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

Adopt a statewide Complete Streets law. Wisconsin is the only state to have a Complete Streets law and then repeal it. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation has clarified the departmental approach to Complete Streets in Chapter 11 Section 46 of the agency’s Facilities Development Manual. The Wisconsin legislature has created a presumption that bicycle and pedestrian facilities cannot be included in a state-funded project unless certain conditions are met.

Adopt a statewide Bike Plan or Active Transportation Plan. According to our data, Wisconsin last adopted a bike plan in 2002. As recently published in the draft Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Plan, Connect 2050, Appendix B, WisDOT will be starting an update to both the Wisconsin Pedestrian Policy Plan 2020, and the Wisconsin Bicycle Transportation Plan 2030 later this year.

Wisconsin 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.

Spend at least 2% of federal transportation funds on biking and walking improvements.

The Wisconsin Bike Fed has many exciting initiatives with the support of Governor Evers and Wisconsin’s Department of Health Services. These initiatives will include a statewide bike summit, Cycling Without Age programming in 15 cities, and Safe Routes to School programming. It is great to see this support for efforts to help more people bike safely.

A bipartisan legislative trail caucus is forming to address trail funding needs. This is a great effort and we hope to see more efforts from the Wisconsin legislature to improve bicycling.