



LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS
1612 K St., NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20006-2850
WEBSITE www.bikeleague.org
EMAIL bikeleague@bikeleague.org
PHONE 202.822.1333
FAX 202.822.1334

The League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Communities Campaign

Thank you for your interest in becoming a designated **Bicycle Friendly Community**. Please complete **Part I**. Visit www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org or call 202-822-1333 for more information and resources.

APPLICATION PART I

CONTACT INFO

Name of Community	<u>City of Newark, Delaware</u>
Mayor or top elected official in municipality	<u>Harold F. Godwin</u>
Contact Name	<u>Heather Dunigan</u>
Position	<u>Senior Planner</u>
Employer	<u>Wilmington Area Planning Council</u>
Address	<u>850 Library Avenue</u>
Address line 2	<u>Suite 100</u>
City	<u>Newark</u>
State	<u>DE</u>
Zip	<u>19711</u>
Phone	<u>302/737-6205 ext. 18</u>
Fax	<u>302/737-9584</u>
Email	<u>hdunigan@wilmapco.org</u>
Website	<u>www.wilmapco.org/BikeNewark</u>

COMMUNITY PROFILE

1. Population	,547.0 (including 17,000 University students)
2. Square mileage of municipality	9.3
Total area	9.3
Water area	N/A
Land area	9.3
3. Population density	3,069.6
4. Climate	
Average temperature for January	31.5 ° F
Average temperature for April	52.2
Average temperature for July	75.9
Average temperature for October	56.5
Average precipitation for January	3.2 inches
Average precipitation for April	3.5
Average precipitation for July	4.2
Average precipitation for October	3.0
5. Median income	48,758/household
6. Age distribution	
% under 20	29.1%
% age 20-64	61.9%
% age 65-84	8.0%
% age 85+	1.1%
7. Race	
a. % Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	2.5%
b. % Not Hispanic or Latino	97.5%
c. % One race	98.4%
d. % White	87.3%
e. % Black or African American	6.0%
f. % American Indian and Alaska Native	0.2%
g. % Asian	4.1%
h. % Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%
i. % Some other race	0.9%
j. % Two or more races	1.6%
8. If you have Journey-to-Work census data on bicycling to work, what percentage of people in your community bike to work?	1.6%*

*Note: This number has dropped from the 3.3% of commute trips by bicycling in the 1990 census. The Newark Bicycle Committee believes that the 2000 census number is incorrect and doesn't correctly account for student bicycle trips. A survey of 124 people at the 2002 Newark Community Day found that 13 percent bicycled daily, 34 percent at least once a week, and 22 percent at least once a month.

Directions (Questions 9-14): Please circle the choice that reflects the best answer for your community.

9. How many households are within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of a retail or business area?

(All) (Most) (Some) (Few)

10. How many neighborhoods have significant grass, flowers, and trees?

(All) (Most) (Some) (Few)

11. How many neighborhoods have significant amenities such as parks, water fountains, benches, and public art?

(All) (Most) (Some) (Few)

12. How many neighborhoods in your community would you consider a good place to raise children?

(All) (Most) (Some) (Few)

13. Do you have a Bicycle Master Plan?

(Yes) (No)

14. Do you have a written bicycle accommodation policy?

(Yes) (No)

Directions (Questions 15-18): Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. All answers should be typed and numbered accordingly.

15. What was your community's most significant investment for bicycling in the past year?

Construction of a 1.7 mile, \$1.3 million bikeway along the Amtrak northeast corridor. This off-road trail connects several downtown neighborhoods, four City parks, the Amtrak train station, and several major employment and commercial sites.

