



Iowa Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Wednesday, April 9, 2025, Virtual Meeting Meeting notes

Welcome and Introductions

John Peterson (Co-Chair) discussed the agenda and meeting logistics.

State Legislative Session Review

Bicycle related bills introduced into the 2025 Iowa Legislative Session, 91st Iowa General Assembly.

- Senate File 22 – Hands-free Law
 - It was signed into law on April 2, 2025. [Iowa Legislature - BillBook](#)
 - The law will go into effect on July 1, 2025.
 - Law enforcement would begin giving warnings on July 1, 2025, and citations starting January 1, 2026.
 - Violations will result in a \$100 fine, crashes causing injuries \$500 fine, and \$1,000 fine for crashes causing fatalities.
- House File 765 – Low-speed Electric Bicycles and Pedestrian Conveyances code clean up.
 - Current law limits the output of such electric motors to less than 750 watts.
 - This bill authorizes such electric motors to produce not more than 750 watts. [Iowa Legislature - BillBook](#)
- House File 975 – Related to Iowa Economic Development Authority/Iowa Finance Authority/Strategic Infrastructure Program. [Iowa Legislature - BillBook](#)

Other Legislative Efforts

Iowa Bicycle Coalition Future Efforts

- Safe Passing Law
- Working on educational resources for Pedestrian Conveyance Law
- Working on educational resources for Hands-free Law
 - University of Iowa shared Crosswalk Bill resources
 - <https://uiowa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/insets/index.html?appid=7b8be4402b31468a9c0f11bad37d0f72>
 - <https://trips.lab.uiowa.edu/sites/trips.lab.uiowa.edu/files/2024-10/State%20Crosswalks%20Table.pdf>

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

- Continue work on conservation and protection of parks and trails.
- Recreational Trails Funding
- Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)

Federal impacts to funding sources still unclear.

Economic Impact of Cycling & Trails Study (Luke Hoffman)

[2025 Economic Impact Study of Cycling and Trails | Iowa Bicycle Coalition](#)

- Responses from 94 of 99 counties, 60 Businesses, 60 Organizations/Clubs
 - 2,700 Responses (2591 bicyclists, 60 Businesses, 60 Non-profits, 50 Government entities)
- Cycling and trails generate \$1.4 billion for Iowa's economy.
 - It is the estimated economic impact of 900,000 riders.
- 21,000 Iowa jobs are supported by cycling.
- Cycling organizations contributed 2,700 volunteer hours.

Luke asked – ***What would be the problem with using trail counting data?***

- You're going to miss things if you can only do a single site – missing everything off that trail or road.
- Tough to use Bluetooth or GPS counts for this.
- Missing people that ride elsewhere that isn't on that trail (road riders, mountain bike riders, etc.)

Other discussion included:

- There's an argument around the ratio of the economic impact and the state investment in trails and facilities.
- One area for improvement in Iowa is the expansion of dedicated on-road spaces, like bike lanes.
- A major challenge communities face is the cost of both installation and ongoing maintenance, compounded by limited funding sources. Communities are already struggling with limited budgets just to maintain their existing roadway systems, let alone allocate additional funds for things like bike lane striping.
- Pavement marking requirements for bike lanes.
- More arguments for bicycling as a form of transportation, not just for recreation. It is an alternative transportation like transit is.

Iowa Bicycle Map Breakout Session

What are we doing well?

- Online map is very helpful.
- Love hard copy maps and always take but use online more.
- Paper map is a good promotional tool.

What should we change, improve, remove, or add?

- Revisit/confirm value of print version.
- Enhance readability in general, especially with small maps on back.
- Distinguish major trail routes through communities.
- Print map is too busy to use– online map is very focused on trails before zooming in.
- Color scheme – color blindness.
- Add trailheads.
- Trails in urban areas becomes blob of green.
- Hierarchy and readability of printed map – try to prioritize trails
 - Recreational trails vs transportation
 - Tourism/marketing (Collaboration with Iowa Tourism Office)

- Destination trails
- Color coding of cities (gray) detracted from ability to focus on bike trails in those areas.
- Ability to zoom and print sections of online map?
- Metro maps on the back are good but also too busy to read.
- Emphasize things that bicyclists would want to know; deemphasize things that bicyclists don't want to know.
- Similar colors to MN map – red color is higher stress route for bikes while lighter colors are lower stress routes.
- Add QR code to map that connects to interactive map (already exists; maybe add to front?)
- Explore Avenza app/QR Code on printed map.
- “By showing everything, we're showing nothing” – revisit what really needs to be on the map? Currently overwhelmingly busy.
- State and county parks using paper maps are useful as many of our areas don't have great cell service. There are a lot of trails that connect to our parks that could be a great extension for a trip.

Resource recommendations?

- Minnesota Map because the roads are color-coded according to speed and traffic volume. That should say the color-coding they use for ADTs on various roads. sorry, if that was confusing.
- Colorado Trail Explorer App (COTREX) that is really handy as a standalone phone app to reference on your ride: <https://trails.colorado.gov/>

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update (Plan)

Milly Ortiz shared the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan is in proofreading and formatting stages. Final draft will be shared with the Committee.

BPAC Meeting Schedule

- Spring Meeting - Second Wednesday in April
- Fall Meeting – Second Wednesday in October.

Roundtable Announcements/Updates

- Iowa DNR – Every odd numbered year, they hold 19 regional assemblies for REAP program (opportunity for public input); will be happening this fall.
- AARP has a Challenge Grants Program.
- Larry Grant provided updated bike/ped crash statistics dashboard.
apps.iowadot.gov/TrafficSafetyPowerBI/nonMotorist
- Garrett Pedersen shared that we're looking at how to systematically approach our trail count program.

Iowa Bicycle Summit and Iowa Trails Summit

October 9-10, 2025, at University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls.

Next meeting is October 8, 2025.