

City of Lewiston Press Release

Members of the Media: Below please find a press release announcing that **Lewiston City Councilor Craig Saddlemire is the recipient of a Bicycle Coalition of Maine “Just Do It” award**. Any media coverage that you could render would be greatly appreciated. Thanks, Dottie

**PRESS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



LEWISTON: **Lewiston City Councilor Craig Saddlemire is the recent recipient of the Just Do It award by the Bicycle Coalition of Maine.** Nominated by Auburn Mayor Jonathan LaBonte, Saddlemire was touted as an active advocate for effective non-motorized and public transportation options, to include the development of a Lewiston-Auburn Bike-Ped Committee.

Upon hearing of his selection for the award, Saddlemire responded, ***“It feels good to receive recognition for my efforts, but there are many other hardworking volunteers and staff in both Lewiston and Auburn who have been critical to the progress of the LA Bike-Ped Committee. I think the Just Do It award really belongs to all of us in L-A.”***

In his nomination, LaBonte stated, ***“I came to know Craig before I ran for Mayor and have respected his passion for building a sustainable city. Now, as Mayor of Auburn, it has been exciting to have an energetic visionary like Craig as a partner on the east side of the Androscoggin with a laser focus on the importance of building a walkable and bikeable Lewiston-Auburn.”***

Saddlemire is a Lewiston filmmaker who likes to ride! He is an alumnus of the first class of the Coalition’s Community Spokes Program and has continued to hone his advocacy efforts in and around the Lewiston-Auburn area. Since taking office as a City Councilor in 2012, Saddlemire has worked tirelessly to create the Bike-Ped Committee. His leadership and grassroots

advocacy were essential to building support for the committee's creation and momentum around efforts such as a multimodal Complete Streets Policy and advocating for a more robust update of a regional bike-ped plan. A graduate of Bates College, Lewiston, Saddle River has also championed strong local resident involvement in planning and led the creation of The Visible Community to create a voice for downtown Lewiston residents in shaping the future of their neighborhoods.

Bicycle Coalition of Maine Executive Director Nancy Grant adds ***“Craig doesn't do anything half-heartedly. When he joined our Community Spokes Team, he did it with the intention of making his advocacy a major focus of his life. He is always thoughtful, collaborative and ambitious.”***

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine was established in 1992 and serves as the statewide voice of cyclists by leading the effort to make Maine better for biking. The Coalition serves as a clearinghouse for information and resources about biking/walking in Maine; supports bike-friendly laws at the state & federal level and helps ensure they are enforced; teaches bike and pedestrian safety to children and adults; facilitates successful events such as the Great Maine Bike Swap, the Women's Ride, and the Maine Lobster Ride & Roll; trains local advocates to make Maine cities and towns more bike-friendly; promotes bicycling in Maine; and educates drivers about how to share the road with cyclists.

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