

Shift

October 2020

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota

bikeMN
BICYCLE ALLIANCE OF MINNESOTA



Photo by Lucy Bossert, courtesy of Bolder Options

Resilience

How Bicycling Encourages Resilience Through A Global Pandemic: A Closer Look at Bike Shops

by Hannah Goldfarb

In March of this year, life seemingly shut down in an instant in response to COVID-19. As Spring wore on, Minnesota slowly reopened. Businesses deemed “essential” to everyday life continued operating, from doctors’ offices to grocery stores.

Through the hard work of BikeMN’s executive director Dorian Grilley, and a few other key individuals, bike shops and manufacturers throughout the state were categorized as “essential” and tasked with staying open amid a global pandemic. BikeMN caught up with two shops to talk about their experiences, and what it meant for them to remain open, these past few months.

Outdoor Motion in Hutchinson, Minnesota was already poised for an unusual and potentially difficult season. The main way to access the shop, Highway 15, was closed for construction all summer. Chad Czmowski has owned and operated Outdoor Motion for seventeen years.

“I was really nervous about the whole year,” Czmowski said. “We cut our hours back initially because we thought business was going to be slow because of the highway shutdown.”

Admittedly, Czmowski questioned whether a little bike shop in rural Minnesota was really an essential business. He quickly came around to the idea, though.

“Especially out in the country, a higher percentage of our customers are recreational in nature, whereas if you’re in the metro people depend on their bikes for transportation more,” Czmowski explained. “As everyone else was shut down, there were three customers that came in that did depend on their bikes for transportation. They would’ve been screwed if I’d have been closed for four months. They’d have no option.”

2020 saw one of the largest increases in biking in recent years. The snow melted and it got a little warmer, but people still couldn’t go anywhere.

People quickly turned to their bikes to get outside and get active.

“As passionate cyclists, we all know how important and essential riding is to one’s physical and emotional health. It is so inspiring to see so many people embracing cycling and enjoying these benefits with us! BikeMN, as usual, has been key to making sure that cycling has been able to thrive during these times. The future for bikes has never been brighter!”

Erik Saltvold | Owner and Founder
ERIK’S Bike Shop

Across the state, statistics show that biking and walking were up 71% in mid-March compared to the year before. In Minneapolis, pedestrian and bicycle traffic on the popular West River Parkway was 144% higher than the daily average from 2017 through 2019.

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"Within the first month or so after the shutdown, it became obvious that everyone in our neighborhood had determined that life was going to be radically different, but the one thing they needed was their bicycle," explained Greg Neis, owner of Farmstead Bike Shop in Minneapolis. "Everybody used it as their escape pod, just to get some fresh air and exercise and a little bit of alone time, too."

The marked increase in biking was reflected in sales, too. Across the country, bicycle sales and service were up, with leisure bike purchase and service leading the way at a 121% increase.

The stimulus check — roughly \$1,200 in federal money given to eligible Americans — was only the beginning of the boom for Outdoor Motion. Throughout the spring, their sales skyrocketed and remained high.

"We had our best year ever. It was absolute chaos in here, the whole time," Czmowski said. "From whenever the shutdown started, until now, it's just been absolute chaos, which is good."

"Thankfully, people have been conditioned to need to wait for things before they need bikes — this spring you couldn't buy toilet paper or paper towels, or hand sanitizer," Czmowski said. "People had no problem waiting for a bike. We'd get a shipment of 40 bikes and 20 of them were pre-sold and people had no care what color they were or anything. It was just, 'I need a bike, so give me a bike.'"

Outdoor Motion sold everything from higher-end brands produced by Quality Bike Parts (QBP) to entry-level household names to meet demand.

"Unfortunately, QBP wasn't able to keep up with demand, so they weren't able to restock until very late in the year,"

Czmowski said. "We did sell a lot of the higher-end stuff. As the entry-level stuff sold out, people just bought whatever price-point we had in."

Because many bike components are produced abroad, especially in China that felt the earliest effects of the pandemic,

"The decisions of state governments to proclaim bicycling as essential transportation during the pandemic certainly benefited many retailers and businesses in the bike industry, including Quality Bicycle Products," said Rich Tauer, President of QBP. "That said, I strongly believe that the greatest benefits are to the individuals and families who discovered, or rediscovered, the transformational experience of riding bikes. The impact of that will last far beyond the pandemic, and it will benefit the health and wellbeing of people, communities, the bicycle industry, and our planet."

finding and purchasing bikes was harder than ever.

