

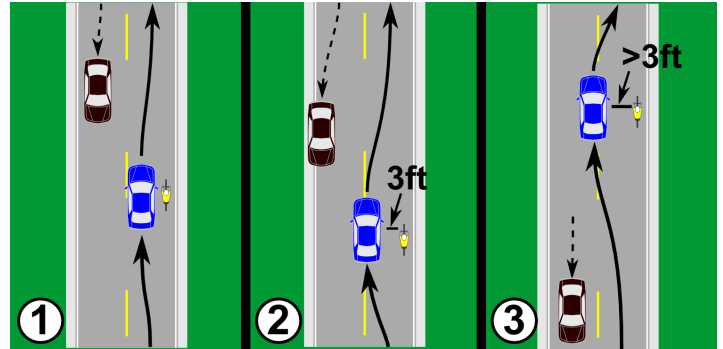


BikeSafetyQuiz.com Continues to Educate

Our BikeSafetyQuiz.com (BSQ) online lessons continue to be successfully used by cyclists, drivers, students, police departments and others to increase knowledge on bicycling safety and on driving in the presence of bikes. More than 75,000 people, since 2013, have participated in our easy-to-use resource that includes IL Secretary of State approved content and provides both cyclists and motorists with interactive instruction on relevant state laws and avoiding common car-bike crashes.

This past year, Ride Illinois made big progress in proliferating use of BSQ. Under an Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) grant, ninety high school driver education programs were reimbursed up to \$250 for teacher time to assign BSQ as a computer lesson and to use it for at least three years. The driver education programs were from more than 75 different communities throughout the state. Also, 14 elementary schools from a dozen communities received reimbursements for up to \$250 for classroom use of BSQ.

Additionally, 20 police departments received up to \$2,000 through the grant for BikeSafetyQuiz.com training of officers, enforcement campaigns, and establishment of ticket diversion programs using BSQ.



Ride Illinois is excited to announce that we have received a new grant for the coming year (October 2018 through September 2019) which will focus on educating up to 15,000 young motorists. Driver education programs will be reimbursed \$2 per student completing BSQ. Applications will likely be open in late October. We welcome your help in getting the word out to the right people in your towns. Please also consider joining us in this project by making a special donation, so we can reach more than 15,000 teenagers.

In response to an uptick in fatal truck-bicycle collisions, Ride Illinois is finishing a new BikeSafetyQuiz.com module for truck drivers and adding truck-related questions to our Adult Bicyclist quiz. We expect to unveil the new module and questions by November.

More 3 Feet Passing Signs

Ride Illinois, and its partner bike clubs, continued to make progress in our campaign to have three feet passing state law signs installed on popular cyclist routes. Signs were approved the past year in Cary, Highland Park, Bartlett, Will County, Troy Township, Frankfort, Ottawa, Naplate, and Marseilles.

The signs remind drivers of the Ride Illinois-initiated 2007 state law that vehicles need to pass bicyclists with a minimum of three feet. On roads where adding paved shoulders or bike lanes seems very unlikely, the signs can provide at least some benefit of increasing motorists' awareness of the minimum space they need to safely pass cyclists.

Our process has been to work with bike clubs or individuals to identify priority locations for signs and verify that it is an appropriate location. Ride Illinois, then, sends a request letter to the road agency, offering to help pay if needed.

We invite you to help us identify problem roads and locations where better signage is needed.

Starved Rock Cycling Association members Don Dirks, John Dominis, Dixie DeVry, John Bowne, Ben Anderson and Ken Nelson (back row) one of the new signs.



Year in Review Fiscal Year 2018

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New Illinois Laws to Improve Cyclist Safety

Ride Illinois is honored to have been involved in the passage of four different state laws pertaining increasing the safety of bicyclists. Three state laws took effect on January 1, 2018 and the other was passed this August.

On January 1, laws went into effect that officially legalize biking on road shoulders, but does not require it, and to allow a rear red light instead of, or in addition to, a rear red reflector. The most notable change in traffic law allows drivers to pass bicycles in a no-passing zone when: (1) the bicycle is traveling at a speed of less than half of the posted speed limit; (2) the driver is able to overtake and pass the bicycle without exceeding the posted speed limit; and (3) there is sufficient distance to the left of the centerline. The driver must also pass with at least three feet clearance of the bicycle – a minimum distance mandated by a 2007 Ride Illinois-initiated state law.

