



# BICYCLE FRIENDLY STATE

## MONTANA



### 2018 PROGRESS REPORT

#45  
2017 ranking

TOTAL COUNTS  
 BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES 4  
 BICYCLE FRIENDLY BUSINESSES 6  
 BICYCLE FRIENDLY UNIVERSITIES 2

REGION: WEST

### 2018 Progress Report

Montana has a lot of potential to be one of the leading states for bicycling.

While Oregon has a well deserved reputation for supporting bicycling, Montana has been right behind them over the last decade as the state with the second highest rate of bicycling to work and the second best rate of bicyclist traffic fatalities.

However, unlike Oregon, Montana has not taken as many Bicycle Friendly Actions and has not spent federal funds on bicycling and walking at a high rate.

With more commitment and support, perhaps driven by the state's first statewide bicycle and pedestrian plan, Montana may emerge as a leader in a way that mirrors its strong federal data.

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

### Featured Statewide Member - Bike Walk Montana



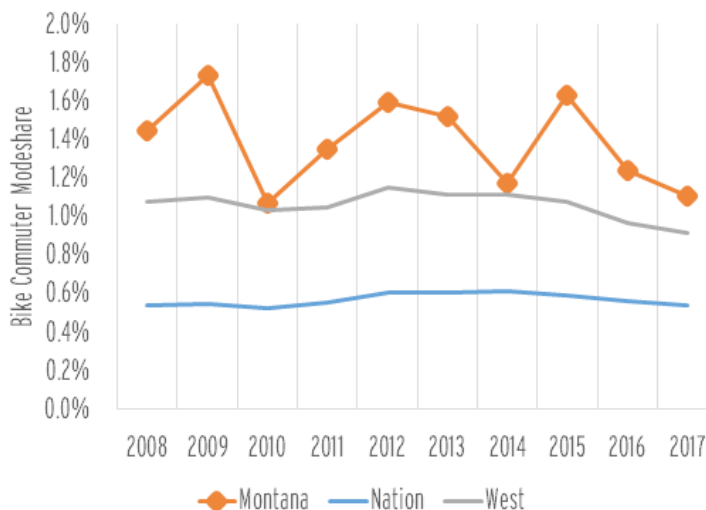
"While Montana has been making strides to become more bicycle-friendly, there is still much to improve upon.

In 2017, Bike Walk Montana helped pass a bill that established a dedicated fund for shared-use path maintenance and bicycle/pedestrian education through a \$5 opt-in vehicle registration fee; however, an additional source of revenue is still needed. Bike Walk Montana has continued to move forward a safe passing law specifying a distance that drivers must provide when passing a bicyclist, which nearly passed in 2017.

Lack of support from lawmakers is a challenge, as well as minimal commitment from state agencies and officials to progress bicycle-friendly policies and plans. The first statewide bicycle/pedestrian plan is being developed, though it may not identify specific goals and projects, and a state policy restricting expansion of shared-use paths was adopted.

Montana can only truly advance bicycling statewide if its decision-makers collaborate and commit to making it happen."

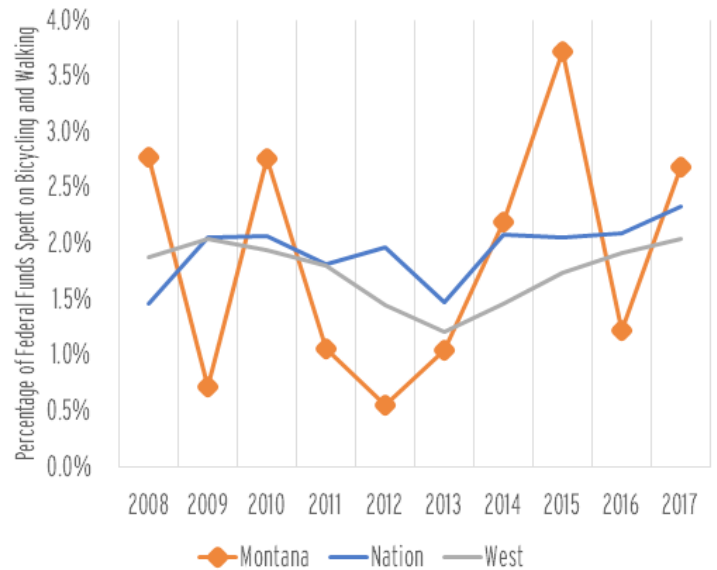
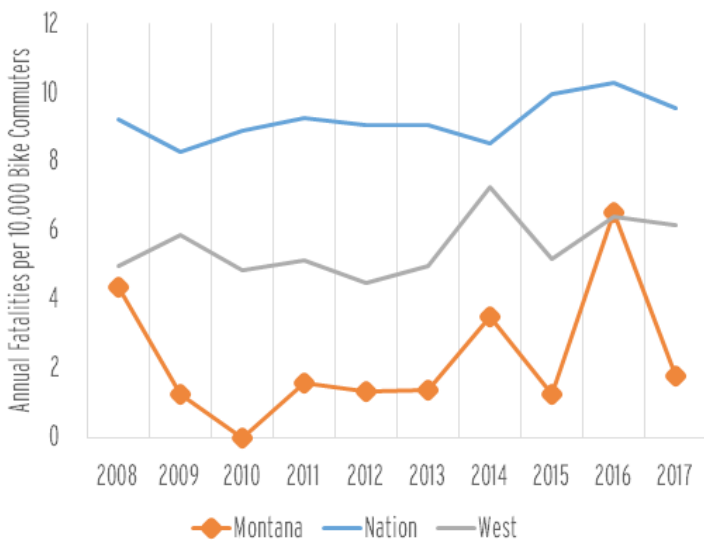
Federal Data on Biking		Ten-Year Trend	Ten-Year Rank
Ridership	1.4% of commuters biking to work	One of 5 largest decreases in bike commuting	2/50



This Progress Report provides an update on Montana'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>2.3</b> fatalities per 10k bike commuters	<b>More dangerous, but not strongly</b>	<b>2/50</b>

Federal Data on Biking		Ten-Year Trend	Ten-Year Rank
<b>Spending</b>	<b>1.9%</b> of FHWA spending on biking and walking	<b>Slight increase in funding</b>	<b>25/50</b>



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

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is currently developing the state's first Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan.

According to the MDT, "MDT's mission is to provide a transportation system and services that emphasize quality, safety, cost effectiveness, economic vitality and sensitivity to the environment.

The Montana Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan (Plan) will be used by MDT as it works to fulfill this mission for pedestrians, bicyclists, and all who use the state's transportation system. The planning process began in March 2018. It is anticipated that the Plan will be finalized by the end of February 2019."

If you are interested in participating in the planning process, please visit <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/pedbike/> to find ways to engage in the process.



**JOIN US. #IBIKEIVOTE**

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>