

**WEST TSA SUPPORT LETTER FROM THE LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS (OPEN LETTER ANDY CLARKE, LEAGUE PRESIDENT)**

March 16, 2011

Dear Members of the Boulder City Council:

On behalf of the League of American Bicyclists, I write today in support of allowing mountain bike access in the West TSA. Clearly a lot has been written and said on this topic in recent weeks, so I will keep my comments brief.

Over the past 25 years, I have witnessed first-hand the incredible development of the mountain bike community into an international leader in conservation, preservation and land stewardship - led by IMBA from their Boulder headquarters, and mirrored in local trail groups across the country who volunteer countless hours to trail management and development. Local trail groups, such as the BMA, have proven themselves to be proud and responsible stewards of our public lands and I encourage you to work with them and support their efforts.

As we visit Bicycle Friendly Communities (BFC) around the nation, we see the profoundly positive and inspiring impact of mountain bike trails virtually everywhere we go. Access to mountain biking opportunities such as those potentially on offer in the West TSA is now an integral component of what makes a truly bicycle-friendly community - it's part of the DNA or the blueprint of a BFC.

Boulder rightly prides itself on being one of only three Platinum-level bicycle friendly communities in the nation - and I have seen first-hand the impact Boulder has on those who visit the city. Just last month I heard the Mayor of Omaha, Neb., extol the virtues of becoming a BFC to his senior staff because of the experience he had riding a bike in your city. People are inspired by Boulder; they look to Boulder for best practices, innovation and leadership, and in almost every area of transportation and recreation policy they are not disappointed.

Ironically, given the presence in Boulder of IMBA, Bikes Belong and other major players in the bike industry, the only exception is in the area of mountain bike access. When the League designated Boulder as a Platinum level BFC, we encouraged the city of Boulder to improve its bicycle access for mountain bikes and we appreciate the progress towards this in the more urban setting of Valmont Park. With the West TSA you have the opportunity to continue along this path toward supporting mountain biking by giving additional access with a connector through this important area.

Integrating all kinds of cycling into the community, especially healthy close-to-home recreational opportunities such as mountain biking, truly is the hallmark of a 21st Century, platinum-level Bicycle Friendly Community.

Andy Clarke

President, League of American Bicyclists