



Florida Department of Transportation

CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

STEPHANIE C. KOPELOUSOS
SECRETARY

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CONTACT: Colleen Steinman
850-414-4573

FLORIDA SOARS IN U.S. BICYCLE-FRIENDLY STATE RANKINGS

- State jumps 20 spots to rank 12th in the nation -

TALLAHASSEE – Florida jumped 20 places to rank 12th in the nation among the most bicycle-friendly states, according to the League of American Bicyclists.

“Making Florida safer and more accessible for bicyclists is a priority for the Florida Department of Transportation,” said Stephanie Kopelousos, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Secretary. “We’re encouraged by the progress we’ve made and are committed to making the Sunshine State a better place to ride your bike.”

The Bicycle Friendly States program ranks states based on a 95-item questionnaire that evaluates a state’s commitment to bicycling and covers six key areas: legislation, policies and programs, infrastructure, education and encouragement, evaluation and planning, and enforcement.

Florida ranked third in the nation in policies and programs and in the top 10 for infrastructure and evaluation. FDOT worked carefully with other state agencies and bicycling groups to compile the state’s responses. In fact, the department has formed the Bicycle and Pedestrian Partnership Council which meets for the first time in late June. Working with multiple partners, the council will make recommendations on design, planning, safety and other programs involving bicycle and pedestrian issues throughout the state.

FDOT’s seven districts have pedestrian-bicycle coordinators who consider the pedestrian and bicycle aspects of FDOT facilities, projects and programs in their areas.

For more information about the 2010 Bicycle Friendly State Rankings, please go to <http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/bicycleyfriendlyamerica/bicycleyfriendlystate/>. For more information about FDOT’s bicycling programs, please go to www.dot.state.fl.us and select “Bicycle” from the list of topics on the menu of topics.

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