This spring, Ride Illinois asked our members to reach out to state representatives to support a new bill that would have more information on bicycles and sharing the road in our state's Rules of the Road publication as well as add bike safety questions to the pool of questions used in the state driver's license exam. State Rep. Theresa Mah introduced HB5143; and, late this summer, it became law.

The new law amends the Illinois Vehicle Code by requiring information on the "Dutch Reach" method to the state Rules of the Road publication. The first addition to the Illinois Vehicle Code states "The Secretary of State shall include, in the Illinois Rules of the Road publication, information advising drivers to use the Dutch Reach method when opening a vehicle door after parallel parking on a street (checking the rearview mirror, checking the side-view mirror, then opening the door with the right hand, thereby reducing the risk of injuring a bicyclist or opening the door in the path a vehicle approaching from behind)."

The law's other addition to the Illinois Vehicle Code states "The Secretary of State shall include, in the question pool used for the written portion of the driver's license examination, test questions concerning safe driving in the presence of bicycles, of which one may be concerning the Dutch Reach method."

We, along with our partner Active Transportation Alliance, were proud to advocate for the bill. The state is already in the process of implementing the changes. Ride Illinois and the Chicago Department of Transportation worked with the Secretary of State on updating the Illinois Rules of the Road manual. The 2018 edition has updated information on bicycles, beginning on page 42, including an infographic detailing the Dutch Reach on page 43. Also, Ride Illinois collaborated with the Secretary of State on the wording of three questions that were added to the driver exam pool of questions on safe interaction between drivers of motor vehicles and bicyclists.



New Ride Mailing Format

One of the many benefits of being a Ride Illinois member is the annual spring mailing of bike ride brochures. Besides being a member perk, the mailing helps promote organized rides hosted by Ride Illinois affiliated bike clubs and supporting organizations.

We know our large white envelope filled with ride brochures and fliers is eagerly awaited by members each spring. We are excited to announce that for 2019, Ride Illinois will be switching to a "keeper" magazine format.

Become a member or renew your membership now to be guaranteed receiving our ride magazine in the spring. If you are the coordinator of an organized bike ride and want to be included in the new ride magazine, contact communications and projects coordinator Gina Kenny at gina@rideillinois.org.

Small-Scale Improvements for More Bicycle-Friendly Roads

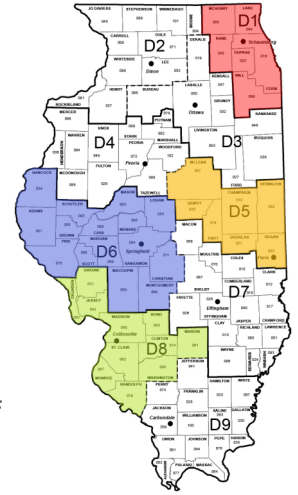
As part of our ongoing advocacy work, Ride Illinois continues to speak up for people who ride bicycles when IDOT and others plan road projects. Ride Illinois members have cited bike-friendly roads as their highest priority for our work. We are committed to helping communities around the state use road project opportunities to improve their bicycling conditions in a more cost-efficient way.

Ride Illinois advocates for better bicycling conditions at the early, pre-design stages of this roadwork. Ride Illinois has reviewed hundreds of individual IDOT projects for seven of the nine IDOT districts and provided detailed technical suggestions to IDOT engineers that would improve bicycling safety if incorporated. In many cases, our requests are being accepted.

In addition to proactive design requests, Ride Illinois responded to other projects in which IDOT asked for our input on roadwork projects in communities such as Barrington Hills, Chester, Champaign and Danville.

We also use our expertise to advocate design-policy changes. In August, we requested to IDOT that its “bicycle-friendly” rumble strip design standard be adjusted to require at least three feet of “clear zone” outside the rumbles, for far more situations than now. This would affect state roads as well as local road designs approved by IDOT. We are also playing a large role on the committee charged with updating the “bicycle chapter” of the manual IDOT uses when approving local agency road projects, gaining initial support for eleven priority changes.

Ride Illinois’ road project design input campaign has also led to our “Modest improvements for more bicycle-friendly road projects” presentations to various agencies and groups such as committees of Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), the Northwest Municipal Conference, Will County and the statewide Transportation and Highway Engineers conference.



