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

Florida has a bicyclist fatality rate worse than the national average. According to NHTSA data, 56% of cyclists killed in Florida were killed on state DOT-owned roadways since 2015 despite the state owning only 10% of all roadways. This is the third largest over-representation among states. Addressing safety on state-owned roadways is key to improving bicyclist safety in the state.

Florida has done a commendable job in investing federal funds into bicycling and walking projects. The state should continue to build on its processes that have led to those investments to ensure every project is improving conditions for people biking and walking, including during resurfacing, restoration and rehabilitation projects.

Florida’s legislature strengthened its safe passing law in 2021 and adopted a notable law that can improve group riding. Under the new law, cyclists riding in groups of 10 or fewer, after coming to a full stop, may proceed through the intersection as a group. This will allow groups to stay together better and more quickly clear intersections. Potential driver confusion can be mitigated through public education efforts.

Like several other states, Florida recently strengthened its driver education about bicycling and walking safety. At least 25 questions addressing bicycle and pedestrian safety are now required to be included in the bank of test questions for driver’s license exams. This is a great step to ensuring that more drivers are aware of their responsibilities to people biking and walking.

Florida’s fatality rates for people biking and walking are grim. Other data shows the state is making efforts to improve. The high-speed nature of many Florida roads presents an ongoing challenge to improving safety. The Safe System Approach promoted by FHWA emphasizes the importance of speed in the survivability of crashes and Florida should consider how it can build for lower speeds over time.