

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Press contact: Amy McGuffin, 509-925-2002 or [amy@kittitascountychamber.com](mailto:amy@kittitascountychamber.com)

### **Ellensburg Named National Bike Friendly Community**

ELLENSBURG, WA – The League of American Bicyclists has recognized Ellensburg as a Bicycle Friendly Community. Ellensburg received a Silver Level award, joining only 73 others that have been so recognized across the country. The award recognizes Ellensburg’s commitment to bicycling through bike promotion, education, infrastructure and pro-bicycling policies.

“Studies show that bicycling adds enormously to a community, not only to quality of life but also to its attractiveness to visitors,” says Amy McGuffin, Director of Tourism at the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce. “In fact, bike-centric tourism is one of the fastest-growing trends in the industry today. “

It was bike tourism that led McGuffin to discover the Bicycle Friendly Community awards, and when it appeared that Ellensburg could be a strong candidate, she contacted Nancy Lillquist of the Ellensburg City Council and suggested that Ellensburg submit an application.

“As a community, we’ve come a long way in making Ellensburg bike-friendly,” says Lillquist, a longstanding supporter of pro-bike policies. “It’s included the establishment of bike lanes and crossings, but also things like the artistic bike racks in downtown, Bike to Work Day, and collaboration with CWU.” Lillquist lists many benefits of bike-friendliness including reduced traffic, cleaner air, and the physical fitness of residents.

The Bike Friendly banner will be displayed on Ellensburg’s entry signage.

The League of American Bicyclists was founded in 1880 as the League of American Wheelmen. Today it works to define and share best practices in the creation of safer roads and bicycle friendly communities across America. For more information see <http://bikeleague.org/content/mission-and-history>

\*\*\*