



News Release

For immediate release

Share the Road Cycling Coalition Announces Ten Bicycle Friendly Community Designations

Kingston Receives Silver and Nine Ontario Communities Renew Designations

TORONTO – December 14, 2021 - For the fall 2021 round of the Bicycle Friendly Communities (BFC) award program, Share the Road Cycling Coalition (STR) is pleased to announce that all ten municipal applicants have received awards. Nine communities across Ontario have renewed at Bronze (Brampton, Caledon, Greater Sudbury, Ingersoll, Mississippi Mills and Thorold), Silver (Ajax, Hamilton) and Gold (Ottawa).

The [Bicycle Friendly Communities](#) (BFC) program, an initiative of the Washington-based [League of American Bicyclists](#), was launched in Canada by STR in 2010. The organization, Ontario's leading cycling advocacy and policy organization, worked to develop BFC designations for the province of Québec with our colleagues at the Montreal-based cycling policy and advocacy organization Vélo Québec, which administers the program under the name [VÉLOSYMPATHIQUE](#).

At the heart of the BFC program is a rigorous application process through which a community's cycling progress and investments are measured. The applications are reviewed by a panel of experts and with the input of citizens. Recognition is awarded and in-depth guidance provided. The award categories are Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond. Ontario currently has no Platinum or Diamond communities, and 3 [Gold](#) Bicycle Friendly communities (Ottawa, Toronto, and Waterloo). Communities must re-apply at least every 4 years to hold a designation.

Ed McMahon, Board Chair applauded the award-winning municipalities for their ongoing progress and commitment: "The progress of Ontario's Bicycle Friendly Communities is evidenced by the awards we are launching today. Whether by way of a renewal or a reward of advancement as with the City of Kingston, these awards signify the vital role that cycling plays in the day to day lives of Ontarians and the way in which their communities have recognized both this growing imperative – and the opportunities inherent in creating bikeable cities. We are thrilled to see this ongoing progress – and salute these municipalities for their progress and for intentionally continuing to invest in lifesaving infrastructure and initiatives."

All BFCs in this round have devoted resources to support and leverage increases in cycling over the course of the pandemic. For instance, Gold-designated Ottawa expanded car-free Sundays in parkways to the entire weekend from May to October this year. Silver-designated Hamilton developed a "Mountain Climber" program and Adaptive Bike Share to increase accessibility of cycling and strengthen integrations with transit. Bronze-designated Brampton implemented "Streets for People," interim separated bike lanes, and developed its first Active Transportation Master Plan.



The City of Kingston advanced from a Bronze to Silver BFC status, with innovations across the four “Es”: Engineering, Education, Encouragement, and Evaluation & Planning. Since their previous application in 2016, Kingston has developed a robust policy framework for safe cycling and cycle projects that cater to a range of age-groups and abilities. Key examples include traffic-calmed or car-free neighbourhoods and school zones (i.e., Quiet Streets and School Streets), as well as the installation of bollards on buffered bike lanes.

“Through policy, design, staffing, and programming, Kingston is showing its commitment to building a community for active transportation, where the road is shared between cyclists and drivers,” said Dr. Subha Ramanathan, Manager of Partnerships & Programs at STR. “It is also wonderful to see partnerships and collaboration at the heart of Kingston, with a range of community partners providing ongoing opportunities for recreational and competitive cycling.”

The Canadian Automobile Association of South Central Ontario (CAA SCO) has been a partner in Share the Road’s BFC program since it launched in 2010. CAA SCO generously covers application fees for municipalities, and raises the profile and outreach of BFC through its Member magazine and cross-Canada social media channels.

“Cycling safety is a key priority for CAA SCO. The BFC awards program provides a structured approach for communities to make cycling a safer, more accessible mode of transportation and physical activity, and receive recognition for their efforts,” said Michael Stewart, community relations consultant, government and community relations CAA South Central Ontario.

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About the Share the Road Cycling Coalition

Share the Road is an Ontario-based not-for-profit organization working to make communities across Canada more bicycle friendly for people of all ages and abilities. We work in partnership with municipal, provincial, and federal governments; the business community; road safety organizations; and other not-for-profits to enhance access for bicyclists on roads and trails; improve safety for all bicyclists; and provide education about the value and importance of safe cycling for healthy lifestyles and healthy communities.

About CAA South Central Ontario

As a leader and advocate for road safety and mobility, CAA South Central Ontario is a not-for-profit auto club which represents the interests of over 2 million Members. For over a century, CAA has collaborated with communities, police services and governments to help keep drivers and their families safe while travelling on our roads.

For further comment, or to book an interview please contact:

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