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To: Local Media

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Houghton named a Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists

City receives award for third time since 2010

HOUGHTON – Today, the League of American Bicyclists recognized Houghton with a Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) award, reaffirming its standing among more than 400 visionary communities from across the country.

With the announcement of 65 new and renewing BFCs today, Houghton remains part of a leading group of communities, in all 50 states, recognized as “bike-friendly.” Houghton’s first BFC award was in 2010 at the Bronze level, and in 2013 the city gained Silver status which it maintains with this announcement, following its re-application last summer.

“We applaud these communities for making cycling a safe and convenient option for transportation and recreation,” said Bill Nesper, Executive Director at the League of American Bicyclists. “We are encouraged by the growing number of leaders who see bicycling as a way to build more vibrant, healthy, sustainable and connected communities and be a part of the solution to many complex challenges faced at both the community and national levels. We look forward to continuing to work with these communities as we move closer to our mission of creating a Bicycle Friendly America for everyone.”

The national bike advocacy organization said the Silver level BFC award recognizes Houghton’s commitment to improving conditions for bicycling through investment in bicycling promotion, education programs, infrastructure and pro-bicycling policies. Ongoing planning and evaluation by the Houghton Bike and Pedestrian Committee, new bike lanes and connector

paths, and wayfinding signs along the Houghton Avenue Bike Boulevard were among many bike-friendly initiatives cited in Houghton’s application.

“We are very pleased to again be awarded the Silver level from the League,” said Houghton City Manager Eric Waara. “Our Council and Planning Commission have shown consistent and strong support for all modes of transportation, including walking and cycling, and both cyclists and motorists are striving to make Houghton safe and welcoming for all roadway users.”

The BFC program provides a roadmap to building a Bicycle Friendly Community and the application itself has become a rigorous and an educational tool in itself. Since its inception, more than 800 distinct communities have applied and the five levels of the award – diamond, platinum, gold, silver and bronze – provide a clear incentive for communities to continuously improve.

To learn more about the BFC program, visit bikeleague.org/community.

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