



CITY OF BREVARD

**BICYCLE-FRIENDLY
COMMUNITY IMPLEMENTATION
PLAN**

ADOPTED JUNE 18, 2018

BREVARD CITY COUNCIL
PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION COMMITTEE/BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
BREVARD PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
The Bicycle-Friendly Communities Program.....	1
Connection to Comprehensive Plan	1
Acknowledgements	2
Steps to Bronze	3
Results of February 2017 Application.....	3
Action Items	5
1.0 High Priority.....	5
2.0 Medium Priority	5
3.0 Low Priority	6
Plan Maintenance.....	7
Appendix A – Bicycle Friendly Report Card.....	8
Appendix B – Comprehensive Plan Excerpt.....	9
Appendix C – Resolution Supporting Complete Streets	11
Appendix D – Proclamation for National Bike Month 2018.....	13
Appendix E – Resolution Adopting Plan	14

Introduction

This document is intended to be an actionable plan for the City of Brevard's goal of achieving the highest practical level of certification under the Bicycle Friendly America program.

The actions and implementation steps outlined in this plan are to help guide Staff and the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Committee (which acts as the City's Bicycle Advisory Committee) prioritize Staff time and tax-payer money to most efficiently achieve, and maintain, certification.

The Bicycle-Friendly Communities Program

The League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly America program provides assistance and recognition for states, communities, universities and businesses that are working to create a real bicycling culture and environment that makes bicycling a viable transportation and recreation option for all people. The program has three recognition programs: businesses, universities, and communities.

The Bicycle Friendly Community program provides a roadmap to improving conditions for bicycling and guidance to help make cities more bikeable for cyclists of all ages and abilities. Awards are given at five levels: Platinum, Diamond, Gold, Silver, and Bronze; those communities that fall just shy of the bronze level are given Honorable Mention status. All cities that apply, regardless of whether or not they achieve certification, are given a report card with valuable feedback on how to achieve certification or the next level of certification.

A bicycle friendly community welcomes bicyclists by providing safe accommodations for bicycling and encouraging people to bike for transportation as well as recreation. Making cycling safe and convenient have important impacts on improving public health, reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality, and improving overall quality of life for the community.

Connection to Comprehensive Plan

Becoming certified is specifically called for in the 2015 Comprehensive Plan, Element 3: Environmental Health:

Objective 3.2: Reduction of the City's carbon and ecological footprint.

Policy 3.2.E: Become a certified Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.

Additionally, the Bicycle Friendly Community award level is a monitoring indicator for the Environmental Health Element.

Acknowledgements

The City of Brevard would like to thank the following entities and individuals who contributed to the creation of this plan. Without their knowledge and leadership, this plan would not be possible.

Brevard City Council

Jimmy Harris, Mayor
Mac Morrow, Mayor Pro Tem
Maurice Jones
Charlie Landreth
Gary Daniel
Maureen Copelof

Parks, Trails, and Recreation Committee

Gary Daniel, Chair
Maureen Copelof, Vice Chair
Jim Fatland, City Manager
Daniel Cobb, Planning Director
David Lutz, Public Works Director
Colin Izzard, Appointed Citizen Member
Cody Owen, Appointed Citizen Member
Keenan Smith, Appointed Citizen Member
Gregory Copeland, Appointed At-Large Member
Jonathan Griffin, Ex Officio Member
Jimmy Harris, Ex Officio Member
Denise Hodsdon, Secretary

City of Brevard Staff

Jim Fatland, City Manager
Daniel Cobb, Planning Director
Aaron Bland, Planner & Assistant Zoning Administrator
Janice Pinson, Planning Administrative Assistant
Paul Ray, Senior Code Enforcement Officer



Steps to Bronze

Results of February 2017 Application

The City's application in February of 2017 did not earn certification, but was awarded Honorable Mention recognition. The League provided the city with a report card of feedback to help in achieving certification with a future application.

