December 2016 Bike Board Press Release Topics (and related links)

* League of American Bicyclists: Bicycle Friendly Community Award
  + Morgantown originally applied in 2009 and was first awarded bronze in 2012. The League re-accredited Morgantown as a bronze-level bicycle friendly community on November 16th, 2016, an award that is valid for the next four years.
  + [Press Release Templates](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jNn8Qbly909YMtI9zL6xqa6r2BnxfUi81uHjQJUBlbE/edit)
  + [Report Card](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4qePqCkzyhaVmNEYjJraDVuWWM/view)
    - [Guide to understanding the report card](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4qePqCkzyhaRVdnX2MyTEstR3M/view)
  + Top three improvements needed as indicated by local surveys, and what we are doing to address them
    - Increase education for bicyclists
      * The bicycle board is actively recruiting accredited teachers for updated curriculum surrounding cycling education. The city and WVU recently resigned a memorandum for serving these classes through CPASS, with anticipated class offerings in 2017.
    - More bike lanes
      * Bike lanes were recently installed as part of the new I-79 interchange. 2016 saw major steps towards implementation of the city-wide bicycle network that will mark bike routes with an updated campaign of “sharrows” and “bicycles may use full lane” signs. Additionally, work on the Falling Run Greenspace Trails and a recent Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant will extend protected bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to underserved areas.
    - Improve public decision-making processes for transportation improvements, including bicycling improvements
      * 2016 witnessed a major refreshment to the bicycle board membership and a renewed commitment to seeking representation from all city wards as well as Greater Morgantown. Additionally, in 2016, the board formally recruited ex-officio representatives from nearly all related departments within the city. Procuring the two bicycle-related TAP grants, successfully applying for the League award, and updating the bike storage ordinance were all made possible through the combined work of these stakeholders.
* Updates to the FY2014 TAP Grant: “Enhancing Bicycle Signage and Facilities”
  + This grant addresses numerous projects identified in the 2014 MMMPO Regional Bike Plan through a two-pronged strategy. Firstly, the grant funds the installation of pavement markings called “sharrows” and R4-11 signs that read “Bicycles May Use Full Lane”. The combination of these two traffic control devices have proven safer and more effective than the previous “Share the Road” campaign and represent the [best current strategy](http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0136973) for accommodating diverse traffic on our narrow, steep, and slow roads in town. Secondly, the grant bolsters multi-modal access by funding installation of covered bicycle parking at various MLTA bus stops. Combined with the fact that 100% of MLTA’s bus fleet is equipped with bicycle racks on the front of buses, this grant eases the decision to utilize combinations of cycling and public transit.
    - Mountain Line Transit Authority recently received additional Federal Transit Authority 5307 funding (nearly $60,000) to install covered bicycle parking at various bus stops around Greater Morgantown. These funds add to the more than $80,000 allocation for shelters from the existing grant.
    - The city’s engineering department continues to work with the DOH to finalize the sharrow and R4-11 sign locations with anticipated installation in 2017.
    - Note to Krista: I created a 2.5 minute multimedia presentation about the sharrows and BMUFL signs that you can see [here](https://spark.adobe.com/video/rkken). It might be helpful for you to watch for some background information about the campaign. The bike board has expressed interest in putting this video on the city’s public access channel, but we would like to replace the images in the video with more Morgantown-specific pictures. Let me know what you think of this and if you can help us polish this video for distribution.
* FY2016 TAP Grant: “Morgantown Multi-Use Path Along WV 705”
  + The [announcement](http://www.governor.wv.gov/media/pressreleases/2016/Pages/Governor-Tomblin-Announces-Transportation-Alternatives-and-Recreational-Trails-Grants.aspx) from the governor’s office.
  + Although the reconstruction of 705 was welcome and provided many improvements for motor vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists will benefit hugely from this new grant that was just procured by Morgantown in November 2016. The current proposal accepted by the DOH describes construction of a multi-use path on the east/northeast side of 705 from the Mileground roundabout to at least Stewartstown Rd, and a combination of multi-use paths and/or bicycle lanes from Stewartstown Rd. to Willowdale. Additionally, the grant aims to install crosswalks at various intersections across 705 between Stewartstown and Willowdale. It is one of the largest TAP grants in this current cycle. As a reminder, these TAP grants, though secured, are awarded on a narrative proposal and must all go through a detailed design and review process that will result in finalized plans.
* Bike lanes at new interchange (contact AECOM and / or DOH for comments on design and pictures)
  + Bicycle lanes were installed with the new I-79 interchange at the University Town Center.
* The updated bicycle storage ordinance
  + The recent bicycle storage ordinance passed in [September 6th's regular council meeting](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/wp-content/uploads/9.6.16-Reg.-Mtg.-Minutes.pdf) extends the bicycle facility requirements in certain types of development around Morgantown. The previous ordinance was limited to new development only within the downtown, B4 district. The new ordinance modifies the short- and long-term bicycle storage requirements as well as the geographical boundaries of the enforced zone. See exhibit B in the council meeting minutes for compelling rhetoric from one of our previous chairs and exhibit C for a comparison of our new storage ordinance with other cities around the USA.
  + More information can be requested from Morgantown’s Office of Development Services