



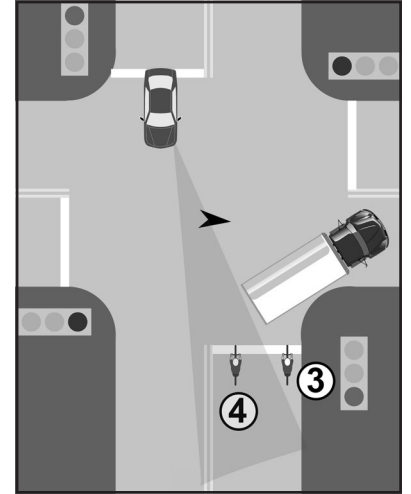
ride
ILLINOIS

**Highlights from
Fiscal Year 2019**

BikeSafetyQuiz Improvements & New Grant for Driver Education

More than 100,000 Illinois residents have used our BikeSafetyQuiz.com educational resource since it launched in 2013! Ride Illinois included some major additions and improvements to the free online resource during the past fiscal year.

Our BikeSafetyQuiz.com online modules continue to be successfully used by cyclists, motorists, students, police departments and others to increase knowledge on cycling safety and on driving in the presence of cyclists. BikeSafetyQuiz.com includes Illinois Secretary of State approved content and provides both cyclists and motorists with interactive instruction on relevant state laws and ways to avoid common car-bike crashes.



At the beginning of the year, Ride Illinois released a new Truck Driver module, teaching truck drivers how to drive safely around cyclists. As with the other three modules serving different audiences, the Truck Driver module covers crash avoidance and relevant state laws. The module is also appropriate for drivers of buses and other large vehicles. Additionally, we added some questions to the Adult Bicyclist module about how cyclists can ride more safely around trucks and other large vehicles.

Ride Illinois secured another Injury Prevention Grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Nearly 16,000 driver education students completed our BikeSafetyQuiz.com Driver's Education module to educate the new drivers on how to safely interact on the road with bicycles. Driver education programs are reimbursed \$2 per student for staff time using the federal grant funds. We received another grant for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to educate up to 18,000 students. Already, 125 high schools have applied to educate over 31,000 new motorists! **We do not want to turn anyone away – with your help, we can raise the extra funds needed.**

Lastly, at the end September, we migrated BikeSafetyQuiz.com to Google Forms. This new format will resolve some technical issues with the previous format and save money too! The change will also allow us to customize the quiz for schools and other organizations that want to educate cyclists and motorists in their community.

New Executive Director

After nearly 20 years leading Ride Illinois, Ed Barsotti will be semi-retiring in January. Ed will still be involved with the organization on a part-time basis and will focus on our infrastructure and bike planning efforts. Thanks to Ed's leadership and knowledge, Ride Illinois is well-known as an effective, statewide bike advocacy organization. We wish Ed all the best as he shifts into this new phase of his career!

Dave Simmons was hired in October as the incoming executive director at Ride Illinois. He has been a member for many years and is thrilled to be offered this opportunity. Dave has been the president of a local bike advocacy organization since 2012, an active League Cycling Instructor, a lifelong cyclist and bike commuter, and has worked for 25 years in educational publishing. Dave plans to draw on those experiences to continue successful initiatives and introduce new programs that lead to better bicycling conditions, more educated cyclists and motorists, favorable legislation, and improved public health so we can all get out there and Ride Illinois!



Join or renew online at www.rideillinois.org

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National Bike Summit

Each March, Ride Illinois board members, staff, and members lead our state's delegation to meet with Illinois' U.S. Congressional offices as part of the National Bike Summit Lobby Day. This year, we discussed bicycling issues and legislation with 15 House and Senate officials. We discussed federal funding for bikeways and trails and promoted innovative approaches such as our driver education grant program.



As a key partner with League of American Bicyclists, Ride Illinois is lobbying for the next multi-year transportation bill, which is being written now. It affects cyclists since it is the main source of funding for building trails. In Illinois, the Transportation Alternatives (TA) program funds IDOT's Transportation Enhancements Program and Safe Routes to School program, IDNR's Recreational Trails Program, and TA grants available to the large of metropolitan areas in Illinois. The majority of funds pay for trails, other bikeways, and pedestrian facilities. The Illinois delegation has been a leader on bike issues for many years, in part, due to our lobbying efforts.

More Bike-Friendly State Road Projects and Policies

In 2019, Ride Illinois spent time identifying potential bicycle-friendly state road projects. From Illinois Department of Transportation's five-year plans of upcoming roadwork, we chose dozens of locations that were unsafe for cyclists and provided the engineers with detailed analyses and suggestions for improvement. This year, we focused on District 7 (based in Effingham) and District 3 (Ottawa), calling for paved shoulders of sufficient width, bike lanes, space on bridges, etc. With the passage of the "Rebuild Illinois" capital bill, we look forward to continuing this effort and reviewing a new set of road projects in 2020.

Ride Illinois' suggestions aren't always incorporated into infrastructure projects. To further our impact, we advocate for improved and modern policies and legislation. In summer 2019, IDOT released a major, favorable revision to the chapter pertaining to bicycling in their state road design manual. The significant time we spent proposing

bike-friendly revisions paid off as many of our recommendations were incorporated into the manual. Also, in a highly unusual move for an special interest group, Ride Illinois was invited to be on the committee rewriting the bike chapter of IDOT's manual for approving local agency road projects. The vast majority of our recommendations have been adopted in the drafts. Progress is definitely being made due to our persistence!

Impact of Local Bike Planning Assistance

For many years, Ride Illinois has been an expert resource for communities that want to become more bike-friendly. We've provided pro bono assistance to countless communities across the state in the form of phone calls, emails, meetings, training events, and educational materials. We've been hired by 20 communities as a paid consultant to create comprehensive bicycle plans that include suggestions to retrofit on- and off-road bikeways, suggestions for favorable policies, education and enforcement resources, and more.

This year, Ride Illinois completed bike plans for Mattoon, Princeton, and Morrison. We are now working on a 10-year bike network implementation plan for Rockford. Whether you're an avid cyclist, a bike advocate, a municipal staff member, or an elected official, Ride Illinois can provide technical and strategic guidance to help make your community more bike-friendly!

2020 Events

March 15-17 National Bike Summit
June 7-12 Grand Illinois Bike Tour
Sept 15 Illinois Bike Summit