16. List current community activities that encourage/promote bicycling.

- Newark Bicycle Route Maps
- Currently updating Newark Bicycle Plan
- Bike Month activities
- White Clay Bicycle Club recreational rides
- Citizen bicycle committee
- Bicycling information at Newark Community Day
- Bicycle racks around University of Delaware and Main Street
- 1-mile bicycle and walking trail being constructed around Newark Reservoir
- Bicycle patrols by University Public Safety and City Police Department
- Off-road bicycle path paralleling Main Street is currently being planned by the University

17. Bicycle Coordinator & Government Staff

- a. List your official bicycle/pedestrian coordinator or bicycle issues contact person on government staff.

Michael Fortner, Planner
Newark Planning Department
P.O. Box 390
220 Elkton Road
Newark, DE
19715-0390

- b. What department is the bicycle coordinator located in?

Planning Department

- c. How many hours are spent per year in this capacity?

50 hours

- d. List all other government staff or contractors whose primary duties are devoted to bicycling issues.

Numerous City departments address bicycling issues on a regular basis. The Planning Department develops major bicycling plans and projects in partnership with the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), Wilmington Area Planning Council, and the Newark Bicycle Committee. The Public Works Department maintains on-road facilities in with assistance from DelDOT, while the Parks Department maintains and plans off-road facilities. The Newark Police Department and University Public Safety routinely address bicycle enforcement issues, as well as track bicycle crash information. The Newark Traffic Committee meets monthly to coordinate bicycle and other transportation issues and the Newark Bicycle Committee meets monthly to promote implementation of the Bicycle Plan and advise the City.

18. Do you have a Bicycle Advisory Committee, Ped/Bike Council or other venue for citizen input?

- a. List the name of the Chair and their contact information.

Willet Kempton
Newark Bicycle Committee
79 Kells Avenue
Newark, DE 19711
302/831-0049

Thank you for providing preliminary information. Please mail the completed application to: League of American Bicyclists 1612 K Street, NW #800 Washington DC 20006 After careful review of your general community profile, the League will inform you if you have met the basic criteria to begin Part II of the application process.

**The League of American Bicyclists
Bicycle Friendly Communities Campaign
www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org**

Part II is a detailed audit of the engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, evaluation and planning efforts in your community. This comprehensive inquiry is designed to yield a holistic picture of your community's work to promote bicycling. Technical assistance for completing Part II is available at www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org or by calling the League at 202-822-1333.

APPLICATION PART II

ENGINEERING

1. Do you have a policy that requires the accommodation of cyclists in all new road construction and reconstruction and resurfacing? Please include a copy of this legislation or policy.

Yes, Delaware law requires that bicyclists be accommodates where feasible during all transportation projects. Most Newark roads are state maintained.

2. Have you provided training for your engineers and planners on how to accommodate cyclists? Please describe. Is there a mechanism to provide training on an on-going basis?

The University of Delaware, City of Newark, WILMAPCO and Delaware Department of Transportation cosponsored a 2-day "Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Planning and Design Workshop" in Newark during 1997. The event, taught by Dan Burden and Michael Ronkin, was a huge success. Follow-up training context sensitive design, while not exclusively addressing cycling, has taught planners and engineers about providing for travel choices.

3. How many bridges are in your community? How many are closed or inaccessible to cyclists? Of those accessible by bike, how many have shoulders, bike lanes, wide curb lanes, or sidewalks/walkways?

- **8 bridges and 1 underpass**
- **0 closed or inaccessible to cyclists**
- **2 have separated sidepaths**
- **7 have bicycles lanes or shoulders**
- **9 have sidewalks**

4. Are there bike racks or storage units at:

Schools	(All)	(Most)	(Some)	(Few)	(None)
Libraries	(All)	(Most)	(Some)	(Few)	(None)
Transit stations	(All)	(Most)	(Some)	(Few)	(None)
Recreation centers	(All)	(Most)	(Some)	(Few)	(None)
Government buildings	(All)	(Most)	(Some)	(Few)	(None)
Office buildings	(All)	(Most)	(Some)	(Few)	(None)
Retail centers	(All)	(Most)	(Some)	(Few)	(None)
Public spaces and parks	(All)	(Most)	(Some)	(Few)	(None)

5. Are buses equipped with bike racks? (All) (Most) (Some) (Few) (None)

6. Are bicycles permitted on public transit? Please describe any restrictions.

Bicycles are currently allowed on the Septa Commuter Rail service leaving from Newark during non-peak times.

