



A Variety of Advocacy Efforts

During the past year, we collaborated with other advocacy organizations to push for House Bill 270. We led a delegation to speak with our federal legislators at Lobby Day and Ride Illinois has been collaborating with other advocates to ask members of Congress to co-sponsor a Zero Traffic Deaths resolution.

House Bill 270 passed the legislature in May with strong bipartisan majorities and became law on August 30. Supporters filed more than 900 witness slips in advance of the bill being called in the house and more than 1,000 before the senate hearing. HB270 mandates that the state cover the full cost of biking and walking infrastructure in road projects on IDOT-maintained roads, just like they do for the motor vehicle aspects of projects. The new law goes into effect January 1, 2022.

2021 Highlights

The National Bike Summit, hosted by the League of American Bicyclists, took place in March with the culmination being Lobby Day. During Lobby Day, advocates asked for support for federal legislation related to biking and safety. **Twenty-five advocates from across Illinois spent the better part of their day meeting with U.S. House and Senate members** from Illinois, and their staff, via Zoom. The Illinois delegation was the third largest in the nation behind only California and Texas!

Ride Illinois has been collaborating with Families for Safe Streets and others to **ask members of Congress to co-sponsor a Zero Traffic Deaths resolution**. H Res 565 has been introduced in the House and S Res 321 has been introduced in the Senate. We are asking elected officials to commit to zero traffic deaths by 2050.

Growing the Ride Illinois Community

Ride Illinois has been working to build community by bike across the state. **We aspire to connect with and advocate for Illinois residents who ride a bike for recreation and/or transportation** – regardless of age, race, ability, sex, gender or socio-economic status. In spring, Ride Illinois staff and some board members participated in and learned from Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) training. We want to connect with people from a variety of backgrounds who ride bikes. Our long-term goal is to gain a broader perspective that can be applied to our statewide advocacy efforts.



The 2nd annual Street Love Ride took place in August

Earlier this year, we launched **a new volunteer initiative – Regional Action Teams or RATs** for short. Thanks to over 40 volunteers, Ride Illinois has been present at many events this summer and fall. From Rock Falls to Kewanee to Springfield to Evanston – friendly, knowledgeable volunteers have been chatting with adults and children about bike safety, the many benefits of biking for recreation and transportation, and Ride Illinois' advocacy efforts.

A Return to In-Person Events

2021 saw a return for our Grand Illinois Bike Tour! After canceling our largest annual fundraiser in 2020, we **welcomed over 200 cyclists to a six-day bike tour** with an all-hotel version. Riders toured the Trails of Madison County. Our 2022 Grand Illinois Bike Tour will be from June 12-17, with start/stop at Comlara County Park and overnights in East Peoria, Normal and Pontiac. **Registration opens on November 1, so mark your calendar!**



All smiles at the 2021 Grand Illinois Bike Tour

This September, Ride Illinois launched the inaugural Let's Ride, Illinois event! **Twenty-two community, family-friendly, casual bike rides took place around the state!** This year's events ran the gamut from rides on popular trails and through communities, rides with stops for tasty treats and beverages, and a ride that included an informative talk about raptors. Participants of all ages enjoyed the opportunity to experience their community by bike!

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Educating Cyclists and Motorists in IL and Beyond

Simply put, people ride bikes more often when they feel safe. But it takes time, money, and political will to build suitable bike infrastructure. A wide-reaching approach to increasing safety is the education of both cyclists and motorists. One free, online resource that Ride Illinois offers is our popular BikeSafetyQuiz. We also offer informative webinars and developed a new education program – Ride Illinois Safely.

Our **Ride Illinois Safely program launched this summer** with the goal of making bike education courses and resources accessible to adults and children across Illinois. With options for live webinars and on-bike courses, there is something for everyone interested in increasing their knowledge and safety! Many **Ride Illinois' education materials are now available in Spanish**, including our online BikeSafetyQuiz, BikeSafetyQuiz info cards and Bike Law Wallet Cards. We also continued our popular webinars through the summer on a variety of topics from biking in winter to exploring Springfield by bike.



Sharing safety tips at a skills course in Barrington

Ride Illinois recently wrapped up another successful year of our BikeSafetyQuiz mini-grant program! **More than 45,500 students received bike education in school** through our BikeSafetyQuiz. Also, IDOT approved our grant request for the fifth straight year. Our goal for FY2022 is to educate 50,000 students through this program.

2021 marked the second year that Ride Illinois developed a digital ad campaign for social media with more than two million people viewing the ads. The goal of this campaign is to **educate both motorists and cyclists about the common causes of crashes and how they can be avoided**. Ads focused on not riding against traffic, avoiding the “No Zone” for trucks, and safely biking across railroad tracks garnered a lot of attention. The ads can be viewed at rideillinois.org/advocacy/digital-ad-safety.

In 2021, Ride Illinois **licensed BikeSafetyQuiz content to advocacy organizations** in Georgia, Oklahoma, and Florida for use in educating residents of their state. Efforts are underway to license content to organizations in North Carolina and Mississippi.

Other Ways to Support Ride Illinois

The number of Corporate Members is growing and we continue to seek partnerships with organizations who wish to support our advocacy work. Also, consider supporting our work by **purchasing Ride Illinois and #ridellcommunity merchandise** from our online shop or Redbubble store. Visit rideillinois.org/join-support to learn more!



Mugs, caps, and shirts are available for purchase

Looking Forward to 2022

2022 marks the **30th anniversary of statewide bicycle advocacy in Illinois**. The League of Illinois Bicyclists was incorporated in 1992 and was re-branded to Ride Illinois in 2015. Continued **support from our members has allowed us to reach this milestone**. We'll celebrate successes, but know that there is much more work to be done in order to crack the top-5 in League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly State rankings. We hope you'll join us!

Join or donate online at rideillinois.org/join-support