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**New Ranking of Bicycle Friendly States Released**

Washington keeps #1 spot, as new states move into the Top 10

Washington, D.C. - Embargoed until May 22, 2012 - In honor of [National Bike Month](#), the League has released its latest [Bicycle Friendly States](#) ranking. For the fifth year in a row, Washington continues to lead the nation, with outstanding performance in all categories. Riding the wave of significant bicycle improvements, other states like Colorado and Delaware charged into the Top 10.

"We are encouraged to see significant progress in top states like Washington, Minnesota, Colorado and Massachusetts," said Andy Clarke, president of the League of American Bicyclists. "But, as the scores clearly highlight, there's much work to be done in critical areas like infrastructure and funding. Overall, we see states -- and especially state Departments of Transportation and state legislatures -- lagging behind cities and the expectations of local cyclists, despite the many well-documented benefits of a more active lifestyle."

[Click here](#) to see the rankings and how each state scored in the five evaluation categories.

The 2012 rankings mark the launch of an updated and improved evaluation process. Throughout 2011, the League held [Bicycle Friendly America](#) listening sessions across the country to understand the successes and shortcomings of the program. Based on public input, the Bicycle Friendly State survey was revised to give a clearer picture of a state's accomplishments and next steps towards becoming more bike-friendly.

Even with the revised survey, Washington once again set a high bar in 2012. With support from the highest levels of government, the state leads the nation in creating new bicycle infrastructure and using federal funds for bicycle and pedestrian projects. In 2011, the state passed a safe passing / vulnerable user law, due in no small part to the efforts of the Cascade Bicycle Club and Bicycle

2012 State Ranking

1. Washington
2. Minnesota
3. Massachusetts
4. Colorado
5. Oregon
6. Wisconsin
7. New Jersey
8. Maryland
9. Maine
10. Delaware
11. Illinois
12. California
13. Utah
14. Arizona
15. Pennsylvania
16. Iowa
17. Virginia
18. Vermont
19. Michigan
20. Connecticut
21. Florida
22. New Hampshire
23. Georgia
24. North Carolina
25. Wyoming
26. Tennessee
27. Texas
28. Missouri
29. Nevada
30. Indiana
31. Louisiana
32. South Carolina
33. Alaska

Alliance of Washington, which have some of the highest advocacy capacity in the country.

"People in the Pacific Northwest embrace bicycling as part of a lifestyle that honors the environment, healthier living and transportation choices," said Washington Governor Christine Gregoire. "This title once again confirms that we're on the right track, supporting bicycling as a transportation option in our communities."

Also on the right track, Colorado and Delaware rose to #4 and #10 respectively in the 2012 rankings. Colorado exemplifies many of the qualities the League looks for in a bicycle friendly state, including a bicycle commuter mode share that's more than double the national average, a bike-friendly department of transportation, and a top-notch statewide advocacy group.

Delaware also jumped to #10 thanks to visionary support from top government officials. With dedicated state funding for bicycling projects, Governor Jack Markell and the state departments of Transportation (DelDOT) and Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) are leading the way to create a multi-modal transportation system. And the partnership between state leaders and Bike Delaware, the statewide advocacy group, is a model for other states seeking to become more bike-friendly.

"We welcome our rise in the ranking as recognition of what we are doing to make walkable, bikeable communities a priority in Delaware," said Governor Jack Markell, who is himself an avid cyclist. "Trails and bike routes are a part of a vision for a state with interconnected communities. We will continue working to make Delaware an attractive place not only to bike, but to live and work."

But the BFS program is more than an annual assessment. Throughout the year, League staff work actively with state officials and advocacy leaders to help states identify and implement the programs, policies and campaigns that will improve conditions for bicyclists. While Mississippi placed #38 in this year's rankings, Melody Moody, executive director of Bike Walk Mississippi, is confident her state won't be in the bottom tier for long.

"Mississippi is a state typically ranked low in bicycle friendliness, but bicycle advocates across the state are working hard to make these changes, and fast," Moody said. "Bike Walk Mississippi is working one-on-one with local communities to provide on the ground assistance to connect leaders to tools and resources that can be used to create better and safer infrastructure, policies, plans, and programs."

34. Kansas
35. Oklahoma
36. Idaho
37. Ohio
38. Mississippi
39. Rhode Island
40. South Dakota
41. Hawaii
42. New York
43. Nebraska
44. Kentucky
45. New Mexico
46. Montana
47. Alabama
48. West Virginia
49. North Dakota
50. Arkansas

Learn more about the BFS program at www.bikeleague.org/states.

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 partners Bikes Belong and Trek Bicycle's One World, Two Wheels Campaign. [Learn more](#).

About the League

The League of American Bicyclists promotes bicycling for fun, fitness and transportation, and works through advocacy and education for a bicycle-friendly America. The League represents the interests of America's 57 million bicyclists, including its 300,000 members and affiliates. [Learn more](#).