For bus transit, a transit hub and circulator bus are planned for Newark, opening in 2005. Circulator buses will be equipped with bike racks and that bikes will be allowed without restrictions. Currently only one bus route serving Newark has bike racks.

7. How many miles of bike lanes do you have? 12.5 miles

How many miles of bike lanes are in your bicycle master plan? 14.4 miles

What is the mileage of your total road network? 99.5 miles

8. What percent of arterial streets have bike lanes? 37 percent

9. How many miles of bike paths and trails do you have? 9.4 miles

How many miles of bike paths are in your bicycle master plan? 25.0 miles

10. How many miles of designated bike routes do you have? 49.8 miles

How many miles of signed bike routes are in your bicycle master plan? 68.9 miles

11. What is the interval for: **No regular maintenance schedule.**

a. Maintenance of shoulders (once every ___ days)

b. Bike lanes (once every ___ days)

c. Off street facilities (once every ___ days)

12. How many businesses employing over fifty people have worksite bicycle accommodation programs such as worksite bicycle parking, shower facilities, or "guaranteed ride home?"

(All) (Most) (Some) (Few) (None)

13. Are there other facilities that have been created to promote bicycling in your community? If yes, please describe.

EDUCATION

1. How do you educate motorists to share the road with cyclists? Please describe. How many community motorists do you reach with these efforts?

Bicycling information booth at annual Newark Community Day reaches 200+ motorists and cyclists.

2. Are there other bicycle education opportunities for adults? Please describe.

Bicycling safety information is included on the Newark Bicycle Route maps and safe cycling classes are taught each May during Delaware Bicycle Month.

3. Do you have a bicycle safety program for children in schools? How many schools participate?

(All) (Most) (Some) (Few) (None)

4. What other types of bicycle safety and education opportunities are available for children? Please describe. How many children participate?

Bicycle safety and laws are included in the Delaware Drivers Manual and taught in drivers education class.

The Delaware School Nurses Association *Bicycle Helmet Grant Project* distributes helmets to hundreds of students in Newark each year and educates about the importance of safe cycling.

The Bicycle Injury and Prevention and Education Program in Delaware (BIPED) is managed by the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension Service. This volunteer based program also reached hundreds of students annually.

5. Do you make bicycle safety materials available to the public? Please describe.

Yes, bicycle safety material is available at Newark Community Day and at WILMAPCO offices.

6. Do you have League Cycling Instructors in your area? Please list active instructors.

- Don Carbaugh, 302.529.7929
- Cindy Genau, 302.366.1741
- Christopher R. Law, 302.266.6353
- Paul Stevenson, 302.368.2167

7. Is bicycle safety education included in routine local activities (e.g. tax renewal, drivers licensing and testing, or inserts with utility bills each month)? If so, please describe.

Bicycle safety and laws are included in the Delaware Drivers Manual.

ENCOURAGEMENT

1. How do you promote Bike Month? Please describe and provide attendance numbers.

Delaware's Bicycle Council organizes and promotes Bike Month each May. Events are promoted through the Council's web site, media coverage, a newsletter, flyers and an events calendar. In Newark, typical events include a commute event organized by the University, a children's rodeo, a maintenance clinic, and rides by various clubs.

2. Do you actively promote Bike to Work Day or other bicycle commuting incentive programs? Please describe. What portion of the community workforce do you reach?

(All) (Most) **(Some)** (Few) (None)

In addition to the Bike Month events described above, the Delaware TMA promotes bicycling at Transportation Expos held throughout the year, including a "Guaranteed Ride Home" program for people who register as bicycle commuters. High on-campus and downtown parking fees also encourage bicycle commuting. Bike lockers encourage transit riders to bike to the Newark commuter rail station and park & ride.

