Based on the information we obtained for Alabama, the League of American Bicyclists believes the following actions will improve the safety, comfort, and accessibility of bicycling in Alabama.

Adopt a statewide Complete Streets policy or other policy that institutionalizes planning, designing, and building safe places for people to bike and walk as part of the transportation system.

Use more federal funding for biking and walking improvements in order to spend at least 2% of federal funds on biking and walking improvements. Alabama has a bicycling to work rate that is less than half the national average. Bicycling is cheap, safe, and reduces dependence on fossil fuels that are subject to price changes. Work with cities to provide networks that allow more people to safely bike to work.

Alabama has a bicyclist fatality rate worse than the national average. High-speed arterial roadways, often owned by the state DOT, are the most common place people biking are killed. Improve those roadways to improve bicycle safety.

Improve coordination between state DOT, municipalities, and counties in the planning phase of projects with the goal of increasing connectivity and continuity of bike networks.

The Bicycle Friendly State ranking is based on a comprehensive survey—with over 100 data points—completed by state departments of transportation and state bicycling advocates. For more information, visit bikeleague.org/states or contact Ken McLeod at (202) 822-1333 or ken@bikeleague.org.