The report card listed several key steps to Bronze, which are the main foundation of this plan:

- Adopt a Complete Streets policy and create implementation guidance. By adopting a Complete Streets policy, communities direct planners and engineers to routinely design and operate the entire right-of-way to enable safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation.
- Brevard has a great bicycling event culture, as seen in the Assault of the Carolinas. Continue to support and expand events to improve Brevard's brand as a bicycling destination and reinforce the bicycle culture of Brevard. Ensure that the culture of recreational events is complemented by investments that make transportation and utility bicycling safe and comfortable to nurture a year-round bicycling culture
- Enforcement-related efforts are a weak spot in the application. Work with the law enforcement community to improve bicycle-related training for law enforcement officers, develop better data collection and distribution practices, and pursue other road safety planning initiatives
- Improve Bike Month activities by creating Bike to Work Day and Bike to School Day events. Bike to School Day events often include competitions related to bicycle use, outreach to parents, and pop-up infrastructure on routes to schools.
- Work to create a low-stress network that utilizes existing low-speed streets. Wayfinding improvements can be helpful for navigating bicycle routes.

In addition, a list of actionable steps was generated from study of the City's February 2017 application and presented to the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Committee in October of 2017:

- Wayfinding for cyclists (on and off greenway)
- Adopt Complete Streets Policy
- Add bike lanes to city streets and advocate for with NCDOT roads
- Police on bikes
- Host Bike Month activities
- Build a bike park
- Designate an official "Bicycle Program Manager" and "Safe Routes to Schools Coordinator"
- Add a Police member to Parks, Trails, and Recreation Committee (acts as Bicycle Advisory Committee)
- City Staff watch APBP webinars
- Paint greenway road crossings with high visibility markings and signs
- Paint sharrows on streets (especially around neighborhoods and schools)
- Reduce speed limits in residential areas to 20 MPH
- No parking on narrow streets
- Regular sweeping, pothole patching, and vegetation maintenance on road shoulders and greenway

- Provide the League’s educational materials to residents and/or businesses
- Share-the-Road educational outreach
- Publish guide to community bike events
- Give away locks, lights, and helmets at schools
- Local ordinance against harassment of a cyclist
- Counts of bicycles on trails, roads, and parked at schools
- GIS-based network analysis to identify low-stress routes and barrier intersections/corridors

Since the discussion by the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Committee about these action items, several have been completed:

- Police have been trained for patrol on bikes
- Staff has watched APBP webinars
- It was determined that the Transylvania Times’s annual cycling insert will qualify for a community guide to cycling events
- Counts of bikes at all public schools inside the City limits
- Counts of cyclists on residential streets have been coordinated with Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization
- Resolution of support for Complete Streets passed by City Council, with directive for Staff to work with the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Committee to draft a Compete Streets Policy for consideration by City Council
- Community cycling webpage created with information about safe cycling, local cycling clubs, and an online Cycling Hazard Reporting Form to help identify and improve hazards and problem areas
- City Council issued a Proclamation for National Bike Month

Action Items

The following are achievable actions, projects, and initiatives designed to reach Bronze-level certification.

1.0 High Priority

1.1 Complete Streets Policy

Create and adopt a Complete Streets policy, with implementation guidance. By adopting a Complete Streets policy, Brevard will be directing Staff and consulting engineers to routinely design and operate the entire right-of-way to enable safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation. City Council passed a resolution of support of the Complete Streets approach to transportation planning in February of 2018.

1.2 Bike Racks

Increase the number of bike racks throughout town, particularly at schools and civic destinations. Possible partners include the Pisgah Forest Rotary Club, Transylvania County Schools, and private businesses.

1.3 Improve Bike Month Activities

Improve Bike Month activities by hosting events for Bike to Work Day and Bike to School Day. Events may include bicycle use competitions, outreach, and pop-up infrastructure on routes to schools and work destinations. Partnerships with Land of Sky Regional Council and local cycling businesses and clubs will be key in these efforts.

1.4 Provide Bike League Educational Materials

Purchase Smart Cycling educational materials published by the League of American Bicyclists and provide to local bike shops to give out and make available in City Hall and other public locations for free.

