs?

Yes

No

If yes, describe the policy/program and the results. (250 word limit)

During Bike Month, several agencies collaborate to host Strive Not the Drive (SNTD). The goal of SNTD is to encourage the individuals and organizations to incorporate active transportation options into their week. Participants are asked to take a SNTD pledge that challenges them to bike, walk, carpool, or telecommute to work. In 2015, SNTD targeted businesses, agencies, and community organizations to participate. 262 individuals and 44 businesses participated, which was an increase from 2014.

83a. Does the program use individualized marketing to identify and support current and potential bike commuters in your community?

No

If yes, describe the program and the results. (250 word limit)

84. Have you done an economic impact study on bicycling in your community?

Yes

If yes, describe the results. (250 word limit)

Yes, Kostelec Planning recently published "[Bikes In Beds](#): How to Maximize Bicycle Tourism in Haywood County and Western North Carolina." The study's focus is on bicycle tourism in Western North Carolina and credits bicycle tourism with a \$14 million estimated annual economic impact in the region. The Haywood TDA and Appalachian Regional Commission commissioned the study.

85. Do you have a mechanism to ensure bicycle facilities, programs and encouragement efforts are implemented in traditionally underserved neighborhoods?

Yes

If yes, describe (250 word limit)

Asheville on Bikes' afterschool bicycle program is specifically designed to serve traditionally

underserved students. Asheville Middle school serves 655 students; 47% of the student population is on free and reduced lunch. The afterschool bike program is a partnership with the Asheville City's Schools Foundation a non-profit which supports Asheville public schools through grants and programs.

In addition, several bike rodeos organized by volunteers have been targeting disadvantaged neighborhoods in the last two years. There has been a bike rodeo held in Hillcrest, Shiloh and Southside communities.

86. Describe any other programs or policies that your community uses to evaluate and/or plan bicycling conditions, programs, and facilities. (500 word limit)

Each September, The City of Asheville in conjunction with the University of North Carolina, Asheville, The Metropolitan Planning Organization, Blue Ridge Bicycle Club and Asheville on Bikes host annual bike counts. The data collected demonstrates growth in cycling, identifies bicycle networks, and issues of safe cycling. The data collected is used to inform the needs of advancing urban cycling.

North Carolina Department of Transportation's Active Routes to School program provides our region with a bicycle coordinator who supports safe riding initiatives and programs in area elementary and middle schools.

FINAL OVERVIEW

87. What are the three primary reasons your community deserves to be designated a Bicycle Friendly Community?

Reason One (250 word limit)

Community Investment:

The Asheville community has galvanized around urban cycling since the passing of the Comprehensive Bike Plan in '08. The City of Asheville established a Multi-Modal Transportation Commission, is working on Multi-Modal Transportation Plan and recently won an American Trails' Partnership Award for their collective work with New Belgium Brewing to bring the greenway plans to life.

Beyond the city government, several local organizations, have bolstered support for urban cycling through outreach and advocacy. Asheville has a variety of bicycle education programs for adults and children, community rides and events, and a unified voice in addressing the issues of expanding bicycle infrastructure and culture throughout our city.

Mike S. to strengthen this portion

Reason Two (250 word limit)

Business Support:

As a result of the concentrated efforts of Asheville's cycling community, the business community has grown to support advances in Asheville's bicycle infrastructure and culture. As a result several area businesses have made public statements of support for advancing bicycle infrastructure or have supported it directly with financial support. New Belgium Brewing has directly funded bicycle improvements, Highland Brewing Company is

investing in bicycle connectivity, the West Asheville Business Association advocated for the inclusion on on street bike parking, and the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce hosts an Asheville Ride series. Asheville's business community is invited in urban cycling improvements.

Reason Three (250 word limit)

A Model of Success in North Carolina:

North Carolina struggles to provide its citizens with safe active transportation options. According to North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), "Each year more than 2,400 pedestrians and 960 bicyclists are hit by vehicles in North Carolina, making North Carolina one of the least safe states in the US for walking and bicycling. On average, about 160 pedestrians and 20 bicyclists are killed each year in the State, representing about 12% of all traffic fatalities that occur on North Carolina roads. In collisions with cars, pedestrians in particular have a lot to lose. Those hit at 40 mph have an 85 percent chance of dying."

Asheville's commitment and continued success in providing safe bicycle options for its citizens serves as an example for the rest of the state and NCDOT. As North Carolina strives to improve bicycle accessibility and safety, Asheville can upheld as a model of success.

88. What are the three aspects of your community most in need of improvement in order to accommodate bicyclists?

Aspect One (100 word limit)

Coordination between NCDOT & City of Asheville:

In North Carolina roads are either state or city owned. There are no county roads which presents challenges in improving infrastructure. Historically, NCDOT and City of Asheville Transportation Departments struggle to work collaboratively on bicycle infrastructure improvements. Recently, NCDOT and Asheville City have collaborated to provide bicycle lanes, a protected bike lane and on street parking on NCDOT roads. Future success depends on more coordination and collaboration between the agencies.

Aspect Two (100 word limit)

Dedicated Funding Source:

The City of Asheville has limited resources for transportation funding. And current state legislation is designed to curtail future investment in active transportation improvement. Although there are existing examples of private public partnerships to expand bicycle infrastructure, more resources are financial resources are required to build and maintain a robust bicycle network.

Aspect Three (100 word limit)

Youth Programing:

While Asheville does have a variety of youth programing, there isn't a comprehensive outreach plan to provide coordinated and diverse programs throughout the community. Most of the current youth programs are administered by volunteers and therefore it's a challenge to offer comprehensive programs.

89. Has completing this application made you more aware of what your community needs to do to be bicycle friendly?

Yes

If yes, describe (250 word limit)

As a reflective process, the application allows us to take a look at the bigger picture, consider all the data, and see what is already happening and where we might be a few steps behind. This is a great way to bring all the relevant data and stakeholders together to evaluate Asheville's progress with regards to becoming more bicycle-friendly.

90. Are you planning any new projects based on your completion of the Bicycle Friendly Community application?

Yes

If yes, describe (250 word limit)

There are several projects and programs which have been nudged into existence as part of the Bicycle Friendly Community application process (both in 2012 and in 2015)-for example, we are now looking for a permanent site to hold bike rides and safety training. Also considering a possibility of a bike share for Asheville. There is a study going forward to evaluate an innovative bicycle facility design/complete streets project for Livingston Street in the Southside neighborhood. National Cyclocross Competition is coming to Asheville in 2016. Connect Buncombe planning process helped create a vision of greenways connecting across Buncombe County, and now Friends of Connect Buncombe have formed as a non-profit group to help fundraise for and move forward with implementation of some of the key greenway segments that would connect to existing bicycle infrastructure in the City of Asheville.

Mike S. to fill in here as needed

We often get requests for model BFC applications from aspiring communities. Would you be willing to share your application?

Yes

How have you heard about the BFC program?

Have applied previously.