"It got to be where people were coming from all over the place to buy stuff because their local shop didn't have anything," Czmowski said. "I kind of gambled a bit and ordered a pile of bikes real early in the pandemic, so I did have bikes longer than some local shops did. That was a gamble, but it paid off. We sold 35 percent more bikes than we normally would, which was awesome."

"In March we had distributors delay orders and ask for extended terms, but since April we have been busier than ever in our history. The service departments in bike shops have been extremely busy and expanding their capacity. That, along with more people doing some repair and maintenance work at home have made this our best year ever which is exciting considering how the world stood still for a few weeks in March. We're doing our best to keep up right now but the numbers are crazy, and we expect the surge to last for at least another 12 months as we satisfy the immediate need then replenish our distribution system worldwide. Thanks to BikeMN for all your work on multiple fronts for biking and for our business. We appreciate it." - Eric Hawkins, President, Owner, and Chief Mechanic, at Park Tool

Farmstead Bike Shop saw similar increases in sales.

"We're an independent bike shop, so we have access to a lot of brands and a lot of distributors," Neis said. "For us this year, it was apparent that bike sales were going to be at least as strong as we were used to, maybe stronger. It was also apparent that there were fewer bikes in the world to be sold. We really quickly started looking for additional stock and brought in a few brands that we didn't have before to fill some gaps."

Getting the bikes proved to be the easiest part of the pandemic for Farmstead, though. Being in the urban core, a close-contact environment and where more people use their bike to commute, presented a unique set of challenges.

"Thinking back to spring is kind of amusing," Neis said. "We were, like everyone else, just trying to figure out how to manage taking care of our staff and distancing and masking. When the shutdown came along, we weren't sure whether we were going to be open or not."

Under Emergency Executive Order 20-20 released on March 27th — the same EO that Dorian helped craft — biking and walking were permitted activities, and bicycle shops and distribution facilities were classified as critical services.

"We took it really seriously right away. I worked in healthcare for many years and actually called an infection control nurse that I know," Neis said. "It was a rough couple of weeks, to be completely blunt. It took a while for us to get folks to comply with that, but I think that was happening everywhere."

Even with the transition period, Neis appreciated the sense of community that the shop was able to foster during the pandemic. Farmstead canceled all their group ride events, and their race team was unable to train together. Nonetheless, personal check-ins remained essential.

"As people check-in, we don't usually talk about mental health with half the people we deal with on a given day, but this year we are," Neis explained. "Even though all of our social rides were canceled, it's still a little bit of a community hub. That feels really good too, that's something we've always tried to foster. That's something that's strengthened at bike shops all around the country."

BikeMN in 2020 - We've Done A Lot From Home

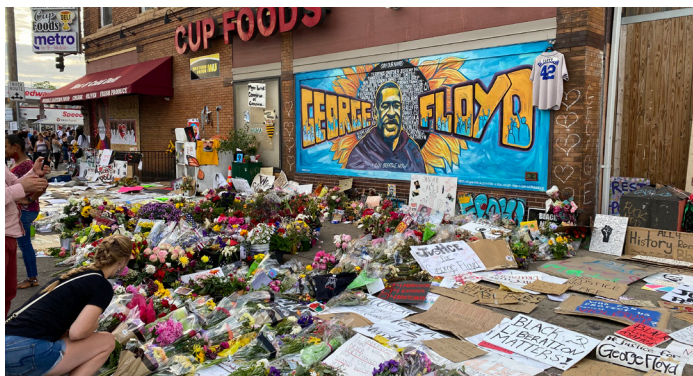
by Dorian Grilley

This year has been a challenge for everyone and we recognize that it has impacted some more severely than others. I'm quite proud to say that the BikeMN team has taken those challenges head on. I truly appreciate their innovative approaches in navigating the stay at home order, and their continued commitment to addressing all the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic. In March, we worked with our supporters to quickly shift gears and pedal into a spring and summer like no other. We've racked up some important accomplishments before and after COVID became part of our lives.