2.0 Medium Priority

2.1 Create a Low-Stress Cycling Network

Work with Public Safety Committee to identify streets and routes to create “Bike Boulevards” between key destinations. “Bike Boulevards” are safe, low-stress, low-speed routes for cyclists that avoid busy and dangerous roads and intersections that have design considerations such as reduced speed limits, traffic-calming devices, and appropriate use of on-street parking for the street width. Consider using GIS-based analysis techniques to identify barriers and strategic corridors.

2.2 Road Paintings

Paint sharrows and other cycling-related markings to key streets and infrastructure. Ensure that crosswalk paintings are properly maintained. Use high-visibility reflective paint when possible.

2.3 Trail Maintenance Days

Organize official maintenance and clean-up days for Bracken Preserve and/or the Estatoe Trail greenway system. Possible partners for organizing volunteers, providing materials, and general assistance include Conserving Carolinas and local cycling-friendly businesses.

3.0 Low Priority

3.1 Wayfinding Improvements

Design and install wayfinding and informational signs (such as mileage and maps) along the City's greenway system, as well as along the above described Bike Boulevards to help cyclists avoid dangerous roads and intersections.

3.2 Improve Bicycle-Related Training for Police

Coordinate with the Police Department to improve bicycle-related training for city police officers, develop better data collection and distribution practices, and pursue other road safety planning initiatives.

3.3 Vulnerable Road User Law

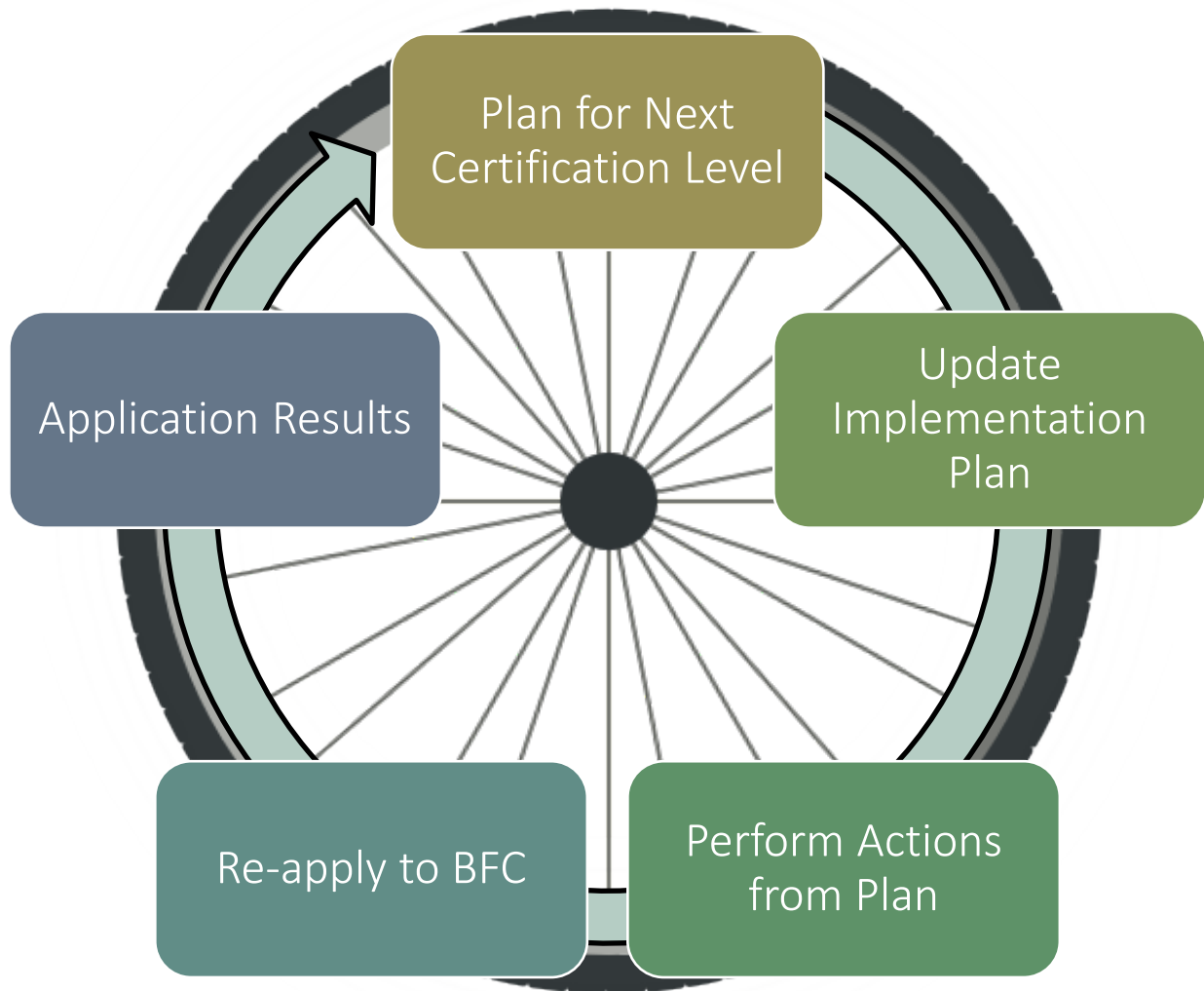
Using the League of American Bicyclists' model legislation, craft a vulnerable road user law or ordinance to provide important legal protection to cyclists and other vulnerable road users in the City.

