



# BICYCLE FRIENDLY STATE



## 2018 PROGRESS REPORT

**#30**  
2017 ranking

TOTAL COUNTS  
 BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES 8  
 BICYCLE FRIENDLY BUSINESSES 33  
 BICYCLE FRIENDLY UNIVERSITIES 1

# IOWA

REGION: MIDWEST

### 2018 Progress Report

Until this year, Iowa was one of only two states that had not taken any of our five Bicycle Friendly Actions.

It is exciting to see the Iowa Department of Transportation taking the step of adopting a statewide bicycle and pedestrian plan and a Complete Streets policy. Together these actions provide a strong basis for the state DOT and communities within Iowa working together to improve the safety, comfort, and accessibility of bicycling and walking in their state.

Despite a previous lack of Bicycle Friendly Actions and a mixed record of federal funding for bicycling and walking, Iowa boasts one of the ten best trends in the rate of bicycling to work over the last decade. The new statewide bicycle and pedestrian plan and Complete Streets policy can build upon that success.

Bicycle Friendly Actions ✓ = New Progress in 2018	
Complete Streets Law / Policy	No
Safe Passing Law (3ft+)	No
Statewide bike plan in last 10 years	Yes-✓
Bicycle Safety Emphasis Area	No
2% or more fed funds on bike/ped (in last five fiscal years)	No

### Featured Statewide Member - Iowa Bicycle Coalition



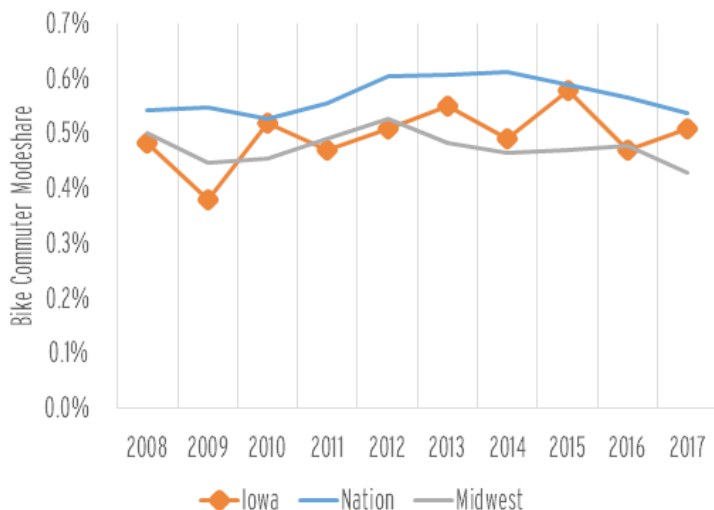
The Iowa Bicycle Coalition is an exciting organization working to promote Iowa cycling as safe and enjoyable recreation and transportation. The 501(c)(3) non-profit group was launched by bicycling advocates from across Iowa and will unite the voices of road riders, mountain bikers, recreation riders, commuters, and anyone else who prefers a bicycle for recreation and transportation.

The Coalition is bringing change to how kids get to and from school with the Safe Routes To School Program. Coalition staff provide training and support to schools state-wide on encouragement and education programs that help increase bicycling and walking.

The Coalition provides an annual education conference geared towards transportation officials by bringing in a national expert to present on bicycle facility design. The conference also provides sessions for the grassroots advocate to ask for better cycling facilities in their communities.

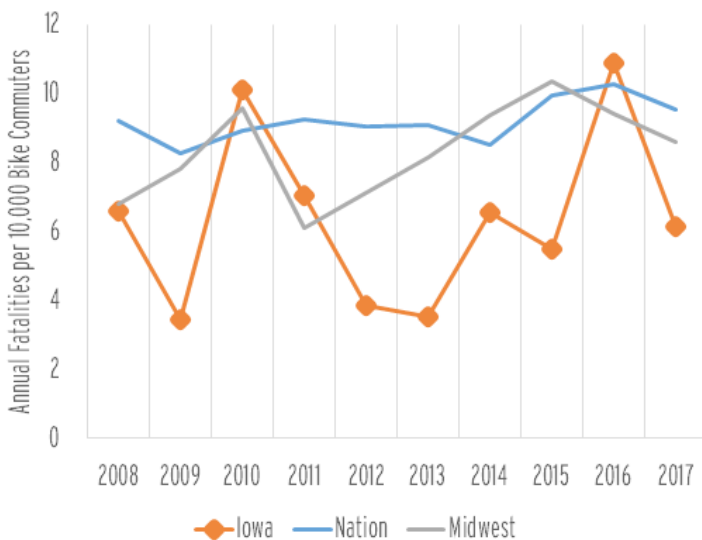
The Coalition works towards improving the safety of cyclists through safety education, community improvement, and encouragement activities. Our safety education program is based upon the national League of American Bicyclists' curriculum.