Bike Planning Assistance and Expertise

One of the ways that Ride Illinois helps make our state’s communities more bike friendly is through bike planning assistance. Bike plans not only help identify existing bike-friendly routes but also provide the municipality with a specific blueprint on how to improve the bikeability of their community.

Local bike advocates and others in the community provide input at public brainstorming workshops, where they help identify and prioritize potential roadway and other corridors for the bike network. Bike plans provide detailed recommendations to be implemented, such as where to retrofit various types of bikeways and how to incorporate them into future road design and development. Of course, bicycle-friendly communities have more than just good bike networks and we provide education, such as our free BikeSafetyQuiz.com, and other resources to communities.

Ride Illinois provides bike planning help ranging from a few “pro-bono” hours, to contractual assistance on an hourly basis, to development entire plans. We have worked on plans for more than 20 towns and other governmental agencies all around the state.

This year, Ride Illinois worked on bike plans for Park Ridge, Charleston, Mattoon, Princeton, and Morrison. Additionally, we provided pro bono technical assistance to several other communities such as Lincoln/Logan County, Kane County, and Greenville.

Ride Illinois provides a variety of services to communities, including as-needed, hourly contractual help with bike planning, road project reviews, Bicycle Friendly Community award advice, and/or other bike coordinator-like tasks.



One of the more than 50 new way-finding signs recently installed along the designated routes in Charleston.

2018 Illinois Bike Summit

This May, Ride Illinois hosted the Illinois Bike Summit at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Nearly 300 people attended the day of learning and networking with bicycle advocates, planners, civil engineers, elected officials and others from around the state.

Illinois Transportation Secretary Randy Blankenhorn and Chicago Department of Transportation Commissioner Rebekah Scheinfeld were the keynote speakers at the event. Topics from 15 sessions and 25 speakers ranged from bike networks in both cities and rural areas to education, advocacy and bike share programs. (See the presentations under "Program and Session Topics" on the summit's webpage, found under Events at rideillinois.org.)

We were honored to present the 2018 Ride Illinois awards at the summit. The City of Chicago won the Ride Illinois Initiative Award for outstanding progress in becoming the 2016 Best Bike City in America, according to *Bicycling Magazine*. Larry Mysz, from Chicago Heights, was recognized with the Ride Illinois Educator Award for his long history of contributions to bike safety. Mysz has made an enormous impact in the greater Chicagoland area training numerous of our state's League Certified Instructors and facilitated hundreds of people to learn to ride bikes. The City of Palatine was recognized with the Ride Illinois Project Award for being the first town to implement a large portion of its Ride Illinois-created bike plan, using a single Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) grant. Ride Illinois Past Board President Frank Brummer was recognized with the Ride Illinois Leadership Award for leading the Trail Recreation Effingham County (TREC) group and developing a popular bike trail network in Effingham.



Board President Dick Westfall and Chief Programs Officer Ed Barsotti with the Ride Illinois Leadership award.

2018 GIBT Big Success/2019 GIBT Registration Open

Our 16th annual Grand Illinois Bike Tour was a big success, setting records in number of riders! There were 240 participants from 20 states who joined us this past June, including many of our members riding for the first time. We enjoyed great bicycling on quiet country roads, visited charming towns and saw places from Lincoln's life in Springfield, Decatur, New Salem, and Lincoln's days as a lawyer on the 8th Judicial Circuit.

Our next Grand Illinois Bike Tour will be from June 9-14, 2019! We will ride through beautiful Amish country and showcase east central Illinois. Riders will start and stop in Tuscola, with overnights in Mattoon (one night), Effingham and Charleston (two nights each). Route lengths are reasonable with longer options, and riders may either camp or use our hotel package. The tour is fully-supported – all you need to do is ride and enjoy!

Join us and invite your cycling friends! Also, consider volunteering with us (non-riding volunteers needed too) for a discounted registration. Early bird registration opened November 1 – watch rideillinois.org for more.

Why should you ride GIBT? We will let some of the riders in this year's GIBT answer that with their favorite parts of the ride:

- Seeing old friends and spending a week with like-minded people.
- Loved the small group size
- Velosophie (reading discussions), meeting new people, visiting the local sites, and challenging myself and succeeding.
- Enjoying the daily luxury of just having to ride, the old eat, ride, sleep and nothing else.

