



## Community Development Department

**DATE:** June 11, 2024

**FROM:** Ben Ehreth, Community Development Director

**ITEM:** Bicycle Friendly Community Renewal Application

**REQUEST:**

Submit an application for renewal of its “Bicycle Friendly Community” designation.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The League of American Bicyclists, a national organization dedicated to promoting bicycle education and opportunity, awarded the Bismarck-Mandan Metropolitan Planning Organization (BMMPO), on behalf of the cities of Bismarck, Mandan, and Lincoln, the designation of “Bicycle Friendly Community” in 2016, and again in 2020. National recognition as a “Bicycle Friendly Community” through the League of American Bicyclists is important to the City of Bismarck as research shows that bike-friendly improvements boost economies by increasing retail activity, attracting top talent to the community, improving property values with the inclusion of bikeways, and promoting greater health and reduced health costs for the residents of the community.

The “Bicycle Friendly Community” designation is effective for four years, at which time it must be renewed through submittal of a new application. The BMMPO has begun completing an application to submit by the June 25, 2024, deadline.

The current Bicycle Friendly Community designation was awarded at a “Bronze” status and staff is hopeful that a “Silver” level might be attained through the current application process. The renewal of a “Bronze” designation or the possible upgrade to “Silver” poses no financial liability to the City of Bismarck.

**RECOMMENDED CITY COMMISSION ACTION:**

Staff requests approval to submit a renewal application for the “Bicycle Friendly Community” program offered through the League of American Bicyclists.

**STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Kimberly Riepl, Transportation Planner, 701-355-1844, [kriepl@bismarcknd.gov](mailto:kriepl@bismarcknd.gov)

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

