



## City gets silver!

By *Becky Farrar*

### **League of American Bicyclists names Colorado Springs a Silver Level Bicycle-Friendly Community**

The League of American Bicyclists has named Colorado Springs a Silver Level "Bicycle Friendly Community." Recipients of the award have established records of a commitment to the five Es of bicycling: education, engineering, enforcement, encouragement and evaluation of programs. The designation comes at the start of the prime bicycling season with Metro Rides 15<sup>th</sup> annual Bike Month scheduled to begin later this month.

The Bicycle Friendly Community program revolutionizes the way communities evaluate their quality of life and transportation network. New winners, such as Colorado Springs, bring the total number of current Bicycle Friendly Communities to 84, across 31 states. The League awards this four-year designation to communities that have made impressive, measurable efforts to integrate bicyclists into the community. There are four levels—platinum, gold, silver and bronze—awarded twice each year. More than 200 communities have applied for BFC recognition since 2003, and 84 currently have a bronze or higher designation. Colorado Springs joins six other Colorado municipalities in the rankings: Boulder (Gold), Durango (Silver), Fort Collins (Silver), Steamboat Springs (Silver), Denver (Bronze), and Longmont (Bronze).

Highlights from the Colorado Springs application include:

- The City will have 69 miles of bicycle lanes by the end of 2008.
- There are 61 miles of "single track" trails open to mountain biking that are owned and maintained by the City of Colorado Springs.
- Colorado Springs has a Velodrome and several new state-of-the-art BMX facilities.
- Bicycle racks on all the 96 Mountain Metro Transit buses accommodate two or three bicycles each, the racks had nearly 65,000 recorded bicycle transports in 2007. Bus bicycle racks are also available on all 19 Front-Range Express (FREX) buses.
- Now in its 15th year, Colorado Springs celebrates bicycling in June during Bike Month with more than a dozen events designed to promote all disciplines of bicycling for every age and skill level. It attracts more than 7,500 participants.
- The City requires bicycle parking in its Mixed Use Development Zoning & Design Guide.
- The City of Colorado Springs is the only community in the United States (to our knowledge) with a bicycle excise tax. A \$4 tax is charged on the sale of every bicycle or bicycle frame within the City of Colorado Springs to support implementation of the City's Bicycle Master Plan.
- Colorado Springs is home to USA Cycling, eight local riding clubs, seven bicycling teams, three bicycle and trails advocacy organizations, four fully certified active League Cycling instructors, five local bike rental retailers, 17 bicycle retailers, and two commercial enterprises that organized thousands of downhill on-road rides from the 14,000 summit of

Pikes Peak each year.

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 57 million American cyclists, including its 300,000 members and affiliates. For more information about the Bicycle Friendly Community award or the League of American Bicyclists visit [www.bikeleague.org](http://www.bikeleague.org).