



# SPIN CITY 2009

## About the City of Alexandria initiative to earn “Bicycle Friendly Community” status

Over the next three years, the City of Alexandria will focus on bicycling-related engineering, education, encouragement, and enforcement. The goal of Spin City 2009 is to have Alexandria recognized as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists by 2009.

A highlight of the annual initiative will be a month-long celebration of bicycling in Alexandria each May. In 2007, the event will include family fun rides, City Council-led “Community Spins,” school safety visits, commuter lessons, Bike-to-Work Day and more. Eventually, Spin City may grow to include a spectator-friendly professional bicycle race or bicycle giveaways.

### **What is a “Bicycle Friendly Community” and why would Alexandria participate?**

The Bicycle Friendly Community Campaign is an awards program to recognize municipalities that actively support bicycling. A Bicycle-Friendly Community provides safe accommodation for cycling and encourages its residents to bike for transportation and recreation. The League of American Bicyclists administers the Bicycle Friendly Community Campaign and recognizes four award levels: Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze.

Communities that are bicycle-friendly are seen as places with a high quality of life. This often translates into increased property values, business growth and increased tourism. Bicycle-friendly communities are places where people feel safe and comfortable riding their bikes for fun, fitness, and transportation. With more people bicycling, communities experience reduced traffic demands, improved air quality and greater physical fitness.

Arlington County, Washington, DC and Rockville, Md. are Bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Communities. Silver award winners include Chicago and Tempe, Arizona. Gold award winners include Portland and Boulder. There is one Platinum level Bicycle Friendly Community: Davis, Ca.

### **How do we become a Bicycle-Friendly Community in three years?**

Alexandria must exhibit political commitment, focused investment in infrastructure and policies, and broad community involvement. A Bicycle Friendly Community is one that:

- ✓ Provides a safe, comfortable and connected physical environment for bicycling – on-street facilities, multi-use trails and bicycle parking
- ✓ Education programs to promote a “Share the Road” ethic among bicyclists and drivers
- ✓ Promotional initiatives to persuade people to ride or ride more often
- ✓ Enforcement of traffic laws for both motorists and bicyclists
- ✓ Future plans and evaluation techniques to improve conditions further



## **Components of Spin City 2009**

The City of Alexandria will focus on the following areas:

### **Engineering**

- ✓ Add 2 miles of new bicycle lanes or shared lane marking projects every year and pilot new/innovative bicycle projects on an annual basis
- ✓ Coordinate maintenance with Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities and provide an on-line forum for notification of maintenance and safety hazards
- ✓ Add 500 bicycle racks (including ample covered parking sites)

### **Education**

- ✓ Integrate Safe Routes to School improvements with the City's existing Traffic Calming program
- ✓ Update the City Bicycle Trail and Recreation Facility Map every other year and create a website which is updated regularly and provides a feedback option for citizens

### **Enforcement**

- ✓ The Alexandria Police Department (APD) could address traffic enforcement in targeted areas such as Union Street and on the Mount Vernon Trail to encourage bicyclists to ride using the Rules of the Road
- ✓ Implement commuter safety items, improve bicycle registration

### **Encouragement**

- ✓ Similar to its transit subsidy, the City could consider providing stipends for employees who bicycle or walk to work at least four times per week
- ✓ The City could organize and sponsor a month long promotional effort and ride series to encourage bicycling

### **Evaluation**

- ✓ An annual Benchmark report would be presented to City Council with input from web-based surveys on the City's progress in: Security, Amount and Location of Parking, Bicycle Facility Location and Maintenance