

DATE: May 1, 2006

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: **PRESENTATION ON THE CITY OF FOLSOM BEING RECOGNIZED AS A BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY AT THE SILVER LEVEL AND OUR PURSUIT OF THE GOLD LEVEL DESIGNATION**

**BACKGROUND / ISSUE:**

On October 2005, the League of American Cyclists renewed the City of Folsom's "Bicycle Friendly Community" award, at the Silver level. The City should feel very proud to be recognized once again at the Silver level as this honor is shared with only 10 other cities.

The Silver award level is a significant accomplishment, but the Gold is even better. At the Gold level, the City would join other cities like Portland, Oregon; Palo Alto, California; and Boulder, Colorado. A bicycle friendly community not only benefits the residents of Folsom, but also is an economic benefit to the City by attracting people from around the county to stay and play in Folsom and experience the many bike amenities throughout the City. To reach the Gold level, staff is proposing several items to be accomplished in the next two years. The following is a list of the top twelve objectives that are being proposed to help elevate the City of Folsom to the Gold level.

- 1) Signal timing improvements at five intersections.
- 2) Consistent bike lanes (specifically along East Natoma Street, Folsom Boulevard, Glenn Drive, etc.).
- 3) Determine feasibility and pursue funding for a Bike Boulevard on Natoma Station Drive and possibly School Street (alternative to East Bidwell Street).
- 4) Consistent treatment of bike lanes at intersections – specifically, placing bike lanes to the left of the right turn lane.
- 5) Improve Folsom Rail Trail connections at intersections along Folsom Boulevard. Current connections to crosswalk are inconsistent and very difficult to negotiate.
- 6) Complete 2<sup>nd</sup> crosswalk at Iron Point and Folsom Boulevard, providing connection to the Lake Natoma Trail.
- 7) Develop and implement a comprehensive "Share the Road" program.
- 8) Work with the Police Department to develop a consistent bike education program at the schools.
- 9) In coordination with Folsom Cordova School District, develop a comprehensive "Safe Routes to School" program.
- 10) Improve bike parking at light rail stations and other public facilities.
- 11) Develop a bike hazard reporting program to respond to hazards in a consistent and timely fashion.
- 12) Work with Streets Division to reevaluate current street sweeping schedule to focus on arterial streets, and less on collector and residential streets. Bike lanes on arterial streets gather a significant amount of debris and require more frequent sweeping than lower volume streets.

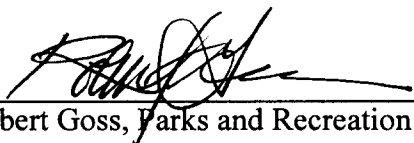
In terms of capital improvement program or operational budget impacts, the twelve objectives are relatively low cost. Some may be accomplished through other programs such as improvement of bike lane consistency as part of a street overlay project. Others may best be accomplished or funded by a grant or other funding mechanisms. During FY 06/07, staff will identify opportunities for coordinating improvement objectives with the Public Works and Police Departments, as well as develop strategies for meeting the objectives in FY 07/08.

The City will be celebrating Bike Commute Month this year with a Bike-to-Lunch event on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. The event will start at Livermore Park at 11:45a.m. with a 2.5 mile bike ride through Folsom and ending at the Sutter Street Light Rail Station. A free lunch will be provided by Karen's Bakery and several prizes will be raffled off during lunch. The large regional Bike Commute Month celebration will be held on Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at Nimbus Flats.

**ATTACHMENT:**

The League of American Cyclist Flyer on Folsom as a Bicycle Friendly Community

Submitted,



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Robert Goss, Parks and Recreation Director

*Creating a Bicycle Friendly America:*

# The League of American Bicyclists



**The League of American Bicyclists**, supported by thousands of cyclists, works through innovative programs like Bicycle Friendly Communities to encourage cycling across America. You can help by joining the League at [www.bikeleague.org](http://www.bikeleague.org).

The League uses membership dues and donations to advocate on behalf of bicyclists at the federal, state, and local levels, helping to bring more than \$5 billion dollars to bicycling in the next five years. The League also promotes bicycling newspapers and magazines nationwide and sponsors National Bike Month each May.

The League's educational program is the most respected and advanced in the country, offering courses and curriculum, for everyone from new cyclists to expert riders.