New BikeMN Team Members: I'd like to welcome Maya Sheikh, Ted Duepner, Hannah Goldfarb, and Karl Hedlund to the BikeMN team. They, along with Nick Mason and CJ Lindor, take turns staffing the office in Minneapolis. Natalie Gille (Bemidji), Michelle Kiefer (Hutchinson), and I (Mahtomedi) were working from home most days anyway. I'd also like to say thank you to Jo Olson, Will Wlizlo, and Kate Matusinec for their service as BikeMN employees and for continuing to support our work. We wish them the best with their new jobs in clean energy, safe routes to school, and bikeway planning.

Equity: I'd like to thank you all, our supporters, for helping make BikeMN the go-to voice that it is. In mid-March, I worked with the MnDOT general counsel to draft the executive order exempting biking and walking from the Stay at Home Minnesota order, and declaring bike shops essential businesses.

The pandemic wasn't the only major influence on our work. On May 25th, George Floyd was murdered by a police officer only a few blocks from the BikeMN office. The protests that followed transformed our communities, our state, our nation, and the world. Shortly



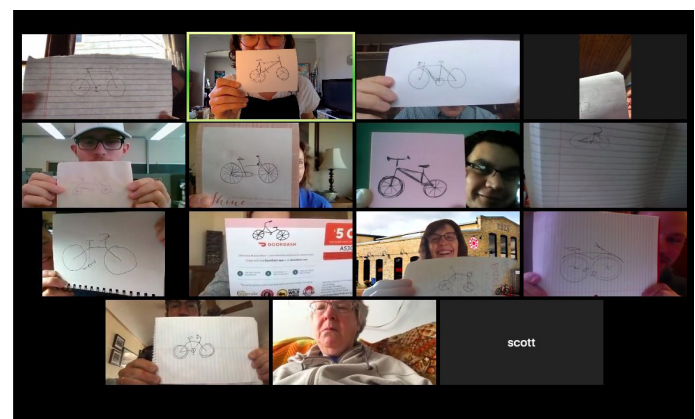
thereafter, BikeMN released a statement saying that — although we have been striving to incorporate equity in all that we do—we need to do more to be truly anti-racist. There is work to be done to transform our communities into places where it is not just safe for people to bike and walk, but places where everyone feels welcome.

We are glad to support the National Safe Routes Partnership, and the League of American Bicyclists, in removing law enforcement as one of the six pillars of the Safe Routes and Bicycle Friendly America programs. We recognize that there are healthy, community-driven relationships with law enforcement that support these programs; however, we will no longer recommend such partnerships as foundational to the start, maintenance, growth, or success of these programs.

Going Digital and Virtual: With the support of MnDOT, Michelle Kiefer and CJ Lindor, our Walk! Bike! Fun! Team, worked to produce the WBF At Home curriculum which they had translated into Spanish, Somali, and Hmong, and released in May. The curriculum is being used throughout Minnesota, in a couple other states, and even a few other countries! Michelle and CJ are now gearing up for virtual training with an emphasis on minimizing barriers to participation. And, I'm happy to say, use of our bike fleets is picking up again. We're actually quite busy!



The BikeMN Classic emerged this summer following the heartbreaking realization that we, and our partners, had to cancel all large in-person events. Our goal for this new event was to reach new people and make it easy, safe, fun, and accessible for anyone who wanted to participate throughout the state. Thanks to the many that participated and contributed really great photos of their rides. The majority of participants in the BikeMN Classic were new to our organization, and



A screenshot from one of our first Virtual Coffees! We asked people to draw a bike from memory!

We've Done A Lot From Home

it was the most diverse group that has ever participated in our events.

In addition to the BikeMN Classic, our staff was involved in planning and executing many other events - including the October River Ramble DIY. Beyond the do-it-yourself rides, we hosted many virtual events via Zoom. Hundreds of people joined us for events ranging from Morning Coffee with BikeMN to Happy Hour Bike Trivia and Bicycling Book Club discussions led by our incredible intern, Hannah Goldfarb.

It was also really exciting to see participation in the Minnesota Bike Walk Leadership Network, virtual even before the stay at home order, really pick-up over the spring and summer.