3.4 Build a Bike Park

Build a public pump track or other bike-specific park.

Plan Maintenance

This graphic is meant to symbolize the continual nature of the City's commitment to the Bicycle-Friendly Communities program. Because Brevard is an above-average community we are constantly striving to improve, and recognize that once we achieve certification the job is not done. With each subsequent re-application (award is valid for four years) the City shall endeavor to achieve the next certification level so Brevard will continue to become an even safer and more comfortable place to ride for cyclists of all ages and abilities.



Appendix A – Bicycle Friendly Report Card

Results from February 2017 Application



BREVARD, NC

TOTAL POPULATION
7,609

TOTAL AREA (sq. miles)
4.8

POPULATION DENSITY
1585

OF LOCAL BICYCLE FRIENDLY BUSINESSES
0

OF LOCAL BICYCLE FRIENDLY UNIVERSITIES
0

10 BUILDING BLOCKS OF A BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

	Average Bronze	Brevard
High Speed Roads with Bike Facilities	19%	0%
Total Bicycle Network Mileage to Total Road Network Mileage	24%	13%
Bicycle Education in Schools	AVERAGE	ACCEPTABLE
Share of Transportation Budget Spent on Bicycling	9%	10%
Bike Month and Bike to Work Events	AVERAGE	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT
Active Bicycle Advocacy Group	YES	YES
Active Bicycle Advisory Committee	MEETS EVERY TWO MONTHS	MONTHLY OR MORE FREQUENTLY
Bicycle-Friendly Laws & Ordinances	AVERAGE	ACCEPTABLE
Bike Plan is Current and is Being Implemented	YES	SOMEWHAT
Bike Program Staff to Population	1 PER 148K	1 PER 76K

CATEGORY SCORES

ENGINEERING <i>Bicycle network and connectivity</i>	2/10
EDUCATION <i>Movets awareness and bicycling skills</i>	2/10
ENCOURAGEMENT <i>Measures to encourage bicycling culture</i>	2/10
ENFORCEMENT <i>Promoting safety and protecting bicyclists' rights</i>	5/10
EVALUATION & PLANNING <i>Setting targets and having a plan</i>	3/10

KEY OUTCOMES

	Average Bronze	Brevard
RIDERSHIP <i>Percentage of commuters who bike</i>	1.3%	1.6%
SAFETY MEASURES CRASHES <i>Crashes per 10k bicycle commuters</i>	1170	83
SAFETY MEASURES FATALITIES <i>Fatalities per 10k bicycle commuters</i>	23	0



- » Adopt a Complete Streets policy and create implementation guidance. By adopting a Complete Streets policy, communities direct their transportation planners and engineers to routinely design and operate the entire right-of-way to enable safe access for all users, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation.
- » Brevard has a great bicycling event culture, as seen in the Assault of the Carolinas. Continue to support and expand events to improve Brevard's brand as a bicycling destination and reinforce the bicycle culture of Brevard. Ensure that the culture of recreational events is complemented by investments that make transportation and utility bicycling safe and comfortable to nurture a year-round bicycling culture.

