

October 28, 2016

PeopleForBikes  
PO Box 2359  
Boulder, CO 80306

Dear Mr. Wagenschutz,

Please receive this letter as a statement of my excitement and enthusiasm for the City of Salem's application to participate in The Big Jump. The work that PeopleForBikes will be doing through The Big Jump program is vitally important to cities that want to establish a comprehensive bicycle network for their residents. Salem is one of those cities.

The City of Salem is home to a vibrant bicycling culture comprised of riders of all ages and skill levels. We have worked tirelessly to provide first-rate bicycle facilities city-wide to meet the needs of our bicycling community. Our transportation network includes a bicycle lanes and multi-use paths designed to ensure that all users can access Salem's commercial and recreational attractions. We have supplemented that network with amenities such as bike racks, bike lockers, and a newly updated bicycle map. The Salem City Council recently adopted a resolution naming Salem a member of the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) program, which will make Salem eligible for grants to be used on upgrading bicycle infrastructure.

The City of Salem's goal for The Big Jump is to study our downtown in order to maximize the efficiency of the existing network and to identify opportunities for growth. We seek to improve the bicycle connections between downtown and the other areas of the city in order to provide users with access to everything Salem has to offer. A major connection set to be completed in Fall 2016 is the Peter Courtney Minto Island Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge. Once completed, this bridge will connect downtown Salem to 1,200-acre Minto-Brown Island Park and its 19 miles of trails. I believe The Big Jump is a wonderful opportunity to get the best out of this new bridge and other potential connections.

I would like to reiterate our energy and enthusiasm for bicycling and for the possibilities that would be opened by our involvement in The Big Jump. This great program can help the City of Salem to get the best out of a strong existing bicycle network, as well as to educate our entire population about what is available to them. On behalf of the City of Salem I thank you for the opportunity to apply for The Big Jump, and I eagerly anticipate becoming involved in this important effort.

Sincerely,

Mayor Anna Peterson  
City of Salem