Before the stay at home order, we committed to adopting Cycles for Change's Adult Learn to Ride program after they discontinued operations in 2019. Given the challenges of reaching some of the people most stressed by the pandemic, CJ Lindor did a great job of building new relationships with other organizations to plan, advertise, and execute a Learn to Ride program. It included mobile bike shops and community rides, all while following public health safety guidelines. We were also lucky to be able to partner with Three Rivers Park District who chose use some of their stimulus funding to contract with BikeMN to provide several outdoor bike education and encouragement events at their parks.

Since our larger in-person events were cancelled, we decided to invest that time to and secured funding for updating the BikeMN.org, bikeclassic.org, and riverramble.org websites. We're very excited. Watch for the anticipated launch later this year.

Bike Friendly Rolls Ahead: This spring Detroit Lakes became Minnesota's 32nd Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC). January and July welcomed a total of eight new Bicycle Friendly Businesses bringing Minnesota's total to 94. Even cooler, Fergus Falls, with 18 BFB's, is now among the top ten BFB's cities in the nation and Walker has the most per-capita.

While much of our work to assist communities can be done remotely, it is hard to do a community assessment without actually going for a ride or walk and speaking directly with residents, business leaders, city staff, elected officials, and advocates. So, once the guidelines for safely meeting were established we were on the road again. In July I hosted a BFB workshop for businesses in a Wabasha park picnic shelter. In September Natalie and I held BFC workshops in Roseau and Thief River Falls, also socially distanced outdoors in picnic shelters. We will also be doing written community assessments for them, with virtual presentations to the city council, and possibly follow up with some virtual BFB workshops. It felt great to be visiting communities and businesses again and I/we look forward to working with Karl as he plans and executes community workshops in 2021.

Climate Change and Legislative Agenda:

BikeMN's participation in climate issues also increased this year. I applied, and was appointed to, the Sustainable Transportation Advisory Council. STAC makes recommendations to the MnDOT Commissioner to help reduce carbon pollution while prioritizing recommendations that value equity and environmental justice. As the BikeMN representative I will be advocating for greater investment in biking and walking infrastructure and programs and in other strategies that will help reduce vehicle miles traveled... a herculean task given that VMT in Minnesota is 60 billion annually!

We know that addressing climate change is a key reason why many Minnesotans choose walking and biking for transportation, and the role they play in restoring the health of an ailing planet will only increase. Biking and walking are not the only solution but they are very cost effective ones.

This year has presented special challenges to BikeMN's state level advocacy work. Our already divided Legislature was further fractured by the pandemic caused recession, subsequent deficits, and disagreements over the Governor's executive authority. This was frustrating, particularly in light of great participation in our MN Bike Walk Summit on March 5th where we made important progress toward our legislative goals. The only bright spot was that in mid-October the Legislature passed a bonding bill with \$3 million for safe routes to school infrastructure grants and several important trail projects.

This winter you can expect to hear from us regarding a BikeMN strategic plan update, an ambitious 2021 legislative agenda, and our ongoing work with communities, businesses, and schools. I hope you'll watch for opportunities to stay or get involved. And, as always, thanks for your support. We couldn't do it without you!

Dorian Grilley
Executive Director



Dorian and Margie Grilley biking the River Ramble DIY

Walk! Bike! Fun! At Home!

Walk! Bike! Fun! in the 2020 School Year

By Michelle Kiefer

When educational instruction transitioned online this Spring due to COVID, BikeMN seized the opportunity to provide new digital tools for educators to help students learn pedestrian and bicycle safety skills by developing Walk! Bike! Fun! Distance Learning Guides.

The WBF Education Team developed separate guides and activities for teachers/educators and for students and parents/caregivers to support and encourage kids getting outside and being physically active. They include educational activities like taking pictures, watching videos, recording videos, writing short essays, drawing pictures, and, of course, going for walks and bike rides.

The Walk! Bike! Fun! curriculum - a 200+ page PDF full of engaging lessons and activities for educators to teach children about safe walking and biking skills - is available as a free download on BikeMN's website (as always). The new Distance Learning Guides are also accessible on our website as a download and are printer-friendly. The Student and Parent/Caregiver Guides are available in English, Hmong, Somali and Spanish. We are thankful for the

funding from the Minnesota Safe Routes to School program at MnDOT who continue to support this important work.

