# WALKABLE COMMUNITIES COALITION

# **AGENDA**

Tuesday, May 12, 2015 12 Noon to 1 PM

## disAbility Connections 409 Linden Avenue

MISSION: To create an environment where it's easy to walk and bike for recreation, transportation, and health; and to educate and encourage citizens to be active.

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Public Comment
- 3. Approval of Minutes of April 14, 2015
- **4.** Jackson Police Department Biking in Jackson
- 5. Smart Commute Alex Cash
- 6. May 9 "Bike Rally" at Library
- 7. Pedestrian & Bicycle Information Application (enclosed)
- 8. Comments and/or Concerns from Members
- 9. Public Comment
- 10. Adjournment

Next Meeting: <u>June 9, 2015</u>
12 Noon to 1:00 PM
disAbility Connections

# Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center names five new Walk Friendly Communities

**CHAPEL HILL, NC** — The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) is pleased to announce its five new <u>Walk Friendly Communities</u> (WFC) and to recognize one community for jumping from Bronze to Silver.

The "Walk Friendly" title means a city or town is being recognized for its success in working to improve a wide range of conditions related to walking, including safety, mobility, access, and comfort. As part of its commitment to pedestrian safety, FedEx supports Walk Friendly Communities, a national recognition program of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center at the University of North Carolina that encourages cities and towns across the United States to create safe walking environments.

PBIC recognizes these six communities for their commitment to improving walkability and pedestrian safety:

#### **Gold Level:**

- Evanston, IL
- Somerville, MA

#### **Silver Level:**

- <u>Lee's Summit, MO</u> (up from Bronze)
- Sandpoint, ID

#### **Bronze Level:**

- Arcata, CA
- Saratoga Springs, NY

"We continue to be amazed by the efforts being made by communities of all sizes to improve conditions for walking," said Carl Sundstrom, WFC program manager. "We're particularly excited to see the great strides made by Lee's Summit, allowing them to climb to the Silver level."

Of the 55 Walk Friendly Communities across the nation, Seattle, Wash., remains the only Platinum-level Walk Friendly Community.

The program began accepting applications for the tenth round on May 1, 2015, with the deadline for submission on June 15, 2015. Interested communities are encouraged to visit <a href="www.walkfriendly.org">www.walkfriendly.org</a> to learn more about the program and review the community assessment tool.

Applicants use a web-based program that asks a comprehensive set of questions and provides communities with feedback and ideas for promoting pedestrian safety and activity. The questions examine engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, evaluation and planning. Officially launched in October 2010, the WFC program is funded by FedEx and the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration.

"FedEx congratulates these communities on their designation by PBIC as Walk Friendly," said Rose Flenorl, manager, FedEx Global Citizenship. "We hope many more communities across the US will apply for this designation. Being Walk Friendly demonstrates a commitment to saving lives and reducing pedestrian injuries. We are dedicated to road safety and are a proud sponsor of PBIC."

### **About the WFC Program**

The Walk Friendly Community designation, awarded from bronze to platinum, is given to applicant communities that have demonstrated a commitment to improving and sustaining walkability and pedestrian safety through comprehensive programs, plans and policies.

At the core of the WFC program is a comprehensive assessment tool that evaluates community walkability and pedestrian safety through questions related to engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, evaluation and planning. The assessment tool questions are intended to both evaluate conditions for walking and provide communities with feedback and ideas for promoting pedestrian safety and activity.

Modeled after the League of American Bicyclists' "Bicycle Friendly Communities," WFC distinguishes cities and towns that are leading the way in walkability. WFC is the first program to highlight communities for their walkability initiatives and programs, while also offering feedback to assist communities in improving walkability.

#### About PBIC

Since its inception in 1999, PBIC's mission has been to improve the quality of life in communities through the increase of safe walking and bicycling as a viable means of transportation and physical activity. The PBIC is maintained by the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center under a cooperative agreement with funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. www.pedbikeinfo.org.

## **About the FHWA Bicycle & Pedestrian Program**

The <u>Bicycle & Pedestrian Program of the Federal Highway Administration promotes bicycle</u> and pedestrian transportation use, safety, and accessibility. The FHWA Bicycle & Pedestrian Program issues guidance and is responsible for overseeing that states and other agencies understand and meet legislative requirements.

#### About FedEx

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