- » Enforcement-related efforts are a weak spot in your application. Work with the law enforcement community to improve bicycle-related training for law enforcement officers, develop better data collection and distribution practices, and pursue other road safety planning initiatives.
- » Improve Bike Month activities by creating Bike to Work Day and Bike to School Day events. Bike to School Day events often include competitions related to bicycle use, outreach to parents, and pop-up infrastructure on routes to schools.
- » Work to create a low-stress network that utilizes existing low-speed streets. Wayfinding improvements can be helpful for navigating bicycle routes.

LEARN MORE » WWW.BIKELEAGUE.ORG/COMMUNITIES

SUPPORTED BY **planet bike** AND LEAGUE MEMBERS

Appendix B – Comprehensive Plan Excerpt

Environmental Health Element

Element 3: Environmental Health



OVERVIEW

Brevard and Transylvania County are blessed with an incredible wealth of natural resources that provide scenic views, recreation opportunities, clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and economic development opportunities, all of which contribute to the high quality of life Brevard enjoys.

As pressure increases to develop more and more land, Brevard will be faced with difficult decisions regarding how to best find a balance between the demand for additional urbanized land for homes, roads, stores, and services, with issues of public safety, environmental sustainability, and community character. Striking this balance is critical to protecting the high quality of life our residents expect.

The French Broad and Davidson Rivers, and their various tributaries, create expansive floodplains to the south, east, and north of Brevard, while steep slopes (those with a grade greater than 25%) of the Blue Ridge Mountains of Pisgah National Forest rise to the north and west. These floodplains and steep slopes are sensitive lands, largely unsuitable for development. Preservation of these areas is important most obviously for public safety concerns, as well as viewshed and habitat protection. As suitable land becomes more and more scarce, pressure to develop in these sensitive areas will only increase, prompting greater concerns about aesthetics and public safety.

MONITORING & INDICATORS

In order to be effective, the City must continually monitor its progress towards achieving the vision and goals laid out in this plan. The following indicators could be used to monitor and track progress related to environmental health:

- Farmland acreage
- Amount of development in sensitive areas
- Water quality of urban creeks and the French Broad River
- Soil quality of agricultural land
- Biodiversity of surrounding ecosystems
- Bicycle Friendly Community award level

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- US Forest Service
- North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service
- North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

Adopted 11/16/15

- Transylvania County Soil and Water Conservation Service
- Transylvania County
- Tourism Development Authority
- Transylvania Economic Alliance
- Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy

DIRECTION-SETTING FRAMEWORK

GOALS

Through appropriate conservation and preservation measures that protect the health and sustainability of the environment and our abundant natural resources, Brevard will:

- Successfully preserve our woods and water for future generations.
- Promote our world-class natural resources as an asset.
- Prevent development in environmentally sensitive and critical areas.
- Preserve farmland.

OBJECTIVE 3.1: Preservation of surrounding natural assets of mountains, farmlands, woods, and water for future generations.

POLICY 3.1.A: Continue using land development regulations and incentives to steer future development away from environmentally sensitive areas such as steep slopes and floodplains.

POLICY 3.1.B: Connect landowners and developers with local conservation organizations and encourage the permanent protection of farmlands, steep slopes, floodplains and other sensitive natural areas.

POLICY 3.1.C: Enforce stream buffer requirements for new development in order to protect the quality of water in our streams and rivers.

