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

Pennsylvania should set a goal of zero traffic deaths in its Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) currently being developed. The last SHSP set targets that allowed for an increase in traffic deaths. The new SHSP should create a Zero Traffic Deaths Action Plan that reflects a Safe System Approach to traffic safety with a need to prioritize vulnerable populations and reduce speed.

Pennsylvania needs to legalize parking protected bike lanes. State law requires cars to be parked at the curb, preventing the installation of parking protected bike lanes. The League is not aware of any other states that have interpreted similar laws as a barrier to bike lanes and legislation to fix this issue has stalled. Fix this.

Pennsylvania should legalize and regulate e-scooters and other micromobility devices. These devices often use bicycle infrastructure and increase the number of people who care about and advocate for bicycle safety, as well as reduce trips by cars and greenhouse gas emissions.

The Pennsylvania DOT should increase staffing devoted to bicycling and walking at the District level to support more planning, design, and engineering for safe places to bike and walk in the state.

Pennsylvania has a great resource in the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC). A program created with DVRPC that is worthy of more statewide use is the DVRPC/PennDOT Connects Bike-Friendly Resurfacing Program which identifies roads for potential investment in bike friendly improvements as part of regularly scheduled PennDOT resurfacing projects.

The best states for Complete Streets have an iterative approach to Complete Streets policy and have adopted multiple policies on the road to implementation. The National Complete Streets Coalition’s data only shows a 2007 design policy for Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania legislature or DOT should adopt a more comprehensive Complete Streets policy.

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.