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

The data for this report card were collected in the summer of 2021 and does not reflect the Move Ahead Washington transportation legislation. As that legislation is implemented we hope to see more and safer biking throughout the state.

In 2019, 21.4% of traffic deaths in Washington were people outside of vehicles. Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, any state where people outside vehicles make up 15% or more of traffic deaths is required to spend 15% or more of Highway Safety Improvement Program funds on projects to improve nonmotorized user safety. Washington should prepare to implement this requirement and use the required Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment to engage its district offices, localities, and other partners.

As in the United States as a nation, transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Washington. Washington state law, passed in 2020, requires the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% from 1990 levels by 2030. The Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act further directed WSDOT to incorporate environmental justice in its work and invest in affected communities. We congratulate Washington for taking these steps to reduce emissions and pursue environmental justice.

Washington State DOT’s Active Transportation Plan included an ambitious and comprehensive evaluation of state route needs for safe bicyclist and pedestrian use. The overall needs identified were immense, with over $5 billion in identified needs. We hope more states follow this lead so that we know the scope of needs nationally.

The Washington state DOT was one of only a few state DOT’s to establish a statewide program during the pandemic to reallocate space for people to safely recreate outside through its Safe, Healthy, Active Streets program. It is great that this program continues and hopefully the practice of tactical urbanism found in this program serves as a platform for quickly addressing safety and other needs moving forward.