



Milwaukee County

Milwaukee County UW-Extension

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AASHE- STARS Committee

2401 Walnut Street Suite 102
Philadelphia, PA 19103

To the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System Program:

This letter serves as affirmation that the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's (UWM) participation with "Path to Gold- Uniting Milwaukee One Bike at a Time" qualifies for AASHE STARS innovation credit. UW-Milwaukee has participated as an original core team member, over the past year, in several ways, in order to garner community interest and support for Milwaukee's path to becoming a bicycle friendly city. UWM's participation, with Professor Schneider of Urban Planning as well as Kate M. Nelson, Chief Sustainability Officer, shares and relates the discourse for how to plan for a better bicycling community through stakeholder engagement. Since UWM students, faculty, and staff come from all over the city, UWM is a central node for transportation planning.

The Path to Gold is a broad-based effort made up of stakeholders throughout the Milwaukee area committed to building an active and engaged community with the goal of making Milwaukee a bicycle friendly community. This effort brings together leaders from the public and private sectors. In pursuit of the League of American Bicyclists' Gold Standard for a Bicycle Friendly Community for the City of Milwaukee, the Path to Gold effort is putting community needs first to drive this endeavor. The Path to Gold for ALL of Milwaukee is a path to health, public safety, prosperity, and independence. Core team members include myself representing UW-Extension, and other partners from the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin Bike Federation, Marquette University, UW-Milwaukee, and an urban planner. To date, the core team members have built a network of 66 community members, hosted a community meeting to share and improve the Path to Gold Message for all, and met with the Mayor of Milwaukee to garner his support, both in articulation of the message with residents and for financial support. UW-Milwaukee's efforts in the Path to Gold have helped build the network and influence community bicycle planning and stakeholder engagement. In the fall of 2016, UWM will host a Milwaukee Bike Summit to pull this effort together.

Warmly,

Angela D. Allen, PhD

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Community, Natural Resources & Economic Development (CNRED) Educator/Faculty