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

Spend at least 2% of federal transportation funds on biking and walking improvements.

Colorado spends a very low amount of federal funding on biking and walking per capita. Spend more and/or improve reporting practices to make sure your investments are counted.

In 2021, the Colorado State Legislature passed SB 260 which allocates $453M over 10 years for a Multimodal Options Fund to improve access to bicycling, walking and transit, as well as $115M for Revitalizing Main Streets to improve active transportation infrastructure. This is a great investment, and we hope federal funds are leveraged by this state funding.

In 2021, the Colorado DOT adopted a “3 feet to Pass” signage program to replace its “Share the Road” signs, providing a clearer message to drivers about their responsibility towards people bicycling. This is a welcome change that reflects research showing driver confusion about the meaning of “Share the Road.”

The Colorado DOT’s new Greenhouse Gas Planning Standard to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector is an exciting development. This standard requires projects to account for the total pollution and greenhouse gas emission increase or decrease they are expected to cause in federally-required planning documents.

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.