Federal Data on Biking		Ten-Year Trend	Ten-Year Rank
Ridership	0.5% of commuters biking to work	One of 10 largest increases in bike commuting	21/50

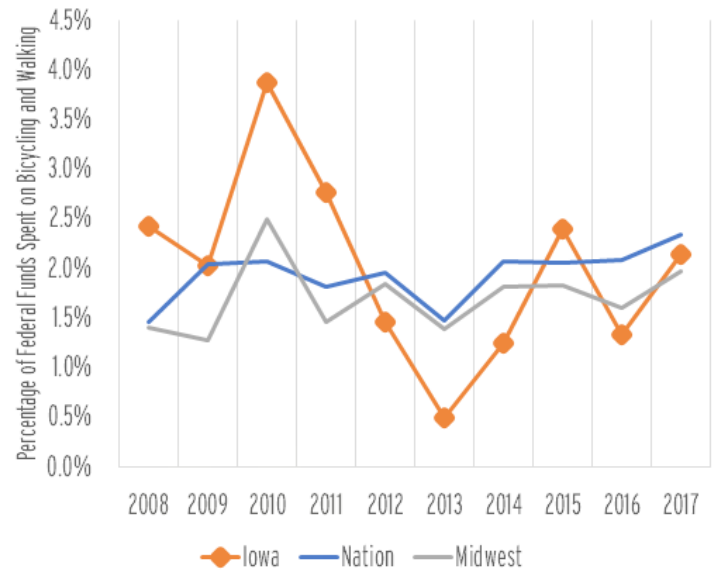


This Progress Report provides an update on Iowa's efforts related to bicycling. A full report card based upon a comprehensive survey is available at: <http://bikeleague.org/content/state-report-cards>

Federal Data on Biking		Ten-Year Trend	Ten-Year Rank
<b>Safety</b>	<b>6.4</b> fatalities per 10k bike commuters	<b>More dangerous, but not strongly</b>	<b>17/50</b>



Federal Data on Biking		Ten-Year Trend	Ten-Year Rank
<b>Spending</b>	<b>2%</b> of FHWA spending on biking and walking	<b>One of 10 largest decreases in funding</b>	<b>21/50</b>



## Featured Agency - Iowa Department of Transportation (Agency did not respond)

The Iowa Department of Transportation adopted a statewide bicycle and pedestrian plan in late 2018.

According to the draft plan that was available at the time of publication of this progress report, "The vision for this plan is that the state as a whole, including all citizens and all governmental agencies, will adopt walking and bicycling as valid forms of transportation."

Much of the plan is built around the concept of "mainstreaming" or moving bicycling and walking infrastructure from something that must be specifically requested and fought for to something that is done as a matter of course in recognition of the many benefits of people biking and walking. The draft plan specifies that "Mainstreaming bicycling and walking requires several shifts in the practices and approaches of all agencies engaging in street and road projects in Iowa" and gives six examples of necessary shifts.

The full draft can be found at <https://iowadot.gov/iowainmotion/files/BikePedPlanDraft.pdf>.



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Every member organization of the League of American Bicyclists gets free access to a powerful advocacy software package. In 2017, the League facilitated over a dozen actions that engaged thousands of people. In New Jersey, these efforts led to a law that requires that drivers are educated about bicyclist and pedestrian safety as part of their driver's license training.

Learn about current actions and how your organization can use our tools at <https://bikeleague.org/TakeAction>