It is often a struggle to get children outside and to participate in physical activities. We know how important it is, both mentally and physically, for kids to be active. We hope that many teachers, educators, and parents will take the opportunity to use the activities in our Walk Fun! and Bike Fun! Distance Learning Guides and incorporate them into a physical education, health, or social studies classes, or other places of learning such as camps or badge-earning projects. If you are using it, please share your pictures and videos with us on our Facebook group: Walk! Bike! Fun! At Home.



Remembering Dan Knuth

Dan passed away on October 5th at the age of 75. He was BikeMN's first professional lobbyist. He helped to create the state level Safe Routes to School funding program and other important legislation during our first couple years at the Capitol until he retired in 2014. Before that Dan served six years in the Minnesota Legislature in the 1980's and was key in shaping environmental policies and building a lasting funding source for protecting natural resources. Dan also worked in public affairs at 3M and as a lobbyist on issues related to criminal justice reform, transit, and, of course, biking. We will miss him dearly and wish his family and other friends many happy memories.



Photo courtesy of Kate Knuth

Reflecting on Adult Learn-to-Ride Courses in 2020

By CJ Lindor

For the past several years, community non-profit Cycles 4 Change (AKA SPOKES) has been offering Learn To Ride (LTR) classes to new adult bikers with an emphasis on women and new immigrants. Due to financial difficulties in early 2020, the organization unfortunately had to suspend programming and ultimately decided to close its doors. In late winter, BikeMN applied, and was selected, to continue the valuable work set forth in the LTR program funded by Met Council. This included offering classes, providing equipment, leading community rides, and doing pop-up bike repair events in conjunction with community partners in Minneapolis and St Paul, in the spirit of Cycles 4 Change's vision.



Community Group Ride in East St. Paul

In early March, BikeMN officially began to carry out the remainder of the LTR contract work through September 2020. Of course, very few people anticipated the dramatic ways the COVID-19 pandemic and response would affect all areas of our lives and society! While the plan called for outreach and recruitment to begin immediately in early Spring, the realities of the pandemic and mandatory stay-at-home orders necessitated a "wait-and-see approach." We quickly prepared contingency plans and reimagined how we might be able to accomplish the set programming goals. As the contours of "social distancing" solidified, we prepared for how our work would be adjusted to provide service, while also keeping participants and staff safe from transmission.

We began our initial outreach to community partners in May. We introduced the services we proposed to offer, and we inquired about who might have the interest and capacity to work with us on organizing and promoting these activities within the target communities. Obviously, this was an unprecedented and challenging time to be initiating any type of programming, particularly a new program with new partners. Nonetheless, we were lucky to find several partners willing to explore opportunities.

From that point, BikeMN worked to establish protocols for delivering in-person programming within public health guidelines and recommendations, and followed up with community partners to coordinate LTR activities. Ultimately, we collaborated with the Lexington-Hamline Community Council in Saint Paul and Pillsbury United Communities in Minneapolis. Conveniently, each of these organizations already are actively involved with providing bicycle service as part of their existing programs, with Express Bike Shop, and Full Cycle, respectively.

Working with these partners, we began activities in early August on a regular schedule at set locations in each city. We promoted these within the communities through flyers, bulletin boards, social media, e-newsletters, and printed media. We also had promotional materials translated into Somali and Spanish. In total, we hosted six Learn-To-Ride classes, six Community Rides, and eight Mobile Bike Repair sessions. The challenges of planning, promoting, and conducting in-person activities in the midst of a global pandemic almost certainly muted the overall reach and participation in the programming we offered. In spite of the numerous challenges, we were able to successfully provide quality service to 80 riders within the identified geographies, and to establish protocols that enabled us to continue programming in ways that respect and support public health guidelines.

BikeMN is devoted to ensuring that bicycling is easy, safe, and fun for all Minnesotans. With interest in cycling higher than it's ever been, and people looking for ways to be active outdoors, providing opportunities to people to increase their skills and confidence in riding is even more important. BikeMN is excited to build on the work we did this summer and continue these efforts around supporting new bicyclists in collaboration with other organizations throughout the state.



Adult Learn to Ride class in St. Paul

Some stories from the 2020 BikeMN Classic!

At BikeMN, we love seeing people on bikes. The more people that ride, the healthier, happier, and safer Minnesota is for everyone. Unfortunately, COVID-19 impacted all of us, including our normal fall fundraiser and event of the season, the Saint Paul Classic. We created and hosted our first-ever BikeMN Classic!