3. Is there an annual bike tour or ride promoted to the general public in your community? Please describe.

For Bike Month 2003, the Newark Bicycle Committee will sponsor the "Ride around Newark" which we hope will become an annual event. This tour will highlight projects currently being constructed and get feedback about ones under consideration.

4. Are there community bike clubs, bicycle advocacy organizations or racing clubs? Please describe.

The Newark Bicycle Committee meets every six weeks to coordinate bicycle planning and advise City Council. The White Clay Bicycle Club holds frequent on-road rides in Newark for cyclists of varying abilities. The Delaware Trail Spinners offers frequent trail rides in and around Newark and organizes volunteer trail maintenance activities.

5. Do you have Safe Routes to School program that includes bicycling? How many schools are involved?

The Delaware General Assembly approved funding for a Safe Routes to School Program last year, and authorized Delaware's Department of Transportation to develop program guidelines. Many area schools anticipate applying when guidelines become available.

6. Does your community have youth recreation and intervention programs that are centered around bicycling?

No

7. Do you publish a bike map and keep it up to date?

Yes, printed and online maps are available and updated periodically.

8. Please describe any other efforts in your community to encourage cycling.

EVALUATION & PLANNING

1. Do you have any information on the number of trips by bike in your community? Please describe.

According to a survey of 189 people in the Newark area done by WILMAPCO at Newark Community Day, 18 percent ride daily, 38 percent ride 1-6 times per week, and 20 percent ride 1-3 times per month. The 2000 Census indicates that 1.6 percent of the population bicycles to work, down from 3.3 percent in 1990.

2. How many cyclist/motor vehicle fatalities have occurred in your community in the past five years?

From 1997 through 2000, 2 bicycle fatalities occurred.

3. How many cyclist/motor vehicle crashes have occurred in your community in the past five years?

From 1997 through 2000, there were 85 bicycle crashes in Newark.

4. Do you have a system in place that allows bicyclists to submit ideas and concerns to public officials? Please describe.

Residents can speak at Council meetings to submit their ideas and concerns or privately contact the Mayor or their City Councilperson. Residents may also submit project ideas to WILMAPCO for consideration in our Transportation Improvement Program. A project submission form is available on our web site.

5. Do you have a comprehensive bicycle plan? Please include a copy. When was it passed or updated? Is it funded? What percentage has been implemented?

A comprehensive bicycle plan was adopted in 1996 and is currently being updated. Since its adoption, much progress has been made including:

- Newark Bicycle Committee formed
- More than \$4 million spent improving facilities in and around Newark
- Correction of security problems on Christina Parkway sidepath funded
- Iron Hill Bikeway bypassing I-95 ramps funded
- 1.7 mile Amtrak Bikeway under construction
- Section of Pomeroy rail trail built
- East-west bike route to serve Main Street designed
- Academy Street bicycle lane added

(All) (Most) **(Some)** (Few) (None)

6. What improvements do you have planned for the following year?

- Complete Amtrak Bikeway
- Construct Paper Mill Road bike lanes
- Construct Iron Hill bikeway
- Complete design of transit hub/Pomeroy line from Delaware Ave. to Main Street

7. How integrated is your bicycle network? Do trails, bike lanes, and bike routes connect with each other to provide seamless transportation options?

Currently some gaps in bicycle network, due to poor bicycle level of service on many Newark arterial and collector roads. Off-road option will improve safety and completeness of bicycling network.

8. Have you evaluated your transportation network and prioritized bicycle improvements based on hazards and needs?

Yes, many of the projects currently funded address areas with multiple bicycle crashes. Safety used as criteria for selecting projects for funding.

