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

Spend at least 2% of federal transportation funds on biking and walking improvements. New Jersey has persistently struggled to use federal funding to improve bicycling and walking. People biking and walking make up more than 30% of traffic fatalities in New Jersey and the state must find a way to use federal funds to improve their safety.

New Jersey has a bicyclist fatality rate worse than the national average. More than half of bicyclist fatalities in the state occur on arterial roadways. Improve those roadways to improve bicycle safety.

New Jersey 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.

Congratulations on adopting a safe passing law with a minimum distance of 4 feet to address bicyclist safety. A public messaging campaign can support awareness of this law and should also include other state and local efforts to improve bicyclist safety in a coordinated manner.

In 2021, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) co-sponsored the first-ever New Jersey Trails & Greenways Summit. This is a great step toward more support for bicycling and walking improvements but to address New Jersey’s safety record will take more than trails and greenways.

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.