A Win for Others



The BikeMN Classic was a four week, do-it-yourself event with weekly photo themes to help inspire all of us to get on our bikes and take a ride! We loved seeing nearly every corner of our state through these photos, they were hilarious, creative, fun, and beautiful. One of these submitted photos was from Cyan in Fargo, Minnesota, and we reached out to them to hear more about what motivated them to participate in the BikeMN Classic.

A highschool student in Moorhead, Cyan was originally encouraged to participate by their father who was already biking in the BikeMN Classic.

In Cyan's words, "he wanted me to get out of the house."

The photo theme for week three of the BikeMN Classic was Safety and Trails/Lanes - Cyan's photo was randomly selected to win \$500 to their bike shop of choice.

"I was never expecting to win, much less win \$500. Since I had no use for it because the bike shop I use is in Fargo, [North Dakota] I gave it to my old pastor in Detroit Lakes, who passed it on to the local homeless shelter."

"All I know is that the money is being used for a good cause."

Grand Prize Winner, Pathamas Mittman

We're already missing the virtual BikeMN Classic, so we caught up with grand prize winner Pathamas Mittman from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Pat won a \$2,000 gift card to Eriks' bike shop after submitting several photos representing the weekly Classic themes. One of the pictures, submitted for the ABC Quick check theme, showed Pat filling up her tires.

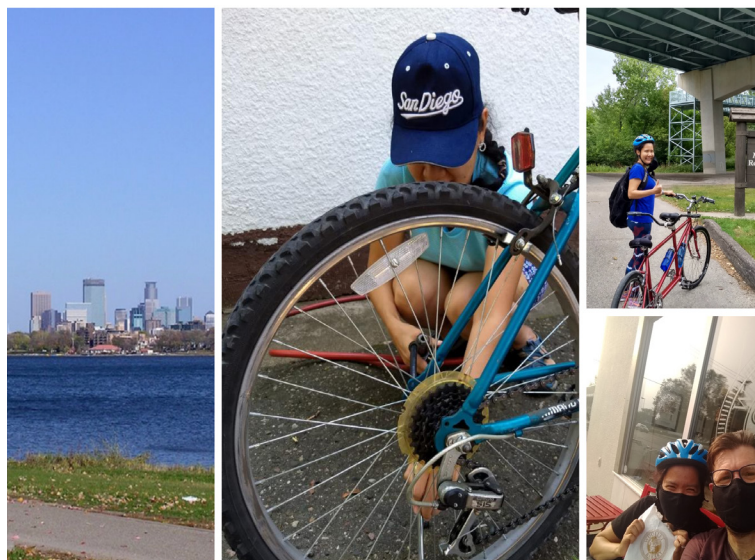
"In the first picture, I was filling up the tires of my old bike, which is quite old, hard to shift gears, and too small," Pat explained. "However, I was happy to ride even though it made me slow."

Pat and her husband decided to invest in a tandem bicycle, pictured in later photo submissions, so they could bike together. "I ride with my husband and fortunately, we still stay married after riding the tandem. We thought we should find a bike that we can ride and talk at the same time. That's where the tandem idea came from. We took our tandem to visit the park and the trails," Pat said.

The pair appreciated the weekly themes and enjoyed getting inventive with their photos. A pit stop at Fletcher's Ice Cream was a favorite of Pat's. "Every week, we tried to be creative, like what would be the prop or the theme for us this week? The last photo we took while we went to get the SNACK: we also eventually ended up finding the ice cream parlor, which turns out to be one of my favorites," Pat explained.

Hooked on the joys of riding, Pat has big plans for the prize money. "My reaction was SPEECHLESS. I was so thrilled to get the grand prize! I asked myself, 'it's for real?!'"

Although she loves the tandem, she plans on upgrading her personal bike to something faster, and a little better suited to her riding. "It was perfect timing to get the grand prize from BikeMN. We went to Erik's a couple of times. We took the test drive and probably will make a final decision real soon."



Pat's BikeMN Classic submissions

Community Spotlight: Bemidji

Fixing Bikes and Giving Them Away

Aili Kultala has fixed up more than 87 bikes recently — and she's giving them all away.

"I already knew the basics of tuning up a bike, but YouTube videos and mentors like Diane [Pittman] really helped," the Bemidji resident told BikeMN.