9. What are the three primary reasons your city deserves to be designated as a Bicycle Friendly Community?

- i. **Through the perseverance of the Mayor, City Council, the University of Delaware and the Newark Bicycle Committee, substantial investment has been made recently to improve bicycling facilities in Newark.**
- ii. **Newark is seen as the model "Bicycle Friendly Community" both by its own residents and by others in the region.**
- iii. **While Newark is proud of its accomplishments, this positive feedback would encourage the City to continue its work.**

10. What are the three aspects of your community most in need of improvement in order to accommodate bicyclists?

- i. **Increased maintenance of bicycling facilities.**
- ii. **Better education for and enforcement of aggressive and speeding drivers and dangerous bicycling.**
- iii. **Safety improvements along arterial roadways.**

ENFORCEMENT

1. Is your local police department aware of the concerns of cyclists in your community? Is there a liaison that communicates with the bicycling community?

Yes. The Newark Police lead Newark's Traffic Committee, which frequently advises the City Council on bicycling issues in coordination with the Newark Bicycle Committee. Newark Police have also worked with us to identify bicycle crash locations and analyze the causes to determine areas where safety concerns exist.

University of Delaware Public Safety has also been a partner in improving community conditions for cycling. The Assistant Director serves on the Bicycle Committee and coordinates Bike Month activities each year. Public Safety also offers a voluntary Bicycle Identification Program.

2. Do you offer specific training to police officers regarding traffic law as it applies to bicyclists?

No

3. Do you use targeted enforcement to encourage cyclists and motorists to share the road safely?

Enforcement primarily takes place in downtown Newark along our Main Street.

4. Do you have public safety employees on bikes? Indicate the number of employees on bike as well as the size of the entire staff.

The Newark Police Department and the University of Delaware Public Safety Department both have officers who patrol on bicycle. The Newark Police Department has 56 officers, many of whom serve on bicycle patrol on a seasonal basis. The University has 11 officers in the bicycle patrol unit, out of a staff of 47 officers.

5. Do you have a mandatory helmet law? To what ages does it apply?

Delaware's mandatory helmet law was adopted in 1995. A person under sixteen years of age shall not operate, ride upon, or ride as a passenger any bicycle, unless that person is wearing a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet. The law also requires State agencies to continue and improve their efforts to educate young bicyclists and make safety helmets available to them all.

6. Do you have mandatory sidepath laws? If so, what is the status of these laws? Are they enforced?

No

FEEDBACK

1. How has completing this application affected your awareness of improvements which may be made for bicyclists?

Completing this application has increased my awareness that Newark, the leading bicycle-friendly community in the State of Delaware, still has much we should be doing. While the community has put substantial investment in developing its bicycling routes, more emphasis is needed in bicycling education, maintenance and enforcement.

2. Are you planning any new projects based on your involvement with the Bicycle Friendly Community program? Please describe.

While many new facilities are currently being built or are funded for construction, we don't expect any new project in the short term. We do, however, hope that the designation will promote better maintenance and enforcement.

3. How do you foresee this designation affecting your community's outlook on bicycling?

We see this designation as a way of adding to the pride this community feels about its growing bicycling facilities. The designation will be an incentive to continue the level of investment that has been made over the years, and improve areas that are lacking.

4. How do you foresee this designation affecting future bicycle improvement efforts?

We anticipate that the guidance which comes with designation will encourage the community to improve maintenance of existing bicycling facilities and increase the amount of education and enforcement that is done.

5. Are you aware of other communities which should be involved with this program? Please list below.

No, Newark is a leader in bicycling within the Wilmington metropolitan region.

Thank you for completing this application. Please attach photos, planning documents, press clippings or anything else you think will enhance your application.

A committee will score your application and consult with local cyclists in your community. The League will then notify you about your award or a recommendation for continued improvements and reapplication.

The League recognizes newly designated Bicycle Friendly Communities with award levels of platinum, gold, silver or bronze for one year. A simple renewal form to compliment your original application can continue your designation and upgrade your designation. All applicant communities are also eligible for national awards for significant achievements and model community programs.