

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

CITY COUNCIL POLICY No. 2013 – 02

BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY POLICY

WHEREAS, a goal of the City of Portsmouth’s 2005 Master Plan is to “provide for safe and convenient bicycle and pedestrian circulation throughout the City;” and

WHEREAS, in support of that goal, an objective of the Master Plan is to “incorporate and formalize bicycle/pedestrian needs into city transportation planning, policies and ordinances;” and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that increasing bicycle use can:

- Improve the environment by reducing the impact on residents of pollution and noise, limiting greenhouse gases, and improving the quality of public spaces.
- Reduce traffic congestion by shifting short trips out of single occupancy motor vehicles. This will also make our City more accessible for public transport, walking, essential car travel, emergency services, and deliveries.
- Save lives by creating safer conditions for bicyclists and as a direct consequence improve the safety of all other road users.
- Increase opportunities for residents of all ages to participate socially and economically in the community, regardless of income or ability.
- Boost the economy by creating a community that is an attractive destination for residents, tourists and businesses.
- Enhance recreational opportunities, especially for children, and further contribute to the quality of life in the community.
- Improve the health and well being of the population by promoting routine physical activity.

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council adopts the following policy:

Accommodating bicycles and improving safe bicycle travel shall be integrated into municipal decision-making, practices and processes in order to:

1. Provide safe and convenient bicycle access to all parts of the community through a network of on-and off-street facilities, low-speed streets, and secure parking.
2. Establish information programs to promote bicycling for all purposes and to communicate the many benefits of bicycling to residents and businesses.

3. Make the City a model employer by encouraging bicycle use among its employees.
4. Ensure all city policies, plans, codes, and programs are updated and implemented to take advantage of every opportunity to create a more bicycle-friendly community.
5. Educate all road users to share the road and interact safely.
6. Enforce traffic laws to improve the safety and comfort of all road users, with a particular focus on behaviors and attitudes that cause motor vehicle/bicycle crashes.
7. Promote intermodal travel between public transport and bicycles.

This policy shall take effect upon the passage by the City Council.

Adopted by the Portsmouth City Council on: **October 7, 2013.**
Ratified by the Portsmouth City Council on: January 13, 2014.
Ratified by the Portsmouth City Council on: January 11, 2016.
Ratified by the Portsmouth City Council on: January 16, 2018.
Ratified by the Portsmouth City Council on: January 8, 2020.
Ratified by the Portsmouth City Council on: January 24, 2022.
Ratified by the Portsmouth City Council on: January 16, 2024.

Kelli L. Barnaby, MMC, CMC, CNHMC
City Clerk