



CITY COUNCIL MEETING STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: July 18, 2022		Subject: Receipt of the Bronze “Walk Friendly” Communities designation Staff Member: Chris Neamtzu, AICP, Community Development Director Department: Community Development	
Action Required		Advisory Board/Commission Recommendation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance 1 st Reading Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance 2 nd Reading Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Information or Direction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Council Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Consent Agenda		<input type="checkbox"/> Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Denial <input type="checkbox"/> None Forwarded <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable Comments: N/A	
Staff Recommendation: N/A			
Recommended Language for Motion: N/A			
Project / Issue Relates To:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Goals/Priorities: Goal 1 – Increase mobility for all in Wilsonville	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted Master Plan(s): 2020 Transportation System Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	

ISSUE BEFORE COUNCIL:

For the third time, the City of Wilsonville has been recognized by the Walk Friendly Communities (WFC) program with a bronze level designation for prioritizing pedestrians and creating safe and inviting places to walk throughout the community.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City of Wilsonville was originally named in 2011, re-designated in 2016 and now again in 2022 as a Bronze level Walk Friendly Communities (WFC) designee. The Walk Friendly Communities program recognized twenty-three cities and towns from across the U.S. for prioritizing pedestrians and creating safe and inviting places to walk. The WFC designation is awarded based on a detailed review of a community's sustained efforts to elevate the needs of pedestrians across all areas of transportation programs.

These communities also offer examples of steps that other cities and towns can take to improve walkability and safety. WFC issued two Platinum-level communities, four Gold-level, four Silver-level, and 12 Bronze-level designations.

WFC is a national recognition program developed to encourage cities and towns across the country to develop and support walking environments with an emphasis on safety, mobility, access, and comfort. Managed by the University Of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center (HSRC), the program distinguishes communities leading the way in walkability and seeks to share their stories to inspire other communities to move toward their own innovative solutions.

"We are impressed by the commitments these communities have made to plan and design their communities around people on foot," said Dan Gelinne, WFC program manager. "We hope these communities can offer inspiration to others as they work to prioritize pedestrian safety and walkability."

The WFC program is the first national program to highlight walkability initiatives and programs. At the core of the WFC program is a comprehensive web-based assessment tool that evaluates community walkability and pedestrian safety related to engineering, education, encouragement, evaluation, and planning. The assessment tool is intended to both evaluate conditions for walking and provide communities with specific feedback and ideas for improving walkability. To learn more about Walk Friendly Communities, visit www.walkfriendly.org.

About the Walk Friendly Communities program:

- The Walk Friendly Communities program designates cities and towns across the country for their efforts in prioritizing pedestrians and creating safe and comfortable places to walk.
- Walk Friendly Communities is a national recognition program and the first in the country to highlight initiatives and programs.
- Cities and towns submit their information about their efforts via an assessment tool to evaluate conditions for walking and safety.
- In the 12 years since the program began, the Walk Friendly Communities program has recognized 82 cities and towns across 32 States.
- Walk Friendly Communities offer examples of steps that other cities and towns can take to improve walkability and safety.

EXPECTED RESULTS:

Receipt of the Bronze level WFC designation for the community will ensure a continued focus on the provision of functional multi-modal transportation facilities and quality pedestrian and bicycle facilities into the future.

TIMELINE:

The Bronze WFC designation is valid for a period of 5-years (2022-2027). It is the City's goal to achieve Silver status at the next opportunity for validation.

CURRENT YEAR BUDGET IMPACTS:

None.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROCESS:

The community has participated in the creation of the Transportation System Plan (TSP) that includes the Capital Improvement Project list for streets and off-street trails.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OR BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY:

Receipt of this designation will result in a continued focus to provide safe and functional pedestrian and bicycle facilities and programs. Other benefits include:

- Safety – designing streets for people instead of cars improves safety for all users.
- Health – regular physical activity reduces the risk of chronic disease and improves quality of life for people of all ages.
- Equity – prioritize and invest in travel modes that serve all members of the community.
- Environment – more walking, biking and transit use means less air pollution from motor vehicles and a reduced dependence on fossil fuels.
- Economic – walkable communities draw investment from residents, businesses, and tourists alike.

ALTERNATIVES:

N/A

CITY MANAGER COMMENT:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Press Release
- B. List of Walk Friendly Communities