

Four new projects to increase cycling in Charlotte, add to city vibrancy, with more than \$300,000 from Knight Cycling Fund at Foundation For The Carolinas

CHARLOTTE – Four projects aimed at increasing the visibility and viability of cycling in Charlotte have recently received support from the Knight Cycling Fund at Foundation For The Carolinas.

The Cycling Fund was announced in March 2015 with \$600,000 from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. In partnership with Foundation For The Carolinas, the fund was designed to improve neighborhood life and create incentives for talented people who are making Charlotte their home. The initiative builds on city efforts to increase cycling routes and encourage more connection and coordination among the many enthusiastic cycling organizations.

“These projects will help make cycling in Charlotte the norm, while fostering strong community connections and adding to our city’s vibrancy,” said Susan Patterson, Knight Foundation program director for Charlotte. “They are part of creating a Charlotte where talented people want to live, work and help shape the future of their city.”

The projects are:

Sustain Charlotte (\$205,000): To hire a bike program manager to increase outreach and coordination among cycling organizations.

Partners for Parks (\$148,000): To organize a series of open street events in partnership with the county Parks and Recreation Department and other city and county agencies.

Charlotte Center City Partners (\$120,000): To increase family rides across the city as part of the B-Cycle program, the largest bike sharing system in the Southeast.

Trips for Kids (\$83,125): To offer train-the-trainer classes so that cycling instructors can increase awareness of safe cycling among kids and adults.

“Our message to our leaders is that investments in bicycle infrastructure and programs lead to education, economic and civic opportunities,” said Jordan Moore, bike program manager at Sustain Charlotte. “Our goal is to empower all citizens to support this progressive, sustainable form of transportation.”

“So much of our public health is determined by how we choose to travel,” said Scott Curry, pedestrian manager for Charlotte’s Department of Transportation. “We are thrilled to join an initiative that is all about promoting walking and bicycling as active, healthy transportation!”

“Charlotte B-cycle is excited to encourage cycling throughout the city by working with leaders within communities to develop family bike rides,” said Dianna Ward, B-cycle leader.

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“We're thrilled to have the opportunity to build our team and start teaching all parts of the community how to ride a bicycle safely,” said Trips for Kids board member Richard Winters.

For more information, visit www.ffc.org.

About Foundation For The Carolinas

Foundation For The Carolinas is a nonprofit community foundation serving donors and a broad range of charitable purposes in North and South Carolina. With assets of more than \$1.6 billion, the Foundation encourages and makes possible philanthropic giving by individuals of all means to benefit their communities. Visit www.ffc.org.

About the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Knight Foundation supports transformational ideas that promote quality journalism, advance media innovation, engage communities and foster the arts. We believe that democracy thrives when people and communities are informed and engaged. For more, visit www.knightfoundation.org.

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