Acceptance of Bike Month proclamation

April 19, 2011

Frank D. Gmeindl

Mr. Mayor,

On behalf of the Morgantown Municipal Bicycle Board and the Morgantown Traffic Commission, thank you for issuing this proclamation. This proclamation recognizes your and the City‘s commitment to making Morgantown a Bicycle Friendly Community.

Almost 5 years ago, the Bicycle Board organized with a vision that all Morgantown residents can ride their bicycles safely and fearlessly anywhere, anytime for any reason. Our goal is that by 2020, 5% of all trips in and through Morgantown will be made by bicycle.

The Bicycle Board is especially grateful to Dan Boroff, Jeff Mikorski, Chris Fletcher, Terry Hough, Don Spencer, Jennie Selin and Bill Austin for showing us the relationships that we must build and for providing the linkages that we need both within the City and with the WVDOT to achieve our goal.

Now, we are also grateful to Terrence Moore for making Bicycle Friendly Community achievement a priority in City staff goals and objectives.

To be recognized by the League of American Bicyclists as a Bicycle Friendly Community, Morgantown must satisfy specific objectives in the 6 E’s: Education, Enforcement, Engineering, Encouragement, Evaluation and Equity.

From its inception, the Bicycle Board focused on Education. For 4 years, we have been teaching Confident City Cycling at the Public Safety Center and at WVU. At BikeMorgantown.com you can learn about Confident City Cycling and register for the courses.

In Engineering, we are grateful to Bill Austin and Damien Davis for establishing working relationships between the Bicycle Board and WVDOH that now have us planning Complete Streets.

In Encouragement, we are grateful to Tom Arnold for his pro-active guidance and action that brought us quality short-term bicycle parking downtown.

The Bicycle Board continues to develop a comprehensive Morgantown Bicycling Plan to address all the 6 E’s. In the coming year, we hope to add emphasis in Enforcement.

In 1993, Portland Oregon decided to become a Bicycle Friendly Community. From 1993 to 2009, they succeeded in moving more than 5% of their traffic from motor vehicles to bicycles. Portland’s Mayor, Sam Adams recently stated, "for the equivalent cost of a single mile of freeway, we have a bike infrastructure."[[1]](#footnote--1)

Of course, Portland is flatter than Morgantown but Pittsburgh who achieved bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community status last year has achieved the nation’s 4th largest rate of bicycle mode share increase since 2000 by promoting the 6 Es.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Achieving similar results and for Morgantown to become a Bicycle Friendly Community, the Bicycle Board asks City Council to adopt our goal and to apply available resources to satisfy specific objectives in the 6 E’s.

To kick off Morgantown Bike Month, as they have for more than 30 years, the Monongalia Bicycle Club and the Country Roads Cyclists are hosting their annual Appalachian Spring Spectacular road bicycling event on Sunday, May 1. 20, 40 and 60-mile rides through our beautiful countryside begin at 9 am at the Wharf Street Parking Garage at 9 am. Registration is at 8. You must wear a helmet.

In addition to being a non-polluting, healthful practical means of transportation, bicycling is also a lot of fun so the Bicycle Board encourages you to rediscover the joy and freedom of riding your bike. Morgantown Bike Month is a good time to start if you haven’t already.

1. http://bikeportland.org/2009/09/23/us-census-portland-has-record-jump-in-bike-commuting-23733 [↑](#footnote-ref--1)
2. <http://bike-pgh.org/blog/2010/10/01/pittsburgh-sees-206-rise-in-bicycle-commuting-since-2000-fourth-largest-increase-in-the-country/> . The bicycle mode share grew from 0.44 % in 2000 to 1.35 % in 2009. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)