Kultala worked on her bikes in her spare time from serving in the Beltrami transfer station with Minnesota GreenCorps. The bikes were originally a haphazard, disorganized pile her mentor pointed out to her one day while touring the transfer station.

After fixing the bikes on her own, with friends, or with help from mentors around Bemidji, Aili says the hard part was getting the bikes in the hands of those who would use them.

"Riding a bike is exercise. It's entertainment. It's freedom and transportation. It's a whole bunch of different things," Aili said. "I didn't go into this thinking it would be difficult to give them away, but it can be a long process to connect to people who would need bikes. So far we've given them away to shelters, schools, and to Bemidji State University for workshops."

Being a female bike mechanic, although there are more now, is still not traditional. It took the support of her friends, Shifting Gears owner Diane Pittman, and others around Bemidji coming

together to get these bikes looking good as new. Aili repaired 87 bikes last summer.

"If it's just me, I can spend anywhere from an hour or more on every bike, and some bikes don't really need much so it's a lot less, but about an hour per bike is kind of average," she said.

"It's rewarding to be able to give someone a bike - especially now. It feels like a really big thing."



The organized and fixed bikes in the Transfer Station

Catch Up with Bike Bemidji

Bike Bemidji was created to celebrate biking, educate the community, encourage healthy habits and outdoor activity, and explore Bemidji's incredible sights and scenery. BikeMN got the opportunity to talk to Mur Gilman and Angie Clark, two longtime bike enthusiasts and residents of Bemidji.

After cancelling the popular Loop the Lakes Festival in early March due to COVID, the group found creative ways to encourage ridership, have fun, and spread important safety information.

Instead of in-person bicycle safety courses, Bike Bemidji supporters and trained League Cycling Instructors (LCI) created and shared educational videos on the ABC Quick Check, how to fit a helmet, how to signal, and more on their Facebook page and website. The group's bike-themed activities for BikeMonth also contained a safety message, and the goal, Mur says was to tell riders that "you don't have to be this hardcore athlete - you just have to get out and ride and have fun."

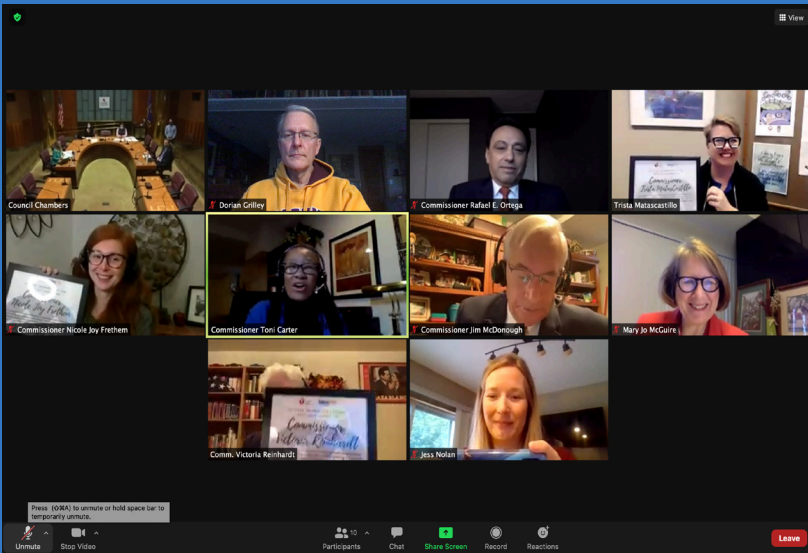
One of the few in-person events Bike Bemidji did put on was the Donut Ride. After biking to Raphael's Bakery, folks could enjoy a discounted donut while basking in the post bike ride glow. Those who attended wore masks and practiced social distancing. Bike Bemidji will try doing the Donut Ride again in non-COVID times.

At center stage for 2020, the group says they have their sights set on reapplying for a Bicycle Friendly Community award from the League of American Bicyclists, increasing ridership amongst diverse populations in the region, working alongside Tribal and Indigenous communities to increase bicycle safety education, and focusing on sustainable environmental practices. The group hopes the trend of increased interest in riding continues, and that more people will safely Loop the Lake, or get outside for a nice bike ride!



