



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Pamela Blankenship
Phone: 386-226-0422 ext. 20416
Email: PBlankenship@r2ctpo.org
Website: www.r2ctpo.org
Facebook: www.Facebook.com/RivertoSeaTPO

RIVER TO SEA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (TPO) WINS FIRST PLACE IN LOVE TO RIDE FLORIDA CHALLENGE

The Love to Ride Florida Challenge was part of this year's statewide celebration of **Mobility Week**, an effort by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to help Floridians make smart, efficient and safe transportation choices. The challenge took place from October 30 to November 30, 2020 and encouraged people to get out and ride their bikes. Overall, more than 1300 people joined in with over 160 organizations competing for the top spots on the statewide leaderboards.

The **River to Sea TPO**, including our staff and committee members, took **first place** not only in our category but in **all of Florida** (more than 160 organizations)!!! In total, River to Sea TPO riders logged more than 2,700 miles over 30 days! Participants in the challenge rode their bikes then logged those trips onto the Love to Ride Challenge website (www.LovetoRide.net) to earn points. Points could also be earned by encouraging others to ride their bikes.

Nic Mostert, TPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) member and participant in the challenge stated "In October 2020, I joined the Love to Ride Florida Challenge. I was inspired by the organization's objective of promoting cycling for health and environmental considerations. During the month-long challenge, I rallied more than 20 people to either start or re-engage with their cycling."

Nic Mostert won top honors for his efforts by being awarded the Top Encourager Award, a \$500 prize bundle. Also among the individual winners was Gayle Belin, TPO BPAC member, who won the Early Bird Registration prize of a bicycle worth \$500.

The purpose of the challenge was to encourage more people cycling and more often, whether that be for fun, exercise or to work. In total, 1,303 people participated in the Love to Ride Challenge, logging more than 264,000 miles over 13,604 trips.

###

About the River to Sea TPO: The River to Sea TPO is the duly designated and constituted body responsible for carrying out the urban transportation planning and programming process for designated Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). The TPO's metropolitan planning area includes all of Volusia County and the developed areas of eastern Flagler County, including Beverly Beach and Flagler Beach, as well as portions of the cities of Palm Coast and Bunnell.

For additional information or media inquiries, contact Pamela Blankenship, River to Sea TPO Community Outreach Coordinator, at PBlankenship@r2ctpo.org or 386-226-0422 ext. 20416.