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

Michigan has a bicyclist fatality rate worse than the national average. Nationwide, high-speed arterial roadways, often owned by a state DOT, are the most common place people biking are killed. Improve those roadways to improve bicycle safety. Michigan’s NHTSA data shows that 28% of bicyclist deaths are on state owned roadways while the state only owns 8% of roadways. All reported bicyclist deaths on state owned roadways were reported to be on arterial roadways.

Long associated with the auto industry, Michigan has the opportunity to be known for bicycling innovation with organizations like PEAC, programs like Adaptive MoGo, and innovations in auto safety that improve the safety of people biking and walking. PEAC and Adaptive MoGo are leading on providing adaptive cycling options to people with disabilities.

In our last report card, we recognized Michigan for taking steps to create a statewide pedestrian and bicycle count program. Developing data on bicycle and pedestrian volumes is important for understanding the success of projects. Efforts to create a count program continue and we look forward to it becoming institutionalized.

The Crash Avoidance System Evaluation Act was introduced in Congress in 2021 and would require an evaluation of how accurately crash-avoidance systems detect pedestrians, bicyclists and others with darker skin compared with those with lighter skin. Given Michigan’s large auto industry, it would be a powerful signal if a Congressional representative from Michigan co-sponsored this legislation in the future.

Since the last Bicycle Friendly State ranking, Michigan has improved on each of its key federal data. While these key data are still slightly lower than average, it is great to see improvements. The statewide active transportation plan contained in MDOT’s Michigan Mobility 2045 will hopefully lead to the continuation of these trends.