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Transportation Best Practices Award Winners Announced

Garlington, Lohn & Robinson, PLLP crowned 'Grand Champion'

MISSOULA, MONTANA- December 15- Christmas came early to **Garlington, Lohn & Robinson, PLLP, Grand Champion** winner of Missoula In Motion's **2011 Transportation Best Practices Award**. At an award ceremony held earlier today in the Governor's Room at the Florence Hotel, Garlington, Lohn & Robinson, along with three other businesses, was honored with Missoula In Motion's annual, highly-coveted award and cash prize.

Garlington, Lohn & Robinson earned the title of **Grand Champion** for their holistic commitment to sustainable transportation. From initiating programs and facilities for employees, to implementing enhancements and policies for clients and colleagues, Garlington, Lohn & Robinson (GLR) provides an exemplary model to the community. In 2011, the law firm completed construction and moved into its new building downtown. This building earned LEED Gold certification in part because of the inclusion of indoor bike storage, shower and changing facilities and the decision to build downtown, one block away from the Mountain Line transfer center, without adding any parking. During construction, parking was highly impacted, and many employees shifted to alternate modes of transportation. Through the recent implementation of a pre-tax commuter benefit program, many employees continue to commute in other ways than alone in a car. GLR also installed a video conferencing system, allowing the firm to "attend" meetings and even court appearances without driving or flying. GLR intends to use the \$1000 cash prize to purchase office bikes and install bike racks in the indoor storage room.

First-time nominee **Mountain Home Montana** was presented with the **2nd Place Award** for their incorporation of sustainable transportation principles into their campus improvements, as well as the community-focused approach of their services. Mountain Home Montana (MHM) provides housing and support services to pregnant and/or parenting young women ages 16 - 24. Among other life skills, MHM teaches these young families how to use sustainable transportation. All of the families are members of the EZ pass program and are required to learn how to use the bus to access community resources. MHM also has bikes, bike trailers, and child safety seats available for both residents and staff to use for appointments, day care, and work. Completion of a new building included covered bike racks, improved parking for designated vanpool vans, and a tricycle path in the playground. MHM also allows flexible scheduling to accommodate bus commuters and one employee that saves a trip to town by sleeping at work between 12 hour shifts. Recognizing the importance of transportation options, MHM staff and residents have spent over 30 hours participating in community action efforts to improve busing, biking, and walking facilities in their immediate neighborhood. MHM will receive a \$600 cash prize and they plan to use it to provide additional bikes and trailers for their moms, forward facing child seats, and age appropriate helmets.

Missoula Aging Services received **Honorable Mention** for the various ways in which they promote sustainable transportation to their staff, clients, and volunteers. Missoula Aging Services (MAS) chose its current location because of its proximity to several Mountain Line routes, and offers EZ Passes to both

employees and volunteers. MAS provides internal incentives for sustainable commuters by holding monthly raffles for prizes such as gift cards, bike lights, and books. With fewer parking spaces than employees, MAS is aware of the impact of their parking "footprint" on the surrounding neighborhood. They make an effort to minimize overflow parking by encouraging carpooling, walking, and biking. This year, MAS piloted a loaner bike program, keeping two bikes with helmets, panniers, locks and lights in-house for staff to use during the day for work-related and personal trips. They plan to use their \$400 cash prize to continue their internal incentives program, maintain the two loaner bikes, and help purchase their own bikes.

Ecology Project International, recipients of the 2010 Employee Champion award, was presented with the 2011 Award for **Continued Excellence**. Although many past winners continue to refine and improve their transportation programs with the help of the Best Practices Award, Ecology Project International (EPI) has taken their commitment to reducing vehicle miles traveled and traffic congestion to new levels by thinking outside of their office walls. EPI maintains an office bike for daily errands, and even rents bikes from the Missoula Institute for Sustainable Transportation (MIST) when visitors come to town. This year, EPI installed additional bike parking and a building-wide video conferencing system; encouraging other building tenants to not only use the facilities, but also to participate in MIM's Commuter Challenge and receive the benefits of reduced carbon consumption. EPI's efforts have been recognized and adopted by partner organizations worldwide while they continue to inspire businesses and organizations locally.

Thanks to all our nominees for the work they do to reduce traffic congestion and improve Missoula's air quality. The complete list of 2011 nominees included Adventure Cycling Association, Adventure Life, City of Missoula Public Works Department, Ecology Project International, Garlington, Lohn & Robinson, MacArthur, Means & Wells Architects, Missoula Aging Services, Missoula Osprey, Mountain Home Montana, Mountain Line, River Road Neighborhood Leadership Team, and Rocky Mountain Research Station. If you are interested in building a better commuting program at your workplace or organization, contact Missoula In Motion.

About Missoula In Motion

Missoula In Motion (MIM), a program of the Office of Planning and Grants, was founded in 1997. MIM strives to educate Missoulians on their transportation options for both school and work commutes. Through various outreach projects and events, including the Way to Go! Club, MIM promotes the many sustainable transportation options offered in the Missoula community in an effort to reduce congestion, pollution and stress, while promoting both individual and community health.

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