

NEWS RELEASE

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Association of Pedestrian & Bicycle Professionals Announces 2011 Award Winners

CHARLOTTE, NC—The **Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals** (APBP) has announced the winners of its awards program to honor excellence in the profession. The awards were presented at APBP's annual meeting on October 25, 2011 in Charlotte, NC.

Recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award are **Mary Meletiou** of Raleigh, NC and **Tom Huber** of Madison, Wisconsin. **Nicole Freedman** of Boston, MA was honored as the Professional of the Year – Public Sector and **Marc Jolicoeur** of Velo Quebec received the Professional of the Year – Private Sector. Young Professional of the Year was awarded to **Brian Graham** of Greenville, SC.

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** recognizes individuals who have made a substantial commitment to the profession and who have shown excellence in the field of bicycle and pedestrian planning, design, advocacy, and/or education. The award distinguishes those whose vision and determination have made their communities better places to bicycle and walk and who inspire the rest of us. The **Professional of the Year Awards** recognize the achievements of pedestrian and bicycle professionals made during the 12-month period between the summer of 2010 and the spring of 2011. The **Young Professional of the Year Award** is given to recognize an individual who is relatively new to the field and who has shown remarkable passion and motivation in advancing these sports in their communities.

In 1975, **Mary Meletiou** began quietly influencing bicycling in North Carolina. Known for her energy and vision, her 33-year career with NCDOT and ITRE resulted in the development of many programs and initiatives to promote safe bicycling and walking. Of note are the enduring 7-lesson Basics of Bicycling program and establishment of a mini-grant

program to fund local school systems; the early development of the NC Safe Routes to School program; the creation of a curriculum to train law enforcement officers; and a series of workshops for planners and engineers on designing bicycle and pedestrian facilities. In addition, she created and oversaw the implementation of a Planning Grant Initiative to encourage communities to develop comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plans. Mary stimulated bicycle tourism in NC, creating cross state maps and working closely with localities to produce 20 county bicycle maps and 11 urban area bicycle route maps.

Tom Huber served as the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator from 1992 until his retirement in 2011. He developed Wisconsin's first ever bicycle and pedestrian plans and design guides. He was instrumental in creating regional bicycle maps for use not only by bicyclists, but for planners and engineers who used the maps to improve conditions for cyclists. Tom was pivotal in putting into action the 2009 Wisconsin Pedestrian and Bicycle Accommodation law which addresses Complete Streets. Tom has served on several national research and technical committees and is also a founding member of APBP.

Nicole Freedman of Boston, MA has led Boston's remarkable transformation from a city routinely cited as one of the worst for bicycling to becoming a truly bicycle-friendly city. In October, 2010, Boston celebrated the installation of 20 miles of new on-street bikeways doubling the growth rate from the previous year. In 2011, the city is on target to install up to another 20 miles. Nicole has pushed to incorporate the most advanced types of bicycle treatments in these facilities, including bike boxes and cycle-tracks. Nicole brought together an impressive range of public and private donors to finance the bike share system which was procured, through her leadership, by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council so that neighboring communities could share in the system. Hubway grew twice as fast in the first month than similar systems in Denver and Minneapolis, adding more than 3,400 annual subscribers and logging more than 100,000 station to station trips. Based on this success, funding is being lined up for expansion in Boston.

Marc Jolicoeur has been Research Director at Vélo Québec since 1995. He authored Canada's most comprehensive design guideline "Planning and Design for Pedestrians and Cyclists: A Technical Guide", published in 2010. Marc also served as research director for "Bicycling in Québec in 2010," released in May 2011 in both French and English. He has provided training in pedestrian and cyclist-friendly infrastructure to more than 500 professionals across Canada. He also coordinates technical support to over 300 municipalities and

organizations involved in the development and operation of the *Route verte*, a 5,000 km bicycle network spanning the province of Québec.

Brian Graham has been a key player in implementing Greenville's Trails and Greenways Master Plan started in 2008, including, amongst other projects, a multi-use trail in a "special emphasis" neighborhood, that will connect hundreds of new homes and apartments to a regional, 14-mile greenway. Brian, as a member of the planning committee, also helped to drive the development of a Bicycle Master Plan for the city and continues to have actively pursued pursuing additional property for more hiking and mountain biking trails inside the city. Brian organized a monthly community lunchtime bike ride to get more residents comfortable with bicycling and bike-commuting, and he organizes a number of volunteer events throughout the year as part of his role with Bikeville, the City of Greenville's bicycle-friendly community initiative. He possesses the technical knowledge, experience, and most importantly the drive to make a difference in his community.

The Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals provides expertise for sustainable transportation and is the only professional membership organization for the discipline of pedestrian and bicycle transportation. APBP members are employees of all levels of government, consulting firms and non-profits who work in the engineering, planning, landscape architecture, police, safety, health and promotion fields and specialize in improving conditions for bicycling and walking. For more information about the organization, visit www.apbp.org.