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MCT TRAILS HONORED BY LEAGUE OF ILLINOIS BICYCLISTS
MCT Received League’s “Innovation Award” at Annual Bike Summit This Week

GRANITE CITY, ILL., APRIL 21, 2014… With National Bike Month just two weeks away, Madison County Transit (MCT) received the League of Illinois Bicyclists’ first ever “Innovation Award” for the development and ongoing enhancement of the MCT Trails bikeway system. The award was presented to MCT Managing Director Jerry Kane last Tuesday at the League’s annual Illinois Bike Summit, held in Champaign, Illinois.

Since the 1990s, MCT has developed more than 115 miles of separated, inter-connected bikeways in Madison County, known as the MCT Trails. Constructed on former railroad rights-of-way, these trails have become a magnet for new homebuyers and tourists from throughout the Midwest.

“I’ve always been impressed by MCT’s extensive bike trail system,” said Dick Westfall, Vice-President, League of Illinois Bicyclists. “When you look at the state of Illinois, the MCT Trails really stand out, so we wanted to recognize MCT and show our appreciation for their efforts.”

Unique among its peers, MCT is one of the only transit systems in the country to operate a completely integrated bus and bikeway system, with bike racks on buses and bus stops at MCT Trail crossings.

“The fact that MCT is a transit agency which had the vision to see bike trail development as part of its mission, is truly innovative,” said Westfall. “Converting those abandoned railways to trails – which provide transportation and recreation for the public – is a great use of those corridors because bike trails are important. They expand the market for bicycling by giving cyclists of all skill levels a chance to get out and ride.”

The League of Illinois Bicyclists is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving bicycling conditions in Illinois. The League is the statewide advocate for all Illinois bicyclists, promoting access, education, and safety.

“On behalf of the MCT Board of Trustees and MCT’s dedicated staff, we are honored to be recognized for the MCT Trails,” said Kane. “We are also grateful to the League of Illinois Bicyclists, not only for this award, but also for their ongoing support of bicyclists and bike trails throughout the state.”

For more information about the MCT Trails, visit www.mcttrails.org, e-mail trails@mct.org or call 618-797-4600.

Madison County Transit (MCT) provides multi-modal transportation services for Madison County, Illinois. MCT operates a fixed-route bus service, connecting to MetroLink; express weekday commuter service directly to and from downtown St. Louis; and seasonal express service to the Rams games and the Muny. For elderly and disabled residents who are unable to use the fixed-route buses, MCT provides complementary door to door service. MCT is also responsible for the construction and maintenance of more than 100 miles of bikeways that comprise the MCT Trails system, as well as overseeing RideFinders, the St. Louis region’s FREE carpooling and vanpooling program.

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