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

In 2021, the Illinois legislature passed HB270 which removes the 20% local cost share/match requirement for on- and off-road bicycle accommodations on the state DOT’s road projects in and within one mile of an urban area. Previous policy required localities to pay for bicycle accommodations on projects initiated by the state DOT, creating conflict between agencies and a discrepancy between how bicycle and car infrastructure was treated.

State support for online BikeSafetyQuiz lessons has been a great success reaching 27,485 driver education students, 6,234 high school health and physical education students, and 11,474 elementary school students in 2021. Continue to support this education work which pays-off in long-term dividends with safer drivers and bicyclists.

Use the next round of Illinois Transportation Enhancements Program (ITEP) funding, as well as funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), to increase bicycle safety and develop infrastructure that prioritizes active modes of transportation.

2021 drew renewed and unprecedented attention to the federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Illinois should take steps to modernize its version of the MUTCD and other design manuals to reflect leading practices in bicycle facilities, intersection design, sidewalks, rumble strips, and other issues affecting bicycle and pedestrian safety.

Increase investments in active transportation (biking, walking, transit, and micro-mobility) in communities with high rates of physical inactivity, obesity, diabetes, or other health issues associated with physical inactivity.

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