The Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota

Legislative Highlights 2010-2014

2010
In 2010, BikeMN focused on a statewide Complete Streets policy and changing the law so that bicyclists could proceed through a red light if they are unable to safely trigger the light to turn green. Both efforts were successful. BikeMN was one of the lead organizations in the Complete Streets legislation, serving on the steering committee for the Minnesota Complete Streets Coalition. BikeMN was the lead for passing the red light law.

2011
In 2011, BikeMN prioritized increased penalties for careless driving, authorization of the Mississippi River Trail State Bikeway, reauthorization of Minnesota’s Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP), funding Safe Routes to School and more. Unfortunately nothing was passed due to the state budget standoff. However, SHIP funding was extended for one year at a reduced level.

2012
In 2012, BikeMN focused on passing a vulnerable user law, creating a state Safe Routes to School grant program, authorizing the Mississippi River Trail State Bikeway and reauthorizing Minnesota’s Statewide Health Improvement Program. All but the vulnerable user law passed; it was drafted but not introduced.

2013
In 2013, two items of unfinished business from 2012 topped the legislative list: funding for the newly created state Safe Routes to School program and passing a vulnerable user law. New this year were proposals to create a Pedal Minnesota motor vehicle license plate and more changes to the traffic regulations and Operation of a Bicycle laws that would make it safer for bicyclists on the road. The legislature did provide state funding for Safe Routes to School; money for local, state and both Greater Minnesota and Metro regional trails; and enough funds to do a first-class restoration of the old Cedar Avenue bridge. They also restored funding for the Statewide Health Improvement Program nearly to previous levels. They did not, however, pass a vulnerable user law or want to talk about specialty license plates with proceeds dedicated to bike programs.

2014
In 2014, Minnesota’s Safe Routes to School program received its first appropriation for infrastructure (sidewalks, bridges, trails, roadway improvements) and the appropriation for non-infrastructure (education, planning) was doubled. The state’s trail system was also a big winner. Unfortunately only one of BikeMN’s policy priorities, the obvious hit-and-run loophole, passed this year. Vulnerable user and Operation of a Bicycle law improvements did not pass.

Bicycling keeps Minnesota moving. More than half of Minnesotans choose to get on a bike each year for vacations, recreation, commuting, fitness and fun. All those rides add up. Bicycling contributes more than 5,000 jobs and more than $1 billion to our state’s economy. Bicycling also embodies our core values of freedom, simplicity and quality of life. Approximately 73,319 Minnesotans work for a Bicycle Friendly Business. 55,012 attend Bicycle Friendly Universities and 1,298,916 people live in a Bicycle Friendly Community.

Cities from Bemidji to Winona are working on plans to attract more residents, businesses and tourists by being more bicycle friendly. Small infrastructure projects like trails and sidewalks create nearly double the number of jobs per dollar spent than highway projects.

MINNESOTA IS THE BIKE FRIENDLY STATE!

By the Numbers

- 5,000 Bicyclists ride on the Midtown Greenway daily (365 day avg)
- 73% Increase in biking in Minneapolis 2007-2014
- 33% Increase in biking in St. Paul from 2007-2014
- #2 In 2014, MN was ranked second most bicycle friendly state in the U.S.
- 15% Increase in women riding bikes from 2008-2013
- 4,000 Miles of paved state, regional and municipal bicycle trails
- 75,319 Minnesotans employed by Bicycle Friendly Businesses

260+
Projects in communities across the state that focus on creating walk and bike master plans; updating municipal plans to include Complete Streets with sidewalks and crosswalks; increasing access to parks, bikeways and other spaces to be physically active; connecting and promoting trail systems; and collaborating on projects that improve community walkability and bikeability.

Bicycling near Avon, Minn.

At BikeMN, we envision Minnesota as a state where bicycling is a safe, easy, fun and cool choice for everyone! The Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota (BikeMN) is a member-supported 501(c)(3) organization. “By the Numbers” was created 3.2015 by BikeMN.

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Bicycling near Mankato, Minn.
In northern Minnesota, Frazee garnered Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community recognition from the League of American Bicyclists (LAB). The city boasts both road and mountain bike trails. Education has been a key part of Frazee’s programming success. The town recently hosted its first Traffic Skills 101 seminar and provided bike skills training to its police force. Frazee is also home to a BikeMN Regional Education Center that teaches bike education to create an environment where people are riding confidently on roads.

Americans recognize several areas in which their communities need help. Nearly half say their communities do not have enough public transportation or housing for people with low incomes. Many say their communities lack features that provide them more pleasant places to bike, walk or exercise. Many would be willing to pay more taxes for the government to make community improvements such as new roads, sidewalks and bike trails, as well as better and expanded public transportation.

### Percent of U.S. residents wanting more:
- 48% safe places to bike
- 45% public transit
- 42% shops / restaurants
- 37% places to walk / exercise
- 33% sidewalks
- 30% parks / playgrounds
- 30% stores / offices being built
- 29% big box stores
- 26% home / apt. being built

**In Frazee:**
- BikeMN: Bike-friendly community status
- BikeMN: Traffic Skills 101 seminar
- BikeMN: Police force training
- BikeMN: Regional Education Center
- BikeMN: Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community recognition

**In Richfield, Edina & Bloomington:**
- BikeMN: Bicycle Friendly Community Status
- BikeMN: 58 Bicycle Friendly Businesses in Minnesota
- BikeMN: 1500 Bicyclists rode in the first annual Mankato River Rambles
- BikeMN: 750+ Jobs provided by the top five bicycle businesses in the metro area
- BikeMN: $1.0 million invested in bike/ped infrastructure projects creates 11-14 jobs
- BikeMN: $1B/Yr Revenue from biking in MN – as much as hunting and snowmobiling
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**Quality Bicycle Products (QBP):**
- Based in Bloomington and is the world’s largest wholesaler of bicycle parts.
- The business has grown 247% since 2000 and now has more than 600 employees.
- QBP has realized a significant reduction in health care costs due in large part to employees staying healthy and active by bicycling to work. Employees are paid a stipend every day they ride, and $45,000 per year in incentives is paid to participants.

In 2014, the average employee biked 520 miles to work for an overall total of 317,000 miles. In 2014, QBP started a new program that gifts money into an employee’s Health Savings Account when they reach monthly biking goals.

QBP experienced a 4.4% reduction in health care costs between 2009 and 2011 (beating a 24.6% national average increase) which resulted in $170,000 in annual health care cost savings.

- Based on a QBP Health Assessment done by HealthPartners

Cited sources can be found at www.bikemn.org/bythenumbers