Minnesotans have been setting the pace for the country. Here, more than almost any other state, residents are stepping up to promote safe walking and biking in their neighborhoods.

It’s incredible to recount how far Minnesota has come in terms of bike-friendliness in the past 10 years. Cities with robust cycling infrastructure programs like Minneapolis to smaller communities with only one lonely stop sign like Frazee are getting excited about the opportunities that bikes offer.

Across the state bike cops, teachers, government officials, and community members are leading slow roll-style bike rides, trying adaptive bikes, and teaching biking and walking safety in elementary schools. The variety of bike-friendly work and diversity of communities working on it is clearly one of the reasons Minnesota is one of the best places in the country to bicycle.

Bicycling creates revenue and jobs for our state. It brings tourists (and their pocketbooks) to towns for community rides and scenic adventures. Bicycling keeps us healthy and hearty. Let’s work together to make sure all Minnesotans have the opportunity for safe bicycling where they live, work, and play.

Minnesotans Support Safe Walking and Biking

The Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota (BikeMN) works throughout the state to unite and strengthen bicycle advocacy, provide education, and work for a more bicycle friendly Minnesota.

www.bikemn.org  •  /bikemn

The bi-annual summary of current research and data about the state of active transportation in Minnesota produced by the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota (BikeMN).

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

Bicycling keeps Minnesota moving.

Nearly half of Minnesotans choose to get on a bike each year for vacations, errands, recreation, commuting, fitness, and fun. All those rides add up to about 90 million trips and 180 million miles. The bicycle industry alone contributes more than 5,500 jobs and supports nearly $800 million in economic activity in our state. Approximately 65,000 Minnesotans work for a Bicycle Friendly BusinessSM, 73,000 attend Bicycle Friendly UniversitiesSM, and 2.5 million people live in a Bicycle Friendly CommunitySM.

Cities from Bemidji to Winona are working on plans to attract more residents, businesses, and tourists by becoming more bicycle friendly. Small infrastructure projects like trails and sidewalks create nearly double the number of jobs per dollar spent than highway projects. Cities are also working on plans to make their communities safer for youth to walk and bike to school.
In the past 40 years, the percentage of children who walk or bike to school has plummeted from 47.7% to 12.7%. During this same time, the number of MN children who are overweight or obese has skyrocketed to 27%.  

In 2017, MN was ranked second most bicycle friendly state. 

Students at five elementary and middle schools in Sartell, Sauk Rapids, and St. Cloud are now able to safely walk or bike to school each day because of new sidewalks, bike lanes, safe-speed signage and crossing guard stations connecting neighborhoods and schools. 

Community members in Lake City banded together in 2017 to lobby the City Council to give Lakeshore Drive/U.S. Hwy 61, which cuts through downtown, a “road diet” by reducing it from four lanes to three lanes to make it safer for pedestrians and bicyclists.

550+ educators trained to teach walking and biking safety since 2013. 

55% of Minnesotans walk in their community at least once a week.

14% increase in both walking and biking in Saint Paul 2015-2016.

58% of millennials support government providing alternatives to driving such as walking, biking, and public transit.

46% lower odds of Metabolic Syndrome among bike commuters.

36% of the state’s population bicycles at least once a month.

87,960,000 bicycle trips taken annually in Minnesota.

55% of Minnesotans walk in their community at least once a week.

23% increase in walking in Minneapolis 2007-2016.

65,000 people employed by MN Bicycle Friendly Businesses.

$8.5M was spent by visitors while attending bike-related events.

62 Bicycle Friendly Businesses in Minnesota.

$14.3M of economic activity supported by bicycle event visitors.

$777.9M of economic activity in MN supported in 2014 by bicycle manufacturers and wholesalers.

1.5M bike trips annually on the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis.

1 in 5 cyclists in Greater Minnesota bicycle at least once a week.

58% of millennials support government providing alternatives to driving such as walking, biking, and public transit.

100+ small business bicycle shops in Minnesota.

46% more jobs/dollar are are created by bike/ped projects than road-only projects.

As a result of recently completed bike and walk projects, five new businesses have opened up in Battle Lake: a café, bike rental shop, dollar store, pizzeria, and restaurant. For a city of 875 people, these five new business are a major economic boost for the community.

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Photo by Jerry Hass

Photo by Duluth News Tribune

Photo by Galloping Goose Bikes

The cities of Fargo, ND, and Moorhead, MN, are working together on bike projects. Recently they’ve collaborated to replace a pedestrian and bicycle bridge over the Red River, allowing the crossing to remain open for a longer portion of the year. In 2014, the Fargo-Moorhead metro was awarded a Bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community award. The Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments has also recently completed an update to its five-year bicycle and pedestrian plan.

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