Your application indicated that the City of Muskegon is currently creating a bicycle master plan. This is a great step to improving conditions for bicycling and institutionalizing processes for continual improvement. Your bike plan should build upon the input received in public workshops taking place in every neighborhood and across the city. Ensure the new plan includes specific and measurable goals and performance measures to track progress, and is supported by a dedicated budget for implementation.

Continue to expand the bike network and ensure that your community follows a bicycle facility selection criteria that increases separation and protection of bicyclists based on levels of motor vehicle speed and volume. On roads where automobile speeds regularly exceed 35 mph, it is recommended to provide protected bicycle infrastructure such as protected bike lanes/cycle tracks, buffered bike lanes or parallel 10ft wide shared-use paths (in low density areas). In slower speed areas such as quiet neighborhood streets, develop a system of bicycle boulevards that create an attractive, convenient, and comfortable cycling environment welcoming to cyclists of all ages and skill levels.

Increase the amount of high quality bicycle parking at popular destinations throughout the community. Conduct a bike parking study or audit to determine current conditions of...
bik parking, both in terms of quality and quantity. Develop
community-wide Bicycle Parking Standards to ensure that
APBP-compliant bicycle parking is available in areas near
transit and urban activity centers. (See www.apbp.org/bicycle-
parking-solutions)

» Increase the amount of staff time spent on improving
conditions for people who bike and walk, either by creating a
new dedicated position or expanding the responsibilities of
current staff. Ensure that this position is well supported with
training and professional development opportunities to stay
up-to-speed on the latest best practices and safety guidelines
for bicycle planning, outreach, and infrastructure.

» Create an official Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
(BPAC) to create a systematic method for ongoing citizen
input into the development of important policies, plans, and
projects. Ensure that the members of the committee reflect the
diversity and ability levels of cyclists in your community.

» Create a bicycle count program that utilizes several
methods of data collection to create an understanding of
current bicyclists and the effects of new facilities on bicycling
in Muskegon. Automated bicycle counters provide long-term
data on bicycle use at fixed points in a community and mobile
counters can provide periodic or before/after data related
to a change in your community's road or bicycle network.
Observational counts and surveys can supplement automated
data in order to collect demographic information and examine
social equity goals.

» Adopt a comprehensive road safety plan or a Vision
Zero policy to identify specific strategies to reduce traffic
crashes and deaths for all road users, including bicyclists
and pedestrians. Road diets, lane diets, and traffic calming
treatments are important engineering components for
addressing safety.

» Increase the number of local League Cycling Instructors
(LCIs) in your community, either by hosting an LCI seminar or
sponsoring a City staffer or local bike advocate to attend an
existing seminar elsewhere. Having several active instructors in
the area will enable you to expand cycling education for youth
and adults, recruit more knowledgeable cycling ambassadors,
deliver Bicycle Friendly Driver education to motorists, and have
experts available to assist in encouragement programs. Visit
bikeleague.org/ridesmart for more information.

» Build on the success of the in-school bike education
currently offered by working with the local school district
and interested parents to organize a Bike to School Day event
every Fall and Spring. Bike to School Day events can include
competitions related to bicycle use, outreach to parents, and
coordination between the schools and the city to create safer
routes to schools.

» Muskegon would be well-served by a bike co-op. In cities
your size, co-ops have had major success in building a culture
around youth/family cycling and coupled with after-school
programming, job training and a connection point with local
clubs/advocacy, this can be win-win-win.

MORE RESOURCES FOR IMPROVING YOUR COMMUNITY:

» League of American Bicyclists: https://www.bikeleague.org

» Guide to the BFC Report Card:

» Resources for Building a Bicycle Friendly Community: https://bikeleague.org/BFC_Resources

» Building Blocks of a Bicycle Friendly Community:
https://bikeleague.org/content/building-blocks-bicycle-friendly-communities

» The Five E's: https://bikeleague.org/5-es

» Smart Cycling Program: https://bikeleague.org/ridesmart

» Advocacy Reports and Resources: https://bikeleague.org/reports

» Bicycle Friendly Business Program: https://bikeleague.org/business

» National Bike Month: https://bikeleague.org/bikemonth