

Bicycle-Friendly Community Workshop Program Held in Roanoke

More than 70 local planners, engineers, community leaders, and bicycle enthusiasts attended a "Bicycle Friendly Community" workshop presented by the League of American Bicyclists on January 8 in Roanoke. The four-hour workshop explored actions taken by communities across the country to encourage bicycling, including strategies from striping bike lane, building trails, installing bike parking and signing popular bike routes, to education and encouragement programs that get more people riding safely. The workshop concluded with a series of action items that will propel Roanoke Valley communities toward official designation as Bicycle Friendly Communities. Action items developed by the group include:

- [Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission](#) establishing a Bicycle Committee
- Each local jurisdiction establishing a Bicycle Advisory Committee
- Each local jurisdiction adopting the [Bikeway Plan for the Roanoke Valley Area MPO](#)
- Encouraging local interest groups to include non-motorized transit issues in their platform
- Hosting a candidate forum
- Creating an awards program to recognize government officials or agencies that are instrumental in improving conditions for cycling
- Organizing a community bike ride series
- Organizing a "big ride" with a large number of participants including elected officials
- Notifying businesses of the availability of free bicycle racks through the [Bicycle Rack Donation Program](#) from [RIDE Solutions](#) and the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission.
- Launching a bike education program this spring
- Airing television public service announcements to educate bicyclists on how to ride safely and motorists on how to share the road
- Promoting bicycle rodeos, helmet give-away programs, and Safe Routes to Schools projects
- Participating in VDOT and National Park Service public meetings
- Each attendee participating in his or her Neighborhood Plan update process
- Determining outcomes of action plan