POLICY 3.1.D: Seek out and develop innovative solutions to protect water quality while reducing the cost of stormwater management to private developers.

POLICY 3.1.E: Revise development regulations to encourage and incentivize the use of Low Impact Design techniques to manage stormwater.

POLICY 3.1.F: Maintain and update as necessary dark skies protections within the City's development regulations.

POLICY 3.1.G: Nurture and build institutional relationships with public, private, and nonprofit organizations to work effectively in partnership to achieve the City's goals for protecting the natural environment and sensitive natural areas.

OBJECTIVE 3.2: Reduction of the City's carbon and ecological footprint.

POLICY 3.2.A: Ensure development regulations continue to allow for homeowners, builders, and developers to incorporate wind and solar technology into development projects.

POLICY 3.2.B: Continue meeting the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA standards.

POLICY 3.2.C: Continue requiring landscaping in new development projects.

POLICY 3.2.D: Evaluate options for incentivizing energy-saving building practices.

POLICY 3.2.E: Become a certified Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.

POLICY 3.2.F: Continue to improve the City's residential and commercial recycling programs.

Adopted 11/16/15

Appendix C – Resolution Supporting Complete Streets

February 19, 2018

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-06

RESOLUTION ENDORSING A “COMPLETE STREETS” APPROACH TO TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

WHEREAS, Brevard is a safe, friendly, family-oriented city with small town charm, outdoor recreation, arts, & culture that bring investment opportunities, environmental consciousness, and economic diversity; and,

WHEREAS, safe, convenient, and accessible transportation for all users is a priority of Brevard; and,

WHEREAS, the term “Complete Streets” describes a comprehensive, integrated transportation network with infrastructure and design that allow safe and convenient travel along and across streets for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, persons with disabilities, motorists, movers of commercial goods, users and operators of public transportation, seniors, children, youth, and families; and,

WHEREAS, the application of “Complete Streets” will vary depending on the surrounding land uses and densities and surrounding context, however street and transportation planning should be guided by the principle that streets should promote multiple transportation options for all people; and,

WHEREAS, the lack of “Complete Streets” is dangerous for pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transportation riders, particularly children, older adults, and persons with disabilities; and,

WHEREAS, Brevard’s traffic accident safety ranking out of the 472 municipalities under 10,000 in population in North Carolina has been declining for the past four years; and,

WHEREAS, “Complete Streets” improve public health and safety by reducing the risk of injuries and fatalities from traffic collisions for users of all modes of transportation; and,

WHEREAS, streets that are designed with the safety and convenience of pedestrians and bicyclists in mind increase the number of people walking and bicycling; and,

WHEREAS, a balanced transportation system that includes “Complete Streets” is conducive to lively streets which in enhance the city’s character, economic vitality, and livability; and,

WHEREAS, encouraging people to walk and bicycle saves energy resources, reduces air pollution, and reduces emissions of global warming gases; and,

WHEREAS, “Complete Streets” encourage an active lifestyle by creating opportunities to integrate exercise into daily activities, thereby helping to reduce the risk of obesity and its associated health problems, which include diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, as well as certain cancers, stroke, asthma, and depression; and,

WHEREAS, the City’s current Comprehensive Plan outlines objectives for efficient and safe travel by vehicular, cycling, and pedestrian traffic; and,

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing benefits and considerations, Brevard wishes to improve its commitment to “Complete Streets” and desires that its streets form a comprehensive and integrated transportation network promoting safe, equitable, and convenient travel for all users while preserving flexibility, recognizing community context, and using the latest and best design guidelines and standards.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BREVARD:

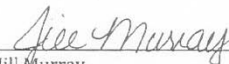
Section 1. The City of Brevard strongly endorses a Complete Streets approach to enhance transportation options for all and to improve quality of life for the residents of Brevard as follows:

1. The City of Brevard shall, to the maximum extent practical, plan, design, construct, operate, and maintain all City streets to provide a comprehensive and integrated street network for people of all ages and abilities traveling by foot, bicycle, automobile, and commercial vehicle.
2. The City of Brevard shall, to the maximum extent practical, advocate for State-maintained roads in the City to provide a comprehensive and integrated street network for people of all ages and abilities traveling by foot, bicycle, automobile, and commercial vehicle when coordinating on such projects with NCDOT officials.
3. City Council officially directs Staff, in conjunction with the Parks and Trails Committee, to begin the process of drafting a Complete Streets policy or ordinance for the City of Brevard.