Bike Bemidji at the Donut Ride

Ramsey County Commissioners Are Active Transportation Policy Champions



On October 20th, Dorian Griley of BikeMN and Jess Nolan of the American Heart Association joined the Ramsey County Board meeting and presented all seven commissioners the first ever Active Transportation Policy Champion Award. The awards were intended to recognize jobs well done and Ramsey County's ongoing commitment to biking, walking, rolling, and connections to transit. Ramsey County was recognized for:

- A great countywide bicycle and pedestrian plan that includes policies and plans for All Abilities Transportation and Connected Communities Networks.
- Policies and plans that prioritize the safety and accessibility of the most vulnerable roadway users first.
- Having a performance measure to invest 15-20% of their construction funds towards multimodal elements of the transportation system.
- Having staff, at all levels, that are committed to and have the knowledge and experience to implement these policies

Meet Our New Staff!



Karl Hedlund

Greencorps Service Member

Karl has an inherent love for the joy transportation autonomy can bring to people's lives. In pursuit of this love, Karl has dedicated his early career towards eliminating barriers to entry surrounding active transportation. When he's not on his bike, you will find Karl harvesting local produce or hunting for budget travel opportunities.



Hannah Goldfarb

Communications & Outreach Assistant

Hannah joined BikeMN as an intern almost a year ago! Currently, Hannah is a junior at Macalester College studying political science, urban studies, and media and cultural studies. She's passionate about bike safety, active transportation, and her All City Space Horse bike. Her work with BikeMN has included coordinating the Bike Walk Summit, monthly Bicycling Book Club, and helping out with Shift.

Maya Sheikh

Communications Manager

Maya has been biking around Minneapolis with her family for years throughout the Twin Cities, and is excited to write words for BikeMN in this role. She is eager to dive into the world of transportation equity, education, and advocacy. She looks forward to learning to love a chilly bike ride, exploring Minnesota, biking to the best tacos in town, and talking to passionate Minnesotans.









Ted Duepner

Supporter Relations Manager

Ted has been using his bike as a main source of transportation year-round in Minnesota since 2003 including 15 years of commuting 20+ miles per day. Legitimizing cycling and walking for transportation has been and remains a central component of his identity. When not on his bike you may find him, canoeing, hiking, fishing, hunting, playing yard games, losing at board games, and foraging for wild foods or pretty rocks.

thank you

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of the members, donors, volunteers, and supporters who make the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota a great and effective organization. The list below represents contributors between April 1, 2020 and September 15, 2020. For monthly sustaining memberships, only those that were initiated during the period above are listed here. Local Chapter Key:  in support of Albert Lea Area Cyclists;  in support of BIKE FM;  in support of Duluth Bikes;  in support of Pedal Fergus Falls;  in support of We Bike Rochester, and  in support of Bike Thief River Falls.

Platinum

Steve Euller & Nancy Roehr
AARP


Mary Ellen Knappmiller
Kristina Clark

Rick Wiese
Gary Stelzner
Susan Stehling
David Robertson

Constance Nelson
Alyssa Kohn
Gary Blanchard
Melinda & Melinda Webster

Gold

Sandy Hunter
Sid Voss
Joshua Howe
Erik's Bike Shop

Steel Level \$250-\$499
Sharla Chenoweth
Donald Fell 
Karin Ilg
Roger Meyer
Jesse & Jamie Bergstrom

John Dietrich
Paul Epton
Craig Schardt
Paula Duthoy
Judy Emerson

Betty Grant
Brian Thinnies
Peter Connor
Barry Randall
Libby Weberg 

Silver

Joseph Olson
Park Tool
Donna Lukis
Jeremy Kershaw
Todd Milbrandt 
Peter Seed
Carol Dixen
Phyllis Kahn
Richard Keir
Hans and Barbara Gasterland
Ann McKinstry-Luepke
Janice Gepner
Krista Lang-Shasky

J Bartsch
Julia Eagles
Glen Fuerstneau
Daniel Miller
Todd Guerrero
Stefan Helgeson
Steven Lindeman
Lesley Guyton
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Some of our favorites from the BikeMN Classic!

We can't wait to ride with everyone when it is safe to do so! We enjoyed seeing everyone's photos and favorite places to ride, and although it isn't the same as riding together, it'll do. Hope to see you all for the Saint Paul Classic, Mankato River Ramble, Tour of Saints, Rock-n-Roll the Lakes, and our other fun events in 2021!