To find out more about how joining the League of American Bicyclists makes a difference in your community, visit [www.bikeleague.org](http://www.bikeleague.org) or call 202-822-1333.

**Join today!**

## ***League of American Bicyclists***

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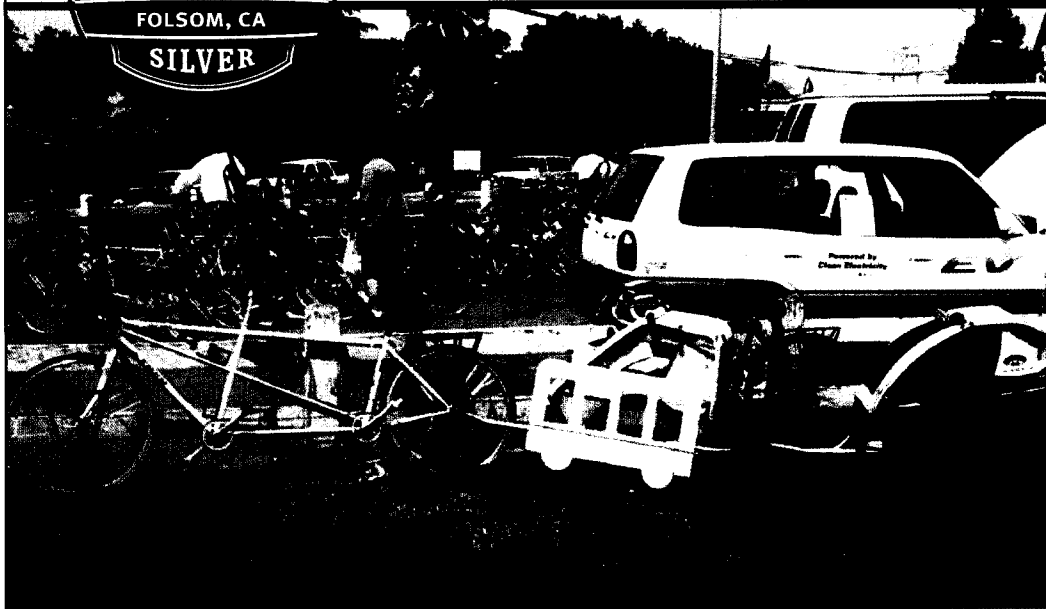
[www.bikeleague.org](http://www.bikeleague.org)

202-822-1333

Fax: 202-822-1334



# Folsom CALIFORNIA



Level Awarded: Silver

Date Awarded: October 2003, renewed October 2005

Population: 63,960

Square Miles (land): 21.7

Location:



## MOST SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT

Children in Folsom sign a bicycle contract stating they understand and will follow all safety rules and municipal laws related to bicycling. Law enforcement officers help to reinforce this safety effort by paying special attention to bicyclists' behavior at the start of the school year.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Folsom has worked with the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure a shared use path and bike lanes were included in the new bridge that will cross the American River. Adding the bikeway was funded by the city at a cost of more than \$3 million. This facility is important because it makes a connection between the existing 30-mile regional American River Parkway Trail on one side and the future Folsom Lake Trail on the other. The new roadway and bridge is about a mile long and provides a much needed bike commuter route across the American River.

Folsom just installed 22 bike lockers and bike racks at three new light rail stations. To illustrate the demand for secure bike parking, the four lockers installed at one of the stations were reserved within 24 hours of installing the lockers.

Each quarter, city staff and bicycle advocates come together for a bike ride through Folsom to take note of problems and potential improvements for cyclists. The ride helps city staff understand firsthand the issues and concerns facing cyclists. A specific route is determined and detailed notes are taken during the ride. City staff follows up with a written summary of the issues encountered.

The city has taken proactive steps to prepare a comprehensive bikeway plan that addresses safety, enforcement, education and provides a network of integrated bikeway facilities. This plan has been successful, since its original adoption in 1999, in committing developers to construct more than 20 miles of bike lanes as new roads are constructed or widened.

The city's well-attended annual Bike-to-Work Day fosters steady improvement in the bike facilities and policies provided by local employers, who seek to be designated the most bicycle-friendly employer of the year.



PRESENTED BY



SPONSORED BY



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For More Info

[www.bikeleague.org](http://www.bikeleague.org)