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Sisters Earns Bicycle Friendly Community Designation

The City of Sisters has been awarded the designation of a *Bicycle Friendly Community* from the League of American Bicyclists (LOAB). Jerry Norquist, Cycle Oregon Executive Director, member of the Governor's Bike and Pedestrian Committee and founding member of Oregon Scenic Bike Place presented the award to the Sisters City Council recently. He also recognized Michele Sims for nominating the city and her efforts that resulted in the city being awarded the designation.

The LOAB credited the city with many efforts undertaken to make Sisters more bicycle friendly such as the updated TSP with its notable bike/pedestrian focus, the recent scenic bikeway designations and numerous bike related events such as the Bike Stampede, the largest mountain bike race in Oregon; the Race for Two Rivers event which raised over \$80,000 to help restore Whychus Creek and the Metolius River; the Cascade Bike Classic; numerous Safe Routes to School projects; and the implementation of back-in diagonal parking. He noted the City was awarded the Big Chain Award in 2009 from the Deschutes County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and in 2008 the award was given to Sisters resident John Rahm for his work to expend the Peterson Ridge trail system.

Mr. Norquist explained how LOAB was formed in 1880 to create paved roads, the dominate form of transportation in those days. He announced LOAB currently represents 57 million cyclists that use the roads for fun, fitness and transportation and works through advocacy, education and promotion of the sport. He stated the Bicycle Friendly Community program began in 2001.

There are 179 communities in 44 states with the bicycle friendly designation. He further explained that LOAB is the only national program that recognizes communities for improving its bike trails and transportation network to benefit health, community building and the sheer joy of riding.

Similar to a Tree City USA designation, signs will be posted at the east and west entrances to the city announcing to all that the city of Sisters is a Bicycle Friendly Community.