Approved and adopted this the 19th day of February, 2018.



ATTEST:


Jill Murray
City Clerk


Jimmy Harris
Mayor

Appendix D – Proclamation for National Bike Month 2018

April 16, 2018



PROCLAMATION NO. 2018-09 NATIONAL BIKE MONTH 2018

WHEREAS, the bicycle is an economical, healthy, convenient, viable, and environmentally sound form of transportation and an excellent form of recreation and enjoyment of Brevard and Transylvania County's scenic beauty; and

WHEREAS, millions of North Carolinians will experience the joys of bicycling during the month of May through educational programs, races, commuting events, trail work days, helmet promotion, charity events, or just getting out and going for a recreational ride; and

WHEREAS, Brevard and Transylvania County trails and roads attract bicyclists each year from across the country and the world; and

WHEREAS, Brevard hosts several major cycling races and events, including the Assault on the Carolinas, the WNC Flyer, and the Pisgah Stage Race; and

WHEREAS, these bicycling activities and attractions have great potential to have a positive impact on Brevard's economy and tourism industry, as well as to stimulate economic development by making the city attractive to businesses and citizens who enjoy the out of doors and healthy lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, creating bicycle-friendly communities has been shown to improve citizens' health, well-being, and quality of life, to boost community spirit, to improve traffic safety, and to reduce pollution and congestion; and

WHEREAS, May has been declared National Bike Month since 1956 and is so again in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the League of American Bicyclists, bicycle clubs, schools, parks and recreation departments, police departments, hospitals, companies and civic groups throughout North Carolina will be promoting bicycling as a leisure activity as well as an environmentally-friendly alternative to the automobile during the month of May 2018; and


WHEREAS, the education of bicyclists and motorists as to the proper and safe operation of bicycles is important to ensure the safety and comfort of all users; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard Comprehensive Plan includes several objectives and policies aimed at improving cycling as both a form of recreation and transportation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Jimmy Harris and the Brevard City Council do hereby proclaim and recognize the month of May 2018 as National Bike Month and Bicycle Safety Month.

Adopted and approved this 16th day of April, 2018.

ATTEST:



Jill Murray, City Clerk



Jimmy Harris, Mayor

Appendix E – Resolution Adopting Plan

June 18, 2018

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-14

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BICYCLE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

WHEREAS, in 2016 Council directed Staff to explore the possibility of securing a Bicycle Friendly Community designation from the League of American Bicyclists; and,

WHEREAS, the City submitted an application in February of 2017 and received an Honorable Mention designation; and,

WHEREAS, Brevard hosts several major cycling races and events, including the Assault on the Carolinas, the WNC Flyer, and the Pisgah Stage Race; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard strives to be a bicycle-friendly community that allows for safe and enjoyable bicycle travel by users of all ages and abilities for both recreation and transportation; and,

WHEREAS, the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Committee, acting as the City's Bicycle Advisory Committee reviewed a draft of the Bicycle-Friendly Community Implementation Plan at their March 21, 2018 meeting and unanimously recommended that it be presented to City Council for adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BREVARD, NORTH CAROLINA THAT:


Section 1. The City of Brevard Bicycle-Friendly Implementation Plan is hereby adopted as official policy of the City of Brevard.

Section 2. This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption and approval.

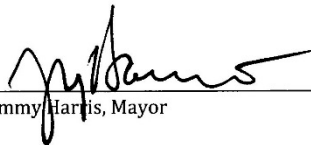
Adopted and approved this the 18th day of June, 2018.



ATTEST:



Jill Murray
City Clerk



Jimmy Harris, Mayor