

A Year in Review

Bike Friendly Soo-2018

Bike Friendly Soo (BFS) accomplished a number of goals in 2018.

First, we worked with the city of Sault Ste. Marie to complete an application for Bicycle Friendly Community status which was submitted to the League of American Bicyclists in August 2018. The application has 5 major categories: Engineering, Enforcement, Encouragement, Education, and Evaluation. Each section had multiple questions pertaining to what a city is doing to promote bicycling within the city. After members of BFS had obtained answers to the questions within the sections, the application was submitted to the city for review. After the city reviewed the application, it was sent to the League of American Bicyclists.

The city received notification in November that the city was given Honorable Mention for the application. That is what we had expected for a first time submission. I think there is an excellent possibility of the city receiving Bronze status in 2019 assuming we address the issues that the city is weak in.

The first issue that must be addressed is that of getting someone certified as a League Cycling Instructor (LCI). The League basically requires that a city obtaining Bronze status or higher have a LCI. That person is certified through the League to teach classes in bicycle safety. Certification requires going through a course taught by the League.

The city also has to expand its bicycle infrastructure so that more arterial streets have bike lanes. At this point, Sault Ste. Marie has bike lanes by Lake Superior State University on Easterday Ave. and on 4th Ave. west of the Recycling Center. Another area which would be very beneficial for the application is to have local schools teach bicycle safety training and have Bike to School events. In that regard, we have met with the principals of Washington and Lincoln Schools. They were receptive to the ideas of having bicycle safety training and Bike to School events. We will also meet with the principal of the Middle School in early 2019.

Second, we completed a Bike Route Guide for the Eastern Upper Peninsula. I personally think the guide is excellent. It has bike routes that start from Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, Pickford, and Rudyard. The routes include a description of the route, maps of the routes and information about amenities along routes. Also included in the guide is information on laws concerning biking, bike safety, dealing with dogs, valuable bike accessories for long-distance bicycling, etc.

Third, we had a Bike Rodeo in June to teach children about bike safety. The rodeo consisted of checking bikes for mechanical integrity, fitting bike helmets, and courses that children rode through on their bikes that taught various bike riding skills. A total of 26 children obtained certificates for the rodeo.

Forth, we had a series of slow bike rides to encourage people to get out on their bikes. The rides started at the parking lot across from Bird's Eye Outfitters and went to either Rotary Park or 4 Mile Beach. The maximum number of participants we had on a ride was 13. On the ride to 4 Mile Beach, an angel provided drinks and snacks once we got there. All-in-all, the rides went well.

Lastly, we donated \$1000.00 for the construction of the Power Canal Trail.